Dear Ephraim City Residents,

We are now well into this new year. The City Council and I have already been busy. On January 23rd I led the council in a three-hour planning and vision goal-setting and strategy meeting for 2021. Here are five areas of emphasis that we want to focus on for 2021:

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 we need to do as a City Council is 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 20 years (we have grown by 60% since the year, 2000). 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 this was a good idea? Our goal is to grow in smart ways; ways we can sustain; ways our residents can be proud of.

In addition to this, Ephraim City will become Sanpete County’s first community to develop and implement an Emergency Preparedness Plan. We expect this plan to be presented to the City Council for its approval sometime in the last part of spring or early summer. This will, in fact, act as a template for other cities in the County to adopt. Once again, Ephraim City is leading the way.

You will notice that many of these goals are ones which we are building upon from last year. We are not perfect yet, and so these goals will remain in place. These “five buckets” create a focus and a template for what we want to accomplish in 2021.

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Upcoming Events:

- City Council Meeting
  Feb 3, 2021 6:00 p.m.

- City Council Meeting
  Feb 17, 2021, 6:00 p.m.
City Manager Message
Shaun Kjar

As we drive on into 2021, I think many of us are keeping a cautious eye on the rearview mirror at the year that was 2020. Filled with challenges, it is difficult to see that time as an opportunity. Many lost loved ones from various causes. There were career changes, daily schedule changes, changes to the way we recreate, changes to school, shopping, and more. Distance from those challenges has a way of changing our perception of them. I hope that as we drive on, we will find the good we are looking for. Earl Nightingale is quoted as saying, “It is in the expectations of happiness that much of happiness is found. And it takes courage to expect happiness.”

We’d like to know how everyone in Ephraim is feeling. We have partnered with Utah State University to study the Wellbeing of Ephraim. This is just one more way we can identify ways to better serve the community. We have 68 responses to the survey so far and need more. Please go to https://tinyurl.com/y57ut8kl and let us know how you’re doing.

HOW IS LIFE IN EPHRAIM?

Let us know!

Please take the Wellbeing Survey

https://tinyurl.com/y57ut8kl

The survey is for adults age 18 or over. Disponible en Español. Ephraim City is partnering with USU’s Wellbeing Project. For more info, contact courtney.flint@usu.edu.

 SENIOR CENTER
FEBRUARY ACTIVITY

85 WEST 100 NORTH
(435) 813-2508 OR
(435) 283-6310
epsenior12@hotmail.com or
ephaimseniors@hotmail.com

EFFECTIVE 10/1/2020 ALL REQUESTS FOR DAY RENTAL SHOULD BE MADE TO LISA PETERSEN AT TELEPHONE 283-8236.
PICK UP AND PAYMENT PLUS KEY RETURN FOR THE RENTAL AND DEPOSIT ANALYSIS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED AT 166 NORTH 100 WEST IN EPHRAIM, UTAH.

AVAILABLE FROM SIX COUNTY IS THE SENIOR TRANSPORTATION VOUCHER SYSTEM. CONTACT SIX COUNTY AT (435) 893-0726 FOR INFORMATION. YOU OBTAIN A QUALIFIED DRIVER AND THEY RECEIVE FUNDING TO DRIVE TO DR. VISITS, ETC.

UNSCHEDULED:
DAY RENTALS ON FRIDAY or SATURDAY.
State of the City of Ephraim:

Let’s review what happened in 2020 in regard to these goals and by way of this, let me give you my Mayor’s report on the state of the City:

Infrastructure: This past year we overlaid existing roads which we do on an annual basis in Ephraim. We have a rotating schedule for road maintenance throughout the city, which saves our residents taxpayer dollars as we dovetail startup costs in alignment with other road projects that are happening in our county. Our roads are some of the finest in any Sanpete County city. Our public works crews take pride in that fact. In addition, as has been mentioned before, we dug a new well and it will begin operating later this week. We are constantly looking for ways to ensure that we have water for the future. We are now working on the development of another well north of Ephraim which will nearly double our water sources in the city. Our power crews are constantly working to upgrade our power lines and secure redundancy in the system to provide consistent power with far fewer power “blinks.” Our infrastructure in the system is stronger than it was a year ago by a long way due to the diligence of our City power crew and City staff. Our City sewer lines are being upgraded and our sewer capacity is estimated to be sufficient for the next 20 years of city growth.

Quality of Life: We are mindful that we are not here just to live in four walls and go to work. Our quality of life must be looked after. By quality of life, I refer to green spaces in our city, biking and hiking trails, parks, recreation, and art instruction for children. Plans have been put into place to expand our footprint at several of our City parks. The park behind the library will be re-purposed into an all-abilities park. The park by the Senior Citizen’s Center will, hopefully this year, be repurposed into a park that our seniors can walk through with paved trails. In addition, we are making plans to develop other parks throughout the city. Biking trails were completed in 2020 east of Ephraim that are both challenging and beautiful. Our Ephraim arts center provides quality art exhibits throughout the year, and art instruction for children. Our air is pure, our water is some of the purest in the United States. Our crime rates are substantially lower than anywhere in Utah. We have a very good quality of life here, and we will work to make it even better.

