Dear Ephraim City Residents,

We are now fully into the Christmas season. I am sure that you are preparing to celebrate the season and are fully engaged in plans to make memories with family and friends. Soon, you will see the power company putting up Christmas lights and decorations. On December 7th, we will have our annual Christmas Parade and fireworks display. Truly, this is an amazing time of the year. The Council will also be conducting an informal poll through the City Facebook page to gain more insights into the feelings of our residents about this subject.

Additionally, very shortly in the New Year, we would like to hear input from you about how we spend your money. I, along with our City Manager and our City Finance Director, will begin to formulate a preliminary budget for the 2020-2021 budget year which begins July 1, 2020. This preliminary budget will be presented to the Council by late May or early June, so please be looking for notification of an open meeting for public input regarding our City Budget. In the past we have had dismal public attendance for this, and we just don’t want to go in that direction again if we can help it at all. For us, it is a very weighty matter to spend a little over Five Million dollars of your money. We very much would welcome your input and we solicit your ideas, concerns, and comments about how we are spending that money. If there is a priority that you would like us to consider, please send a text (435-851-6101), or e-mail me at: john.scott@ephraimcity.org.

Continued on page 2

Mayor John Scott
Call or text 435-851-6101

December 2019
www.ephraimcity.org

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Upcoming City Events:

- City Council Meeting
  December 4, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
- Christmas Light Parade
  December 7, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
- Christmas Firework Celebration
  December 7, 2019, 7:30—9:00 p.m.
- City Council Meeting
  December 18, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

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

Phone: 283-4631
Web: ephraimcity.org
Facebook: “Like” Ephraim City
Twitter: Follow@ephraimcity

MAYOR’S CORNER...

but instead the Council chose to conduct further investigation into the pros and cons of deer removal. Before we make any decision, the Ephraim City Council will ask for the input of concerned residents. We have received opinions on both sides of this issue and we truly want to make this a community discussion and facilitate as much input as possible before we make a reasoned decision on the matter. So, be looking for that public comment option which will occur sometime in the New Year. The Council will also conduct an informal poll through the City Facebook page to gain more insights into the feelings of our residents about this subject.

Recently, we heard from some of our residents about the possibility of enacting a deer control ordinance in Ephraim City. This potential ordinance WAS NOT approved by the City Council,
On January 29th I will be holding a Town Hall meeting at 6:00 PM with residents, in the council chambers in the basement of City Hall, to discuss any concerns, advice, positive feedback or anything else that you may have on your mind. I am sincerely striving to make my administration as open to the public as I possibly can. There will be light refreshments, and it will be a more casual atmosphere versus what takes place during City Council meetings. This gives me the opportunity to communicate with you as directly as I can. There will also be several council members on hand that you may want to visit with (we are limited to two council members in light of noticed council meeting laws).

We will be having these meetings on a quarterly basis so that you may have direct access to your local elected leaders. We want to hear from you as much as we can!

Last of all, I would like to wish you a very hearty Merry Christmas, or to those who do not celebrate a Christmas tradition, a very Happy Holiday season, at this time of the year. Likewise, my wish for you is that this New Year will be one of safety, peace and prosperity. Ephraim City is a family. We look out for one another as neighbors, friends and community members throughout the year, but especially during this time of the year. I ask you to reach out to the elderly, to those in our senior residential community, to the widowed, to those in need. I hope that you, with me, will look for opportunities to serve others, to warm hearts and seek to uplift those around you. Perhaps you could help a struggling youth, a divorced parent, a lonely neighbor. Whatever it is that you do to augment the spirit of the season, please reach out so others may feel the warm embrace of our wonderful community of Ephraim City.

Sincerely,

John Scott

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**Santa Lucia Festival of Lights Dinner**

Join us for our 3rd annual Santa Lucia authentic smorgasbord dinner, Santa Lucia procession and wonderful entertainment. This is a fundraiser for the Ephraim Co-op to help pay for replacements for the 30-year-old tables in our social hall. We will also have a few surprises during the evening. The dinner is Saturday, December 14th and starts at 6 pm. upstairs in the social hall of the Co-op.

