Dear Ephraim City Residents;

2020 is off to a great and productive start. I have appreciated all of the feedback, comments, suggestions and ideas about what you would like to see our city focus on in this New Year. Let’s continue this open dialogue. We need your ideas! Your voice matters.

On January 11th I led the City Council in a planning/strategic meeting concerning our goals and priorities for 2020. It was an expansive, deliberative approach to what we would like to accomplish in this New Year. We spent nearly four hours considering feedback from our residents and the results are the following five major areas that we want to make as a priority going forward in 2020:

1. **Infrastructure.** We want to focus on our current system resilience. This means that we must strengthen our current systems such as power, road upkeep, sewer repairs, and water system’s upgrades.

2. **Quality of life for our residents.** Our focus here will be to work toward meeting our current recreation needs with our youth and expand to meeting new recreation needs of our adult citizenry, including walking trails, bike trails (east of Ephraim), and other recreational needs that our adult citizenry are asking for.

3. **Employee Relations.** Our focus here is to make sure that our city wages are competitive, and that our employees have the equipment they need to successfully complete their jobs. One of the most important things that we need to do as a City Council is to focus on getting to know our Ephraim City employees.

4. **Financial Integrity.** Not every problem should be solved by throwing money at it. Creative solutions need to be relied on, including working with other communities, and being alert to applying for grants that greatly enhance our ability to magnify our economic footprint in Ephraim City.
without placing undue strains on our citizens and on our budget.

5. Economic Development. Our city is going to grow. We have seen tremendous growth in the last 10 years. We must be prepared for growth. We want to actively pursue businesses, such as another grocery store; businesses that can employ our children and grandchildren with good wages. We want to strive to wisely manage our future growth to the benefit of our current businesses. Fifty years from now, will we look back and say, “was this a good idea?” Our goal is to grow in smart ways; ways in which we can sustain; ways in which our residents can be proud.

I am committed to maintaining communication with our residents. In thinking about this, on January 29th we held a Town Hall meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. We had light refreshments, an open atmosphere, and it gave us a chance to hear your opinions and feelings directly to myself and City Council members. To those who came, thank you for coming and letting us know how you feel.

We need you! We need your input, your ideas and your thoughts about going forward in this new year and this new decade. Your opinion matters. We listen. Thank you for giving to us this great trust. We don’t want to fail you, and with your help we will go into this New Year with energy and insight.

Sincerely,

John Scott
Ephraim City Mayor

Granary Arts Appears in USA Today!

Congratulations to Ephraim’s Granary Arts Center!!! Granary Arts was recognized as one of 10 Great DIY Art Spaces Across the Country in the national publication, USA TODAY. The list was compiled by curator Jason Andrew and Larry Bleiberg of USA TODAY. “Cutting edge art isn’t limited to big cities and large cultural institutions. Creative work can be found across the country in small towns and artist run spaces” says Andrew.

Granary Arts, Ephraim, Utah
Art flourishes in remote central Utah thanks to artists based in a historic granary building on the high plains. “It’s in a very exciting space. It’s really in the desert. There’s nothing there,” says Andrew, a Utah native. Founded by two friends, it enriches the community with workshops, musical performances and art installations.
Dress Extravaganza
Ephraim Co-Op

The Ephraim Co-Op, located on Main Street in Ephraim, in combination with the reigning Miss Ephraim, Samantha Everitt, is hosting the annual Prom Dress Extravaganza!

This event runs from Friday February 7th through Saturday February 8th, from 12 PM to 7 PM, upstairs in the Reception Hall.

The extravaganza is organized as a service to the community, where girls can bring and sell their gently used prom dresses, or look for a new gown for this year’s upcoming prom season! This is a great way to get a beautiful prom dress on a budget, or to sell your gown for cash.

The Co-Op is hosting a drawing with cash and prizes at this year’s event, for those who participate.

Come in and drop off a dress to sell, or try on a new one. The Co-Op is accepting dresses for sale starting Monday, January 13th, up to the day of the event. All gowns will be displayed in the reception hall in the upper level of the Co-Op, and dressing rooms will be available.

