

# City Council Meeting

January 04, 2012



CITY OF  
**REXBURG**  
America's Family Community

35 North 1<sup>st</sup> East  
Rexburg, ID 83440

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January 04, 2012

## Mayor Richard Woodland

### Council Members:

Christopher Mann     Jordan Busby  
Donna Benfield        Jerry Merrill  
Bruce Sutherland     Sally Smith

### City Staff:

Stephen Zollinger – City Attorney  
Richard Horner – Finance Officer  
John Millar – Public Works Director  
Val Christensen – Community Development Director  
Scott Johnson – Economic Development Director  
Blair Kay – City Clerk

### 6:30 P.M. City Hall, Pledge to the Flag

Mayor Woodland led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Richard Horner said the prayer.

### Roll Call of Council Members:

**Attending:** Council President Mann, Council Member Benfield, Council Member Sutherland, Council Member Erickson and Mayor Woodland.

**Council Member Egbert** and Council Member Stout asked to be excused.

**Consent Calendar:** The consent calendar includes items which require formal City Council action, however they are typically routine or not of great controversy. Individual Council members may ask that any specific item be removed from the consent calendar for discussion in greater detail. Explanatory information is included in the City Council's agenda packet regarding these items.

- A. Minutes from December 21, 2011 meeting
- B. Approve the City of Rexburg Bills

**Council Member Erickson** moved to approve the Consent Calendar consisting of the city bills and City Council meeting on December 21, 2011; Council Member Sutherland seconded the motion; Mayor Woodland asked for a vote:

#### Those voting aye

Council President Mann  
Council Member Erickson  
Council Member Sutherland  
Council Member Benfield

#### Those voting nay

None

**The motion carried.**

**City Council members** reviewed the service for the past eight years. Council Member Mann thanked Council Member Erickson for his service and said he will be missed. Council Member Erickson expressed gratification for the opportunity and the friendships he made while serving the City of Rexburg on the City Council. He said it was a great experience.

**7:00 P.M. (City Clerk Kay) Ceremony to seat the newly elected city officials:**

(Certificates of Election)

**A. Oath of Office:**

1. Swear in Richard S. Woodland as Mayor
2. Swear in Jerry Merrill, Sally Smith, & Jordan Busby as City Council Members

**City Clerk Kay** swore in Richard S. Woodland as Mayor:

***Official Oath***

***STATE OF IDAHO,***

*} SS*

***County of Madison***

*I, Richard S. Woodland do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the State of Idaho, and the Laws and Ordinances of Rexburg City, and that I will to the best of my ability, faithfully perform the duties of the office of Mayor in Rexburg City, Madison County, Idaho, during my continuance therein, so help me, God.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Signature of Elected or Appointed Official)*

*Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Blair D. Kay, City Clerk*

**Mayor Woodland** took the Official Oath of Office for Mayor of Rexburg; followed by Jerry Merrill, Sally Smith, & Jordan Busby taking the same Oath of Office for Councilmembers for the City of Rexburg.

**Introductions:**

New City Council Members Jerry Merrill, Sally Smith and Jordan Busby introduced their friends and family members that were in attendance. Mayor Woodland introduced his wife, Lori Woodland.

**(City Clerk Kay) Roll Call of Council Members:**

**Attending:** Council Member Mann, Council Member Benfield, Council Member Sutherland, Council Member Busby, Council Member Merrill, Council Member Smith and Mayor Woodland.

**Mayor Woodland: Selection of City Council President**

**Mayor Woodland** accepted nominations to elect a new City Council President.

**Council Member Sutherland** nominated Christopher Mann to be the City Council President; Council Member Benfield seconded the motion; Mayor Woodland asked for a vote:

**Those voting aye**

- Council President Mann
- Council Member Busby
- Council Member Smith
- Council Member Sutherland
- Council Member Benfield
- Council Member Merrill

**Those voting nay**

None

**The motion carried.**

**Council President Mann** thanked the City Council for their support.

**Public Comment:** on issues not scheduled on the agenda (limit 3 minutes)

**Kristine Bennion** at 295 Shoshone Ave reviewed University Permit Parking on city streets around the campus area. She was concerned with the permit parking fee. She asked for residents to get a reduced fee from having to pay \$35 per semester and \$75 per year. Mrs. Bennion would like the City to consider doing something similar to what the Recreation Department offers – a city fee and nonresident fee – for University parking for residents. City Attorney Zollinger clarified that the permit parking wasn't instituted to generate fees; it was instituted to manage traffic around the University and pay for the policing of the effort. The traffic management effort was put forth by the city two years ago, and since then the traffic movement has been significantly reduced and accident rates have gone down around campus. The city considers all 15,000 students to be residents; therefore, it would not be possible to charge differently and to discriminate between lifetime and temporary residents. Council Member Merrill did talk to people concerned with taking money from the students. It's tough to differentiate between students and full time residents. Council Member Sutherland explained the city tried to set the rate a little higher than the University permits to encourage students to park in University parking lots. The solution is not perfect; however, it was the best option to limit traffic around the University.