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**Did You Know . . . ?**

- Ephraim City was incorporated in 1868?
- Ephraim City holds a municipal election every odd year, and that we changed from a partisan convention system to a non-partisan system in 2007?
- The population of Ephraim is over 7,000, we have 1,893 active registered voters, and 54% of those voters voted in the 2019 election?
The Ephraim City Finance Department has many functions that are masterfully maintained by four employees: Esmeralda Salas, Utility Billing Specialist; Randi Spurling, Accounting and Cemetery Specialist; Candice Maudsley, City Treasurer; and Steve Widmer, Finance Director. Each of these dedicated employees have very specific tasks to perform and are cross-trained in many areas.

Candice and Esmeralda are the friendly faces you see when you come to the front window at City Hall. They both have many years of experience working with customers in a financial setting. In addition, Esmeralda is bi-lingual and assists many of our Spanish-speaking customers. Both Candice and Esmeralda can assist anyone who would like to set up automatic payment of their utility bills through our XPressBillPay system.

Randi works with Ephraim City’s vendors and assists Steve with innumerable aspects of the Finance Department. She also keeps cemetery records and helps those in the community with cemetery needs.

Our Finance Director, Steve, has over thirty years of experience in governmental accounting. He works closely with our City Manager, our Mayor and City Council, our Department Heads, and external auditors to ensure the functionality and transparency of Ephraim City finances. Together, they strive to be accountable to the residents of Ephraim.

Some of the diverse functions these trustworthy employees perform include cash receipting, accounts payable and receivable, payroll, utility billing, cash management of 36 banking accounts, general ledger accounting management of 14 funds and 14 departments—all of which comply with all Federal and State accounting principles—and many more duties.

Because of the integrity of the processes and the division of duties, Ephraim City’s funds are safeguarded and accounted for in a responsible and lawful manner.

All of these employees enjoy serving the residents of Ephraim and are always happy to answer any questions.
City Manager Message
Shaun Kjar

Season’s greetings! Ephraim is the best place to be for the holidays! Some of the holiday happenings in Ephraim for December include the Annual Nativity Display at the Co-op, a Holiday Light Parade, and a Christmas Firework Celebration. You can find details for those events in other places in this newsletter.

Did you know Santa is flying in to visit the Ephraim Elementary students? He’ll be flying in to the Manti-Ephraim Airport on December 13th with about 24 airplanes full of donated items! He’ll be bearing these gifts for the Ephraim Elementary students who will be bussed out to the airport and waiting in a hangar for Santa’s arrival.

This event is a joint venture of Angel Flight West and the Boy Scouts of America. You may have heard about the pilots of Angel Flight West from their free charity flights for those with medical needs. The Boys Scouts of America has a number of candidates for the rank of Eagle Scout who have coordinated the gathering of items to donate for Santa Flight delivery to Ephraim Elementary. In other areas since 2000, they have donated coats, toys, books, paper for the PTA, and more.

Another group, KUED, will be providing a free book for each child to take home. A couple of years ago, Manti Elementary was a recipient of the kindness of these individuals. Sometimes, there are even financial donations made by the pilots themselves for places they deliver the material goods to.

Ephraim City is excited to welcome these wonderful people to Ephraim and look forward to seeing their planes fill the sky and our airport on December 13th. Flights will begin arriving around 9:30 am and if the weather holds, Santa should land around 10:30.

If you’d like more details about Angel Flights, you can check out: www.angelflightwest.org

Happy Holidays!

Youth City Council
By Emma Bean

A couple days before Veteran’s Day, Ephraim Youth City Council helped the Lions Club set up veteran’s signs for Ephraim City veterans to honor their great service.

The activity was chaired by Emma Bean. EYCC loved helping to recognize those who came before, who sacrificed much to protect our country. We thank you, Veterans!

NOTICE
This is a reminder that Ephraim City snow removal occurs throughout the winter as need arises and all vehicles should be removed from parking along City streets.

Also, Utah State snow removal (UDOT) occurs as need arises within city limits on Main Street and the loop around Snow College (100 N and Center Street—main campus area).

Your help is greatly appreciated!