Employee relations: We have worked hard to develop and maintain congenial relations within departments and throughout departments as they cooperate with one another. We have a strong presence in Shaun Kjar’s leadership as the City Manager. He has made all the difference in the world. Additionally, we have restructured some departments this last year and we will continue to shepherd the developmental structuring of other departments. The morale among our personnel is the highest I have seen it in the decade plus that I have been involved in city government. There is a renewed trust level in all areas of our City staff and departments. Our employees are well compensated, happy and secure in their employment.

Financial integrity: We operate, by state statute, a balanced budget every year. 2020’s budget for the City was near 5.2 million dollars. Every year we put away a substantial amount of money for a rainy day. This year we believed that 2020 would be a “rainy day”; however, throughout the year, our tax revenues have increased significantly as more people bought commodities in town, and so the feared shortfall in City tax revenues never happened as they did in larger cities. Our 2020 audit came back as clean as a whistle with no audit findings that needed to be corrected, which underscores, from the standpoint of an outside audit, that the financial integrity of the City is at its highest. We will continue to pursue that type of perfection. This is an item that keeps me up at night. I want to be sure that our City revenues are seen as “sacred” money and how we spend that money has the highest integrity values possible.

Economic Development: Ephraim City is on the cusp of good economic growth. It is true that many of our businesses have suffered during the pandemic. Many others have fared very well during this time of upheaval. I have visited with many business owners and leaders during this past year. The economic future of our city looks bright. Businesses are wanting to locate here. Recently I visited with a business owner/partner from Sanpete who has decided to move his business to Ephraim. His business has high paying professional jobs. He will relocate his business here so that he can raise his children in this unique Ephraim environment. His children will be able to see their grandparents everyday if they wish. This is what we are focusing on—keeping our children here in our community instead of exporting the best of us to other communities. We will keep our children here if they wish, with good-paying, family-sustaining jobs. Our future has never looked so bright in this area.

Now, a word about one of our residents who suddenly passed away recently. I recognize that there have been other residents who have recently passed and who are also valuable and important to Ephraim City and I do not wish to diminish in any way their contributions. Ted Olson worked closely with the City for many years and was emblematic of all that is good about Ephraim City residents. Ted served Ephraim City and its residents his entire life. He taught at Snow College and was a tremendous mentor to so many people. He served his neighbors and watched out for them. He was an enthusiastic member of our power board and was an integral part of keeping Ephraim City up-to-date on information answering questions about our power systems, new power sources and the availability of these sources to Ephraim City. Ted always greeted you with a smile and good humor. He, in so many ways, represents who our residents are and what we all strive to be like. He will be sorely missed by me personally and by our community as a whole. All in all, things are looking very good for our beautiful little city. Our residents have a love and support for one another that is enviable. We help one another. Our City government tries its very best to be responsive to our residents, looking out for the welfare of all of its citizens. There is not one person on the City Council that has an “agenda”. Because of this, we work smoothly together in cooperation, unity, and with integrity. We don’t always agree on everything, but we certainly listen to one another with respect, care, and friendship. I believe that is what you want in local city government: cooperation and not divisiveness.

I am grateful that I live in Ephraim and I am thankful that I get to work with the best people in the world. I cannot say enough good about our City staff and our City departments; they have your best interest constantly on their mind.

Sincerely,

John G. Scott
Ephraim City Mayor
Granary Arts will be closed until February 10th for install of new exhibitions, anyone is welcome to drop by during open hours to pick up art kits.

Free Art Kits for Kids + Virtual Workshop Wednesday

Granary Arts is offering free kids art kits with our weekly video workshops! Each kit has everything your child needs. New tutorials and kits every Wednesday! A great resource for homeschooling families and an opportunity to explore different processes and techniques. Pick up your kit at Granary Arts, available on a first come first served basis. New video workshops + kits posted to Facebook every Wednesday at Facebook.com/GranaryArtsUtah. Subscribe to our mailing list, GranaryArts.org/Subscribe

New Exhibitions 2/10-4/30

Jann Haworth + Liberty Blake / Work in Progress Mural
Daniel George / God To Go West
(at Granary Arts)

Fazilat Soukhakian / Anonymous Battle
(at Snow College Library through 6/4)

Visit Us
86 North Main, Ephraim / W-S 11 am to 5 pm / 435.283.3456

A Message from Our Council
Alma Lund

I am unable to write anything here without saying how much, I for one, will miss not having Ted Olson on our team. Ted was a stalwart member of the Utah Associated Municipal Power Association (UAMPS) and a member of the City Utilities Board for over 40 years. His diligence in those capacities helped keep Ephraim’s power rates at a respectable level for many years. He will be missed.

When you notice any of our City crews as you move around town, stop and talk if you have the time to find out what is in the hole or up the pole. These men work for you and would be glad to tell you what they are doing. I worked in the Ephraim Power Department for over 30 years and enjoyed being asked questions while serving my community.

We all work for you, trying to keep your best interests at heart. City Council meetings are open to all and we want to hear from you.