**Presentations:** - NONE

**Mayor Woodland: Committee Liaison Assignments for 2012:**

A. Council Member Christopher Mann: *Golf Board · Emergency Services Board · MYAB*

**Council President Mann** indicated the Fire Department had a quiet time over the holiday. The MYAB consists of 40 students from Madison High School. They are outlining projects for the next three or four months. Christmas for Santa, etc.

***Mayor's Youth Advisory Board 2011/2012  
Syllabus***

**Description:** *The Mayor's Youth Advisory Board is an official youth organizational council adopted by the City Council of Rexburg, Idaho. The MYAB was established in the spring of 2004 with the intent to provide the youth of Rexburg an opportunity to voice their opinion, participate in community service and share a role in the decision-making of our City Issues. The Membership to the MYAB is upon nomination and members are governed by the bylaws ratified by the Rexburg City Council. Each member of the board shares in the responsibilities of the board.*

**Application:** *If you are interested in participating with the Mayor's Youth Advisory Board, please fill out the attached application and return it to the front desk at City Hall before the start of the school year.*

**Attendance:** *Attendance is mandatory. The MYAB holds their bi-monthly meetings at the City of Rexburg City Hall at 4:00 pm. In attendance at the meetings are the current council members, mayor, advisory staff, and any other community members that would like to join the gathering. Each meeting is **vital** and the group works jointly with the mayor to address local current issues and brainstorm how to improve city conditions for the future generations and the present community. Participation in community service projects, speaking engagements, and various activities is expected.*

**Events:** *The MYAB volunteer many hours of community service and organize their own events and service projects to promote their council and give back to the community. A major project of the MYAB has been the organization and implementation of Rexburg Days. Other activities include: 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade & fundraiser, distribution of trick or treat bags, Shop with a Cop, speaking engagements, and Association of Idaho Cities Conference. The MYAB also sponsors Rexburg 101, which offers an in-depth look at the operations of city government. The participants will meet and discuss local issues with the Mayor and City Council Members and learn more about the city's governmental structure, its budget and finances, public works, utility, police and fire operations through interactive discussions with key city staff. They will also participate in a Mock City Council Meeting. Rexburg 101 is held in the spring during municipal government month.*

**Benefits:** *MYAB is a great way to get involved in your community. Mayor Woodland will write a letter of recommendation for all members who have sufficiently fulfilled their duties as a Mayors Youth Advisory Board member. This is a great benefit for college applications and looks great on resumes.*

**Info:** For additional information contact Mayor Richard Woodland at [mayor@rexburg.org](mailto:mayor@rexburg.org) or call City Hall at 359-3020.

- B. Council Member Jordan Busby: *Beautification Committee · Airport Board*
- C. Council Member Donna Benfield: *Trails of Madison County · IBC Committee · Museum Committee*
- D. Council Member Sally Smith: *Legacy Flight Museum · Romance Theatre Committee · Tabernacle Civic Center · Rexburg Arts Council*
- E. Council Member Jerry Merrill: *Parks & Recreation · Traffic & Safety · Urban Renewal Agency*
- F. Council Member Bruce Sutherland: *Planning & Zoning · School Board · Police · Medco*

**Mayor Woodland** advised all City Council Members to attend those meetings as they exist.

**Public Hearing:** - NONE

**Items for Consideration:**

- A. Resolution 2011-14 (Council Rules of Procedure)

**City Clerk Blair Kay** presented the Council Rules of Procedure to solidify the time meetings are held and how the City Council runs the meetings; he advised Council Members to review the document along with the City Council Manuals. Council President Mann appreciated the City Council Manuals and thanked City Clerk Kay. Council President Mann encouraged other Council Members to take the time to review the material. Council Member Benfield was grateful to have a Manual with all the information in one place.

