

October 2020

www.ephraimcity.org



EPHRAIM CITY NEWS

MAYOR'S CORNER . . .



Mayor John Scott
Call or text 435-851-6101

Dear Ephraim City Residents,

I am thrilled to be able to write to you. I have so much to report on. Let me first begin this way: I am a nurturer at heart. This is part of my nature, having now been a teacher for 37 years. Teaching, nurturing, and tending are a part of my core values. I have owned and operated two farms. I know what it is like to plant something and then wait in hopeful expectation. Anyone who has come to my home can see plainly that I love to grow things; trees, some of unusual nature and beauty; roses (for my wife), flowers (also for my wife), shrubs, fruit trees and flowers of every variety, beauty and form. I have learned a few things about being a farmer, a nurturer, a grower. It takes time and patience and a lot of just plain hard work. Where hard work is absent on the farm, in the garden, or among flowers, only weeds thrive.

Being the Mayor of Ephraim City is much like being a farmer. When I first became Mayor, I knew that I needed to continually plow ground and sow seeds so that an eventual harvest could happen. Planting and harvesting takes time, in this case perhaps years, but I knew the process needed to start and that I needed to act in order to eventually harvest. I immediately went to work writing letters of request for businesses to begin formally looking at Ephraim City as an ideal site to locate their services. At first, some reacted with skepticism, but I paid no heed to that. I knew that the fields had to be worked to eventually produce. One of those letters was to a major service industry leader. They have a product that we need in Ephraim. Because of my letter of request, we began meeting with administrative officials. At first, they were cool to our request. Three months later I could see the sprouts coming up in the field. A year later the field is green with serious interest now in locating a facility in Ephraim. I cannot say more than this right now, but the fruit of this could be a great blessing to our community.

I also began to plant fields with our city staff and employees. My nurturing desires have built a new and trusting rapport with city employees, city staff and department heads. I believe

that our employees know that they could come and talk with me about any challenges they might be having. We allow our people to grow and make their own choices about their field of expertise without trying to micro-manage them. Our wonderful city employees thrive on using their own talents and they feel confident in making important decisions. In this last year we have nurtured our police department, our fire department, and our recreation department. They, along with our other departments, are growing wonderfully. The other day I spent a sweet hour talking with and hearing the feelings of our entire police department. They are good men and women whom I trust

Continued on Page 2

[CITY INFO]

City Office Hours:
Mon -Fri 8 am to 5 pm

Phone: 283-4631

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Inside this issue:

A Message from our Council	3
RAP Tax Info	3
Carbon Free Power Project	4
2020 Burn Season	4
Drive Thru Flu Shoot Out	4

Upcoming Events:

- **City Council Meeting**
Oct 7, 2020 6:00 p.m.
- **City Council Meeting**
Oct 21, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
- **Public Hearing—RAP Tax**
Oct, 29, 2020 7:00 p.m.
- **Nightmare on Main Street**
October 6, 2020 6:00 p.m.

Mayor's Corner

Cont. from page 1

with my whole heart.

Ephraim Crossing is another field that we will have to carefully watch and tend. We don't want a field of weeds and choking morning glory. I have worked hard and with much passion to cultivate a good rapport with the developers of Ephraim Crossing. We are expecting a well thought out development with good streets, walking trails for our residents and an offering of businesses that will bless our community long term. It is important to note that when a community zones a parcel of land as "business" or "residential" or "mixed use," etc., we are then bound by some rules that are governed by the state of Utah. Anyone can come in and build whatever they want in a designated area as long as they meet the specific requirements for that area set out by the Planning and Zoning Board and staff. They can do the minimum, and as long as those requirements are met, we do not have a legal right to pick and choose who comes to Ephraim and who does not. We have citizens that sit on the Planning and Zoning Board. It is in those board meetings that decisions are made regarding the planting of new business and whether or not the requirements are met.

