I’m grateful to be able to write to you at this time. I love the month of July. There are so many events that we commemorate during this storied month, not the least of which is July 4th, Independence Day! I hope that your time of celebration is/was memorable. We are a land of freedom and civil liberty because of the sacrifices made by our forebears in their quest to form a “more perfect union”. I believe to a great degree we see that more perfect union in our little city, which is a melting-pot of nationalities, religious traditions, ideas and philosophies. Personally, I am grateful for the rich heritage and diverse culture that we enjoy in Ephraim.

Moving forward, I would ask that you take care to conserve a precious resource: water. Our city has been abundantly blessed by the foresight and determination of past City Councils and Mayors to invest in this rich commodity. Because of the investment in diverse water sources, our community has not been plagued by severe restrictions regarding outdoor water usage that we have seen in other communities in Sanpete County; however, that does not mean we have unlimited water resources. I would ask each resident, beginning immediately, to find ways to:

1. reduce your outdoor water usage by 30%.
2. water only between the hours of 6 PM and 10 AM.
3. fix any sprinklers, automatic or otherwise, so that they do not spray on sidewalks or roadways, and repair any leakage that you notice resulting from sprinkler use.

We are the 2nd driest state in the nation and currently Utah is experiencing one of the most severe droughts in history. It’s important that we do our part in this very dry year. Once Snow College students return in late August, we may ask you to restrict watering days to facilitate the extra usage that will be required. Luckily, we are in the process of developing another very high-capacity well which will bless the lives of our Ephraim City residents for many years to come. Additionally, we are in the process of searching out new water sources.

Congressman Chris Stewart will be introducing an item to the next federal budget designed to help Ephraim with two infrastructure projects. If approved, these projects will enable us to, in part, shore up,
replace, and repair much of our existing 110 miles of pipeline that bring water down from the canyon from 16 collection springs. This supplies our city with about 65% of our drinking water. In the winter, our water consumption is about 700,000 gallons per day. In the summer, our consumption blossoms to nearly 4 million gallons per day, primarily due to outdoor water usage. So, our challenge is not that we do not have enough water, our challenge is in how we use that water outside during the summer. In short, please be water-wise and don’t be afraid to conserve. I love my grass, flowers and trees. I am an ardent gardener. If we cut back the watering of just our lawns, it may get a little distorted in its brilliant green color, but it will not be hurt if it dries out a little. Mighty prayers go mighty far in appealing for rain. I would ask for prayers on behalf of our little valley for copious amounts of rain.

In the next month, we will welcome a new business to our community. Ace Hardware is set to be completed, with its final construction phase, probably by the end of July or first part of August. We welcome this new business to our community. As with all of our businesses, we wish them the best of luck and ask you to patronize our local businesses first. In the next little while there will be other businesses that will announce their move to Ephraim City, and I believe our residents will be excited about the multiplying differences of commercial enterprises that will begin popping up. It’s an exciting time to be an Ephraim resident.

The summer season is in full-swing. Enjoy every minute of it. Last night I was sitting out on the porch of my backyard just enjoying the cool summer night canyon breeze. Rolling through my mind, over and over again, was just how incredible a blessing it is that we live in such a great place as Ephraim City. I love our small-town feel. I love the goodness of the people who live here. I love the availability to cultural events, magnificent music, plays, sporting events, and intellectual study that we have by having a College here in Ephraim. When you couple that with an ever-growing recreational program for all ages, the preservation of important historical buildings, and enhanced recreational opportunities in our mountains to the East of Ephraim, then you feel a deep sense of respect for all that we are blessed with in regard to an enhanced quality of life.

This small town is what America is all about. Our quality of life is the American dream. Our enterprise and our industry is what makes America great. I look forward to seeing the miracle of all the wonders that will be emerging in Ephraim City as it progresses throughout this next decade. I promise to be very mindful of you as we manage this American dream.

Sincerely,

John Scott
Ephraim City Mayor

2021-2022 Youth City Council Sworn In

During a regular City Council Meeting held June 16, 2021, the Ephraim Youth City Council were officially sworn in by the City Recorder.

The Youth City Council members will spend the year in service to the community and learning about leadership from their advisors, Juli Arnoldson and Corrine Olsen.

2021-2022 Youth City Council
Police Department News

The Ephraim City Police Department is excited to announce that they have hired Jordan Garff as a full-time Police Officer. Officer Garff is a twelve-year resident of Sanpete County. He grew up in Chester, but currently resides in Ephraim and plans to stay permanently in the area.

Officer Garff began his career in law enforcement with the Sanpete County Sheriff’s Office and speaks fluent Spanish. He is excited for this new opportunity and looks forward to directly serving the community in which he lives and calls home.

Utah Drought 2021

The State of Utah is experiencing historical drought conditions, and Governor Cox has declared a State of Emergency. In order to preserve our resources throughout the dry season, Ephraim City is asking that you decrease the number of days and the amount of time you water your lawn. Please do not water your lawn during the heat of the day. Pick watering times between the hours of 6 pm and 10 am, keeping in mind the “heat of the day” sometimes runs much later than 6:00.

Low water levels ultimately make for a dry and brittle landscape. Fire season has been particularly brutal this year, requiring record numbers of Fire Department responses, and it is barely July.

Although legally the City cannot completely ban fireworks at this time, we strongly urge you to find other sources of entertainment while celebrating this year. On July 4th, both Manti and Moroni will be providing public fireworks displays in a controlled environment. If you decide to use personal fireworks on the 4th or 24th, please do so with caution, away from vegetation and buildings. Remember that personal liability for unintentional fires could be devastating to you and your family.

If you are planning to celebrate in the mountains this year, be aware that Sanpete County is currently under Stage 2 restrictions, meaning no open fire or flame in any unincorporated public/private land in Sanpete County. That includes improved camp sites/fire pits and charcoal use, etc. Gas and pellet devices with shut-off valves are allowed with at least a three foot clearance from any flammable material such as pine needles or grasses.

We are hoping for better conditions next year, but in the meantime, please have a happy and safe summer.
A Message from Our Council
Margie Anderson

I have observed the Youth City Council in action recently. They cleaned the Pioneer Cabin at Pioneer Park to prepare for our city celebration, they helped with the races at the Scandinavian Festival, and decorated a float for participation in the parade. I asked one of the advisors what the goals are for the youth council. She indicated that each person (or sometimes a few together) will be in charge of an event from start to finish. They learn pure leadership as they talk and communicate with the other councilmembers on everyone’s responsibilities. Sometimes they have to make contact with different departments in the City or perhaps outside of the City to obtain proper permissions or guidance for completing a project. These projects are completed from beginning to end by the young councilmembers, and after it is all over, they take time to talk together about what went well and what improvements could be made.

A service activity has been planned for July. The person in charge is a new driver and has noticed that some of the areas of the curb that indicate where you cannot park, were kind of faded and not as clear as they could be. When she talked to the City supervisor, she found out that this is a project that is usually done by volunteers, but with the past year of no contact, there were no volunteers that could complete the job. Both the City supervisor and the young councilmember were very happy to be able to take care of this important task.

All citizens could adopt a similar desire to help with needed tasks. I noted in the local newspaper that in three different communities in Sanpete County, there was no one running for certain offices. I worry about the long-term effects on those communities. I hope we continue to instill in all our youth the importance of helping out and making even a small difference, now and in the future, as they serve their communities.

Thanks to all of our citizens who have that attitude of doing a little. Like the example set by our Youth City Council, a group of good citizens has the power to achieve a great impact.