**Mayor Woodland asked for a motion:**

**Council Member Sutherland** moved to approve Resolution 2011-14 (Council Rules of Procedure) with the changes suggested; Council Member Benfield seconded the motion; Mayor Woodland asked for a vote:

**Those voting aye**

- Council President Mann
- Council Member Busby
- Council Member Smith
- Council Member Sutherland
- Council Member Benfield
- Council Member Merrill

**Those voting nay**

None

**The motion carried.**

**Staff Reports:**

**A. Public Works:** – John Millar

**Keith Davidson** is the Assistant City Engineer under John Millar and supervisor of the Engineering Department.

1. The installation on the signals poles, on 1<sup>st</sup> East and Center Street, will be delayed until mid-February.
2. 7<sup>th</sup> South Bridge is being extended to five lanes. The bridge is out to bid on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January. It is for the bridge construction only. The entire bridge will be replaced but only ½ of the bridge will be done at a time.
3. High pressure sewer line is completed and functioning.
4. Council Member Merrill requested a new project for a street light at 2<sup>nd</sup> East and 1<sup>st</sup> South.

**B. Finance Department:** - Richard Horner

**Finance Officer Horner** briefly explained the three budget reports in the City Council Packets. He reviewed the complicated process to manage city budgets. The city has many budget categories to manage from year to year. One of the reports was an annual report giving everyone a 50,000 ft. look at the budget and some highlights. Big projects for 2012 include street repairs, and other construction and repair projects including \$2.4 million of regular operating budgets funds for the personnel, who do a lot of the smaller maintenance projects. Also, the \$350,000

funding for the downtown turn lanes is currently unfinished. Property taxes were increased by \$171,000. Utility rates were also raised by 2.6%, which is a \$2.00 increase. Other new 2012 projects include street repairs, new city water well, sewer plant upgrades, department budgets, revenues, property tax levy rates, etc. were reviewed.

**Council Member Merrill** asked about the bid for the new water well being \$200,000. Engineer Davidson explained the costs are higher due to the lava rock, 400 ft. of a 22 inch well casing, etc. The contractor has to have a public contractor's license. It does not include the pump and the backup power system.

**Finance Officer Horner** explained the total budget for ancillary items total about two million dollars for the water well. Currently the city doesn't have any general obligation debt. The only real debt the city is responsible for is the \$10 million sewer bond that was borrowed last year, which is being paid.

**Council President Mann** asked for a break down on funds that go through Rexburg's budget from other sources. The Fire District is one of those funds because the city pays all of their bills because they are separate entity; including the Fire District, Madison County and The City of Rexburg. The Ambulance Budget is part of the package. These three entities run very efficiently in concert with Madison County and the Fire District. The Legacy Flight Museum, Airport, Teton Lakes Golf Course, are other funds in the budget; these are self-supporting entities. Another example of self-funding budgets is the Arts Council's Budget of \$28,000; of which only \$3,000 comes from the city budget. They raise the rest of the funds themselves. Finance Officer Horner reviewed the total expense budget, total revenue budget, general fund expense budget and the tax budgets.

**Economic Director Scott Johnson** reported on his Economic Development efforts. He is working with other governmental entities on a federal grant the city co-sponsored for 1.5 million dollars to look at growth-cost modeling because of the rapid growth that has occurred. The City of Rexburg is a partner in the federal grant.

## Yellowstone Business Partnership

*News Release from Fremont County: announced meeting with other members of a four-county consortium to discuss details of a \$1.5 million regional planning grant that the group was awarded from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The grant announcement was made in early December and the group met in St. Anthony on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The consortium members discussed the work described in the grant and how the consortium would make decisions and process contracts to be awarded under the grant. The purpose of the three-year planning grant is the development of a Regional Plan for the Western Greater Yellowstone Area, which includes Fremont, Madison and Teton counties in Idaho and Teton County, Wyoming. ...*

*The grant supports area-wide studies in alternative energy and waste management infrastructure, groundwater treatment systems, public transportation, affordable housing, and year-round employment options for seasonal workers. The findings and recommendations of all studies will be assembled by Fremont County into one Comprehensive Resource Plan ...*

*The idea of the regional planning effort is to create voluntary alignment among the counties in ways that will create more jobs and economic opportunities. At the St. Anthony meeting, consortium members were encouraged to assign a representative to the committees overseeing the various study areas that would be of particular interest to their community. ...*