Munchkin Music:
Fridays - 11:00 - 11:45 am
Ages: 18 months - 5 years, other ages also welcome.
Cost: $15 one child, $10 each additional sibling - visit our website to sign up!

Fridays, February 7, 14, 21, 28

New Exhibitions Opening
February 12
The Rhizome Remains, by Kari Laine and curated by J. Sybylla Smith.
Tingoi, by Adama Delphine Fawundu and curated by J. Sybylla Smith.
Honor and Dissonance, by Jan Andrews.
A reception will be held at Granary Arts Friday, February 28, 2020 / 6-8 pm.

For more information:
Please visit granaryarts.org / 86 N Main St, Ephraim / 11-5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.
Winter can be a difficult time. It is even more difficult if you’re just doing what you can to get by and keep the heat on. At the recent City Council meeting, we had a visit from Six County Association of Government (AOG) representatives including the director Travis Kyhl. He and a couple of his program supervisors gave us insight into the offerings they have that might make February a little better. The list of services they offer is long and you or someone you know might benefit greatly from contacting them about one of these programs.

Housing and Community Action division has at least 6 programs:

1. **HEAT assistance** helps low income families and individuals with their heating bills.
2. **Weatherization Program** helps reduce energy cost by assisting with repairs or upgrades to higher efficiency devices.
3. **Home Repair Program** might be able to assist with qualifying home repairs.
4. **Mutual Self-Help Housing Program** through the USDA Rural Development arm of the Six County AOG may allow you the opportunity to get help and help others in the construction of a new home.
5. **CROWN** allows you to rent to own a home and if you qualify, credits over the initial period you have rented the home go toward owning it.
6. **Crisis Programs** - if you find yourself stuck between a rock and hard place, there may be assistance for broken furnaces, major car repairs, utility shut-offs, and more.

The Six County AOG also has programs and services that deal with issues of Aging and Volunteer Services:

1. **Senior Center Services**
2. **Home Delivered Meals**, and nutrition education among other home and community-based alternatives.
3. **Utah Family Caregiver Support Program**
4. **Aging Medicaid Waiver Program**
5. **Veteran-Directed Care Programs**
6. **12 affiliated Local Senior Centers and Senior Nutrition Sites.**

If you or someone you know could use a little help through these cold winter months, or any other time of the year, please contact the Six County AOG at sixcounty.com or by calling (435) 893-0712.

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A Message from Our Council
Tyler Alder

Through most of December and all of January, the Ephraim Recreation Department has been encouraging citizens to take an 18-question survey. The survey includes questions about the City’s current youth sports programs, the potential for new programs, types of recreation facilities one would like, and what people would like to see recreation-wise here in Ephraim. Eighteen questions may not seem like much, but the responses provide valuable information to help pave the way for recreation in this community.

After the survey closes on January 31st, the Recreation Department will gather the results and begin analyzing them. Once the data has been reviewed, the Department will move forward with creating a strategic plan. The Strategic Plan will establish a direction for where the Recreation Department needs to go by developing a mission, goals, objectives, targets, and action plans. The plan will also include popular project ideas discussed in the survey, a timeline for when projects can be completed and strategies on how to fund the projects.

Along with the creation of the Strategic Plan, the survey also creates a medium for the public to share their thoughts, feelings, and ideas with the Recreation Department. This allows the Recreation Department to better understand what they do well and to learn what they can do to improve. The positive and negative feedback will help the City provide a better product for its citizens and approach any unaddressed recreation needs that might be in the community.

We appreciate all those who have taken the time to participate in the Recreation Survey. The results will be in the Appendix of the Strategic Plan. The Ephraim Recreation Department Strategic Plan will be made available to the public once it is completed and approved by both the Ephraim City Recreation Board and the Ephraim City Council.

Tremendous thanks go to the Recreation Director, Michael Patton, the Assistant Recreation Director, Reece Reynolds, and the Recreation Board for all the time and effort put into this project.