Mike Ballard and Kevin Romney of the Camino Verde group, who are investing in "Ephraim Crossing," have been very cooperative in assessing the needs of our community. They have asked us time and time again, "What do you want, what do you need?" I, and city staff, have worked in unity to plow the ground here; to request that which is planted will benefit our residents and create a higher quality of life. Residents have voiced an interest in a grocery store. In nearly every conversation that I have had with this group, I have strongly advocated for that to happen because it is at the top of the list with some residents. We have been told an increase in population would be necessary to support a second grocery store. We want high tech office space that will encourage family-sustaining jobs for the future of Ephraim. We are interested in the best crop of family sustaining businesses. We want social gathering spaces where concerts can be held, and our residents can have pleasing walk-through neighborhoods. We want retail outlets and food establishments that benefit a growing and thriving community. Will this look like a Salt Lake or a Provo? I certainly hope not---no this is going to look like Ephraim.

Some modeling studies done for the city a year ago indicated that our city would reach nearly 13,000 residents by 2027, and over 18,000 residents by 2037. So, growth

is going to happen; this is inevitable. We have grown as a city by 60% over the last two decades. So, let's put our hands to the plow and carefully cultivate the vision with this developer on how we want this part of our Ephraim Garden to grow and look like. I won't settle for anything less than beauty, integrity to our past with a vision of our children and grandchildren having the resources to live here in the future. We have to stop the process of exporting our greatest goods to other parts of the state---our children! Through an increased tax base, we will be able to maintain our current good streets, water systems, sewer infrastructure, power supplies, and then grow into the community that can support a recreation center, additional ball fields and enhanced community services. Do we have enough water, power, sewer, and other infrastructure capacity for this? Yes, we do.

Yesterday I spent some good time nurturing a relationship with Representative Derrin Owens. We spent about an hour together talking about the needs of Ephraim City. Derrin currently represents us in our State House District and is currently running for a State Senate position that I believe he will be successful in obtaining. He will represent all of Central Utah in this Senate seat. I spoke to Derrin about the serious needs for our Ephraim Ambulance Association and EMS throughout the central part of rural Utah. These important services are essential, and we really don't fully understand their impact until emergency services are needed. I have asked Derrin to continue working at the state level to encourage greater funding for this critical infrastructure. We also spoke of our great concern for our cattlemen throughout Ephraim. The cattle have just been gathered up from their grazing grounds on the mountains surrounding our valley. We are seeing a disturbing trend in the malicious shooting of cattle and sheep. We have also determined that there have been several locations on Skyline Drive where combustible material had been gathered and ignited, in some cases, but luckily the intended infernos did not take off and spread. This is of great concern to the leaders in Sanpete County. Additionally, we spoke about new businesses locating to Ephraim.

COVID-19 continues to be a concern to us. Thus far, Snow College has done an admirable job in keeping its numbers down and managing outbreaks. Those in our city who have contracted the virus have recovered. Some of my own children, in other communities, have come down with

it and made speedy recoveries. We've learned much in the last six months about this virus and how to combat it, but we are currently seeing a spike in viral outbreaks in the communities of Sanpete County. As a citizenry, it is our responsibility to protect ourselves from infection. We have and continue to encourage you to do all in your power to protect the most vulnerable in our city. This is a field of thorns, thistles, and briars. We have to negotiate through this carefully, respecting the rights and concerns of our citizens. It a balancing act, for sure, but we're going to get through this together.

Another bright spot developing in our community could be missed. Two of our trailer parks are going through tremendous upgrades. We have worked with these new owners and encouraged them to raise their standard of living in these areas of affordable housing. We encourage these upgrades and I am heartened by this progress. There is a tremendous need in our community for this type of affordable housing.

Lastly, I want to let you know that I have met with each of our congressional delegations. The Cares Act money, which has been awarded to most Sanpete cities, is tremendously burdensome in its language of how a municipality can spend its funds. I have requested that the language be toned down and my conversation with Representative Owens carried that same message to the state. Luckily, as a city, we began to document carefully what we were spending as a result of COVID-19. I have asked Senator Romney to specifically indicate an allowance for the needs of our city in the expenditure of a part of that money in the development of further redundant water sources for Ephraim and I am awaiting a call from his office about that.

May you be safe. May you be able to obtain your dreams. I am committed to not letting government get in the way of your dreams. Growing, tending, praying for, and caring for this beautiful Ephraim garden is one of the greatest blessings of my life. Thank you for all the hard work that you are putting into your own gardens--it is noticeable and gratifying. If you have any questions or comments for me, call, or text at 435-851-6101. My e-mail address is: john.scott@ephraincity.org.