*"Part of the goal is to get the different jurisdictions talking to each other and asking the questions we haven't had the money to ask before," said Stephen Loosli, Planning Administrator for Fremont County, Idaho which is the lead applicant and is acting as the grant administrator. ...*

*Additional consortium partners that share this common landscape include the cities of St. Anthony, Ashton, Island Park, Rexburg, Driggs, and Victor; the Idaho Department of Lands, USDA Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.*

**Economic Director Scott Johnson** said now that the grant is being awarded, the city can look at some of the projects that need to be done. Projects could include a ground water study, transportation studies, etc. The city does not have a major role in the grant. Fremont County is the lead in the project; however, in order to get the grant, Rexburg, along with Madison County, had to participate in sponsoring the grant application. It is a reimbursement grant. The reimbursement process will be about a five day turn around. Mayor Woodland said Fremont County couldn't have received the grant without Rexburg's support because the city is the micropolitan area for the grant in this area. Jackson is the micropolitan area for the portion of the federal grant in the Teton County area.

The Natural Gas discussion is ongoing to try to encourage a larger supply of natural gas for the Upper Snake River Valley. There isn't enough natural gas to support the industries looking to come into this area. A meeting took place with important leaders in East Idaho regarding this matter. Rexburg is at the end of the gas pipeline and it doesn't have the capacity to support a large industrial user. The University is shifting from coal to natural gas in their heating plant, which may take one to two years. The Idaho Public Utility Commission got after Intermountain Gas, who is now trying to make the change. A loop will be placed on the gas pipeline down in the Idaho Falls area to allow a larger capacity of gas to be pushed up the main gas line. The time line has been pushed forward five years on this project.

**Council Member Sutherland** indicated a customer could not locate here due to the natural gas supply; they located in Idaho Falls.

**Economic Director Johnson** explained that we get companies that are interested in coming to Rexburg; the city submits responses to encourage new business. One company interested in the Rexburg area was a paper manufacturer who takes wheat straw to produce paper – which would be good for the agriculture businesses. The business wanted to build a 317,000 sq. ft. facility. Intermountain Gas explained that Rexburg didn't have the capacity to support this company. It would take \$16,000,000 and 20 years to get the required natural gas to supply this customer. The gas company requires new industry to pay for any plant expansion.

**The Broad Band Committee** is currently working on a feasibility study and they will have a proposal by the end of this month. The Broad Band Committee is composed of county, hospital, school district, university, citizens, Madison Economic Partners, etc. They are doing a feasibility study to determine the costs for engineering, funding opportunities, governance and operation models to get broad band into Rexburg. Hopefully the study will be done by June.

**Council Member Benfield** indicated the Chamber of Commerce is getting ready to set-up meetings for the Chamber Business Day at the legislature and would be willing to set up any meetings necessary to help facilitate the Broad Band efforts.

**Mayor Woodland** said Idaho ranks last in Broad Band speed in Rexburg. Iraq and Afghanistan have better Broad Band speeds.

**Calendared Bills and Tabled Items:**

- A. "LAND USE ACTION" – BILLS RECOMMENDED/APPROVED IN A LAND USE PUBLIC HEARING PROCEDURE: – NONE**
- B. BILL Introduction: – NONE**
- C. First Reading:** Those items which are being introduced for first reading – NONE
- D. Second Reading:** Those items which have been first read – NONE
- E. Third Reading:** Those items which have been second read – NONE

**Tabled Items:** Those items which have been the subject of an affirmative vote to a motion to table:  
- NONE

**Mayor's Report:**

- A. Craig Rindlisbacher** presented a new Precinct Map changing the precinct boundaries.

**County Clerk Kim Muir**, County Commissioner Todd Smith and Deputy Clerk Sue Bagley were present to explain the new precinct maps.

**Deputy Clerk Sue Bagley** reviewed the new precinct maps for Madison County. She explained they will be repositioning the boundaries for each of the precincts and removing boundaries around to better fit the commissioner’s districts and make them more even as required by law. The effort is to balance the precinct boundaries with the school district boundaries, etc. The county is in charge of all elections in Idaho; this requires an evening out of the boundaries between taxing entities. They tried to keep the number of residents per precinct to about 1,200 voters.

One effort will be to accommodate around the University because of the number of students, on presidential elections they come out to vote, but on a regular election you have almost none. She wishes to better utilize their resources and redistribute registered voters around the University. The county commissioner will vote on the proposal January 09, 2012. They will be naming the precincts to allow better recognition of the areas. Deputy Clerk Sue Bagley will be contacting BYU-I to help with getting the students registered before the election of 2012. The state deadline for passage by the county precinct realignment is the middle of January of 2012.

**County Commissioner Todd Smith** expressed his appreciation to the GIS Department and Craig Rindlesbacher for their hard work. He explained the rebalance of the county commissioner’s districts. The commissioner candidate has to live inside his respective district; however, the vote is county wide for each commissioner seat.

**Existing Voter Precinct Population Count 2010**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Registered Voters</b>
1	Plano	590	328
2	Burton	1,733	987
3	Hibbard	2,168	1,081
4	Salem	843	424
5	Rexburg 5	2,250	1,153
6	Sugar	1,958	978
7	Rexburg 7	2,397	1,160
8	Rexburg 8	4,743	1,985
9	Rexburg 9	1,573	543
10	Rexburg 10	2,533	569
11	Rexburg 11	1,262	97
12	Rexburg 12	1,809	55
13	Rexburg 13	1,539	29
14	Rexburg 14	2,131	352
15	Rexburg 15	3,267	1,246
16	Rexburg 16	3,144	1,641
17	Moody	426	215
18	Union-Lyman	1,781	750
19	Archer	1,379	648
	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>37,526</b>	<b>14,241</b>

### Proposed Voter Precinct Population Count

Number	Name	Population	Registered Voters
1	Plano	590	325
2	Burton	1,733	982
3	Hibbard	2,168	1,068
4	Salem	839	419
5	Fairgrounds	2,262	1,146
6	Sugar City	1,939	954
7	Adams	2,321	1,104
8	Pioneer West	2,185	993
9	Pioneer East	2,668	1,044
10	Porter Park	1,313	402
11	City Center	2,621	428
12	4 <sup>th</sup> South	3,447	380
13	University	3,553	430
14	Rexburg Hill	2,384	696
15	Poleline	1,906	954
16	Lincoln	1,872	1,083
17	Moody	565	273
18	Union-Lyman	1,781	732
19	Archer	1,379	656
	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>37,526</b>	<b>14,069</b>

No action required by the City of Rexburg on the precinct realignment.

**Mayor Woodland** presented an over head presentation about the history of Rexburg.

Sources include “The First One Hundred Years 1883-1983” by David L. Crowder

## History of Rexburg

Dedicated to the Lord March 16, 1883 under the Direction of Bishop Thomas E. Ricks  
Incorporated under the laws of Idaho on July 11, 1893.

### Platted in 1883

- ⦿ Rexburg was platted in 1883 and recorded in Blackfoot, Idaho. The county seat was located in Oneida County in Malad.
- ⦿ On August 6, 1884 the city plat was enlarged with a wider Main Street and re-recorded in Blackfoot, Idaho.

### Utah Northern Railroad

- ⦿ In 1879 John Poole, while employed with the railroad recognized the good farm land in the Rexburg area. He spread the word to Utah.
- ⦿ In 1882 the Mormon President, John Taylor, instructed W. B. Preston and Thomas E. Ricks to make a trip to the Upper Snake River Valley to scout out a site for a settlement.

### First Homes in Rexburg

- ⦿ A group of young Mormon men from Cache Valley, Utah, was organized to form a settlement in the area. Among these men was Thomas E. Ricks, founder of both Rexburg, and Ricks College (now BYU-Idaho). In February 1883, they cut logs for building a community in the spring. In March the men met at the present town site of Rexburg and constructed the first log house.

- ⦿ The settlers first decided to call their town Ricksburg after their settlement leader, Thomas E. Ricks. However, since the German ancestral name of Ricks is Rex the town's name was changed to Rexburg.