Sincerely,

John G. Scott

Ephraim City Mayor

A Message from our Council

Marge Anderson



Something Fun From the Past

What do you look forward to doing on your weekends? Many like to hike, bike or ride their ATVs. Some like to shop, go to a movie, or go out to eat. We

are blessed in our area to have opportunities for enjoyment. If we were to take a peek into the past of Ephraim and see what people did for fun in the 1930s and 1940s, what do you think it would be? Well I can tell you—they went to a dance! I have visited often with Marge Anderson about snippets of the past in Ephraim. We have had fun talking about all the dance halls that young single people and married couples filled on weekends and sometimes in between.

In Ephraim you could dance at the Playmore, which was an outdoor dance hall. It was located where I-Four Media placed their new addition. There was always a live band that provided the music making it even more exciting. Of course, the indoor dance hall was Dreamland and it is now the Social Hall above Roy's Pizza. Upon entering the Social Hall, you can see the balcony where the orchestra would play and serenade the



dancers. Dreamland was heated with a coal stove and you can almost hear the strains of "In the Mood," "Deep Purple," "Tea for Two," or even a high-paced Polka. Whoever was in charge would sprinkle some Lux soap flakes on the floor at some point of time in the dance. This would make your dance surface so smooth that you could almost glide across the floor. You always traded dances throughout the evening, but if you were dancing with someone special, it was rather romantic. At Dreamland, you might catch a glimpse of you and your partner in the mirrors that were located between the windows as you circled the floor. Of course, when it was time to end the dance for the night, the last dance was always "Goodnight Sweetheart."

Worth mentioning are the many dance floors and halls throughout Sanpete County. There was Cremona in Gunnison, the Palisade Dance Floor at the lake (who smoothed their floor with a handful of cornmeal), the outdoor Millstream in Manti or the indoor dance hall with a floor containing springs. If that wasn't enough, you could go to the Fairview Amusement Hall (Peterson Hall now), the armory in Mt. Pleasant, or Fiddlers Green between Mt.

Pleasant and Moroni. Marge was from Moroni and often danced at the outdoor dance hall called Joyland or the indoor Ye Old Bungalow.

The Moroni Revelers were always a favorite as a band for the night. As an interesting note, Marge recalls that it was always fun to have the Stanley brothers from Mona come to visit your dance because they were so light on their feet. One of those Stanley brothers was the father of Nyra (Stanley) Nielson and Marge remembers when he introduced a new dance called the Jitterbug! I believe they must have been great dancers because I have watched Nyra and Roger when they dance and they are delightful.

Though we don't go dancing every weekend, I love that communities came together, got to know each other, and had fun. I enjoy supporting our community activities and meeting our neighbors. The Airport Fly-In was a recent outdoor activity that gave people a chance to come out.

To close, I think it is only fitting that dancing at Dreamland or the Social Hall as it is now known, lives on. We don't hear "In the Mood" being played, it is now filled with Western Swing and line dancing tunes. There is a little break in the dancing right now because of current conditions, but I hope we will soon hear the sound of music and dancers filling the hall once known as Dreamland!

If you want to read a fun essay, check out "Story of Dreamland" written by Martha Olsen. I believe it was in a Saga of Sanpitch publication.

Ephraim City Proposition 7: RAP Tax

On this upcoming November ballot, Ephraim City will be asking you to vote on whether a Recreation, Arts, and Parks Tax should be implemented in the city. Before you go to the polls and vote on the matter, you should know what the tax is, what it will do, who it will affect, and some of its pros and cons.

The Recreation, Arts, and Parks (RAP) Tax is a 0.1% sales tax that generates funds to make improvements to recreation facilities, parks, and cultural art programs in Ephraim. The sales tax rate would go from 6.65% to 6.75%.

This equals 1¢ for every \$10 spent in Ephraim.

The RAP Tax only affects retail purchases and not purchases of food or gasoline. This tax will not increase property taxes. Funds generated from this tax will go towards improving the quality of life in Ephraim and for its residents. Funds may only go towards helping with constructing trails, walking paths, green

spaces, courts, parks, hosting festivals, arts, etc. Funds generated from the RAP

Tax may not be used for salaries or office supplies.