**First Expansion**

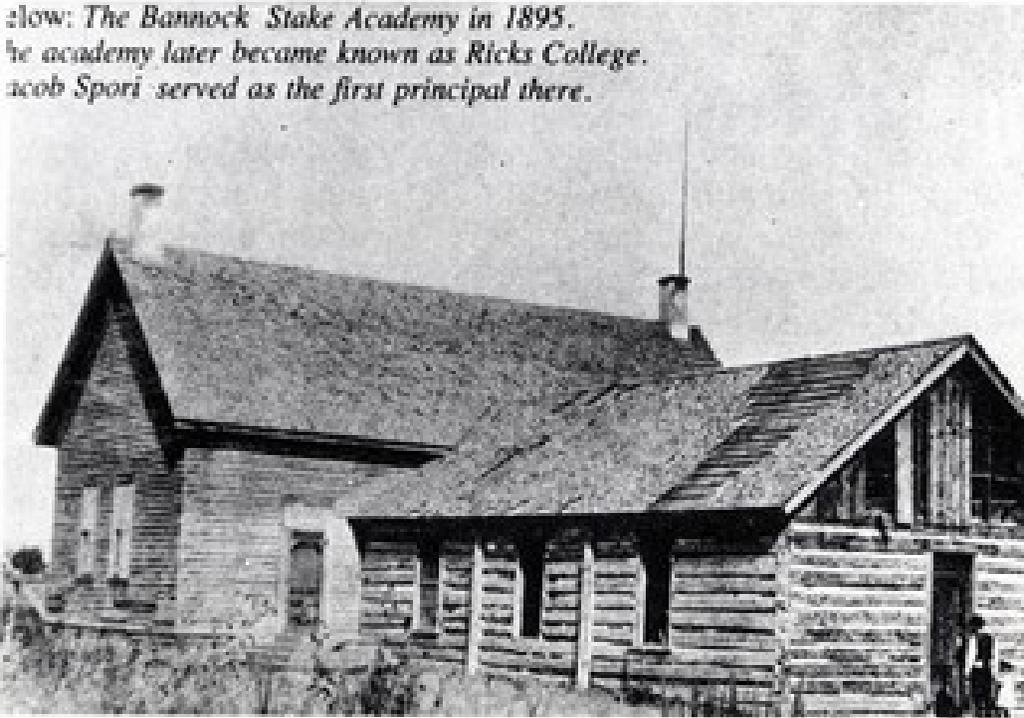
- ⦿ The residents of the village of Rexburg under the direction of Ricks and his associates seemed to accomplish more in two years building canals, roads, schools and general improvements than was usually accomplished in five years anywhere else.

**Rexburg's Canal**

- ⦿ Ditch and canal work brought much needed irrigation water to the semi-arid desert and bench lands began in 1883. The Rexburg Irrigation Company was organized in 1884 and by 1900 there were 97 canals in the area.

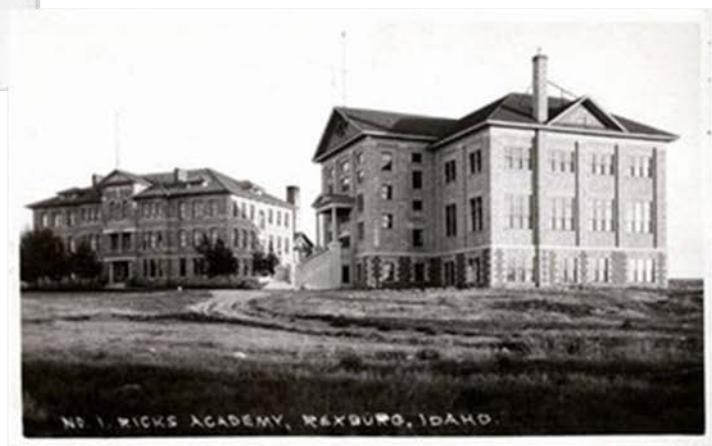
**Bannock Stake Academy**

*Below: The Bannock Stake Academy in 1895. The academy later became known as Ricks College. Jacob Spori served as the first principal there.*



1903 Spori building was completed

Jacob Spori who was the first Principal of Bannock Stake Academy.



### First Water System

- ⦿ In 1906 construction on the town's first municipal water system began. Since 1913 board sidewalks began disappearing in favor of paved walkways.
- ⦿ It was said that Rexburg's main street itself was so muddy at times that a horse supposedly drowned one spring in one of the downtown mud holes.

### Paved Streets

- ⦿ Street paving began in 1917 and Rexburg was publicized as having the widest main street in the state.

### Rexburg today

- ⦿ Since March 1883, the town has literally been transformed from a sagebrush desert into the beautiful thriving agricultural community of today.



**Council Member Jerry Merrill** moved to adjourn; Council Member Jordan Busby seconded the motion; Mayor Woodland asked for a vote:

**Those voting aye**

Council President Mann  
Council Member Busby  
Council Member Smith  
Council Member Sutherland  
Council Member Benfield  
Council Member Merrill

**Those voting nay**

None

**The motion carried.**

**Adjournment at 8:37 P.M.**

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Richard S.Woodland, Mayor

Attest:

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Blair D. Kay, City Clerk