Please come to our Public Hearing on October 29th at 7:00 p.m. to hear the pros and cons of the

RAP Tax, get your questions answered and let your voice be heard.

**Public Hearing, October
29 at 7:00 p.m. to
answer your questions
about the RAP Tax.**

The Carbon Free Power Project

Ted Olson



Ephraim has chosen to participate in the Carbon Free Power Project (CFPP) slated to come on line in 2029. The planned source for electricity uses a new

technology developed by Nuscale Power called the small modular reactor (SMR). The fuel will be uranium 235 pellets in separate 60 MW units immersed in water below ground on the Idaho National Laboratory Test Range. The SMR has seven levels of safety and can shut itself down with no external power or human intervention. After extensive research and development, the design was recently certified by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. More detail about the SMR is available on the Nuscale Power web site (nuscale.com).

The motivation behind Ephraim's

participation with 35 other cities is based on the changing utility landscape. The threat of climate change and potential legislation forcing the reduction of fossil fuel generation has already triggered outages in California and is forecasted to reach across the country in the future unless firm resources are in place to meet the demand.

In recent years, extensive investment in wind and solar generation (renewables) has helped with the carbon footprint, but has also caused a problem. Having sources that can ramp up to meet the demand when the sun goes down or wind stops blowing is now the challenge. Ephraim is participating in 3 renewable projects—Horse Butte Wind, Pleasant Valley Wind, and the Red Mesa Solar project. The SMR technology dovetails well with the renewables as it can ramp up and down rapidly and in some cases can load follow.

The target price for the SMR power is \$55/MWH which is very competitive for base load generation. The Department of Energy is making a sizeable award of \$1.4 Billion toward the development of the CFPP. Periodically an economics competitive test is administered to make certain that the target price is maintained. If the test fails we have some options to walk away without a substantial penalty.

Ephraim City Fire Department 2020 Burn Season



Effective immediately:

Ephraim City will be adopting the same rules and regulations associated to open burning, recreational campfires and portable outdoor fireplaces as used by Sanpete County and the State of Utah.

Open Burning:

Pursuant to Utah Code 65A-8-11, Anyone wishing to open burn between the dates of June 1st and October 31st must obtain a permit from the Ephraim City Fire Department. Ephraim City and the Ephraim City Fire Department may extend the closed burn season (those dates between June 1 and October 31) if conditions present a significant danger to the community. Open burning outside of these dates do not require a permit.

Recreational Campfires:

Small recreational camp and cooking fires do not require a burn permit but may be restricted due to weather conditions. Please follow these guidelines when using an outdoor camp or cooking fire:

- Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material and must have a clear space in all directions of three (3) feet.
- Any conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
- Please keep the fire small as not to exceed 3 feet in diameter and flames not to exceed height of 2 feet.
- Clear campfire site down to bare soil and circle pit with rocks or similar.
- Commercially designed metal fire pits are acceptable.
- Build away from overhanging branches, steep slopes, dry grass & leaves.
- Keep a bucket of water and a shovel nearby.
- Never leave a campfire unattended.
- When putting out a recreational fire, drown the fire, stir it, and drown it again.
- Always have adult supervision.

Manti/Ephraim Annual Drive thru Flu Shoot Out

Tuesday, October 6th

4:00 – 7:00 pm

Manti Firehouse

1st East between Union and
1st South. Call the Health
Department for details:
435-835-2231.

Portable Outdoor Fireplaces:

Portable Outdoor Fireplaces that utilize natural gas or electricity do not require a burn permit but may be restricted due to weather conditions. Please follow these guidelines when using a Portable Outdoor Fireplace:

- Outdoor Fireplaces shall not be used within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material and must have a clear space in all directions of three (3) feet.
 - Any conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
 - Keep the flames small and under control.
 - Keep portable fireplace away from overhanging branches, steep slopes, dry grass, & leaves.
 - Keep a bucket of water and a shovel nearby.
 - Never leave a fire unattended.
 - Always have adult supervision.
- If you have questions, please call the Ephraim City Fire Department at 435-283-4602. Thank you for your cooperation.