My Dear Fellow Residents,

I hope that you have had a wonderful January. Now it’s on to February. Time goes by so fast.

For the last couple of years, and now moving into this new year, there are 5 areas of focus that we are concentrating on as a city. These five areas are:

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 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 meet 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 that they need to successfully complete their job. One of the most important things that 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 in which we can sustain; ways in which our residents can be proud of.

In addition to this, we have become Sanpete County’s first community to develop and implement an emergency management plan for Ephraim City. This may in fact, act as a template for other cities to adopt, and 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 do in 2022.

**State of the City of Ephraim:**

Let’s review what happened in 2021 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 overlayed 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 and as we dovetail startup costs in alignment with other road projects that are happening in our county. Our roads are...
Identifying and Accessing Aging Services in Central Utah

Home Delivered Meals (Meals on Wheels) and Congregate Meals (Meals at the Senior Centers) For more information contact the Meals on Wheels office at 435 436-8275.

Alternatives Program aimed at keeping older adults (and other qualified individuals) in their homes to age in place. In-home services include homemaking, personal care, and lifeline (Emergency Response System) services. For more information call AAA Senior Services at 435 893-0725.

The Caregiver Program provides relief for caregivers on a temporary basis. Each client has a $1,500.00 per year limit. Those eligible for this program are adult family members or other informal caregivers providing care to individuals. For more information visit eccles.link/provider or eccles.link/caregivers for a full guide. Call Six County at 435-893-0725 for more information about the program.

The Medicaid Aging Waiver is for persons 65 years of age or older and is set up to keep clients in their homes to prevent premature admission to a Nursing Home. Services include Case Management, homemaking, respite, companion services, etc. There are no fees. For more information contact Six County at 435-893-0725.

The Veterans Directed Care Program provides an opportunity for veterans to direct their own care. Participants are given a budget to hire their own personal care aides and purchase needed items and services. For more information contact Christy Nebeker at cnebeker@sixcounty.com or call 435-893-0736.

Medicare Enrollment and Fraud Assistance: The State Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) aims at helping Medicare beneficiaries navigate information, insight, and help in saving money while being enrolled in Medicare. You can visit their website at www.shiptacenter.org/ or call Doug Kirker at 435 893-0728 for more information.

Miscellaneous services: The association (AAA) partners with Utah Legal Services to help older adults in our region with legal questions; They host Preventative Health Classes and Training by partnering with the Central Utah Public Health Department to visit centers and provide classes; They help with funding for transportation to non-emergency medical appointments with Non-Medical Emergency Transportation Vouchers.

Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO), screened and trained staff members of the State of Utah Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, are authorized by Federal and State laws to receive complaints, investigate those allegations, and then resolve them on behalf of residents of long-term care facilities. For more information contact Six County Area Agency on Aging at 435 893-0736.
In the last four to five months, the Ephraim Fire Department has been conducting fire inspections for businesses within the city. It has been great to visit with the business owners and assist them in fire prevention measures. Our visits have been very beneficial and have allowed us the opportunity to get to know our businesses.

The National and State Fire Code provides guidelines to follow in fire inspections. Ephraim City has adopted the same codes. Our goal as a fire department is making Ephraim a safer place to live. If we prevent one fire by educating our citizens, then our inspections have been a success. Loss of property is not something that we like to see, but property can be replaced—lives cannot.

You can help us in good fire prevention practices by acting in the following manners:

1. Install good smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on each level of your home—especially in sleeping areas.
2. Test detectors monthly.
3. Replace old or out-of-date detectors and batteries. (We recommend the new style detectors. There are now ten year battery life detectors located at many retail outlets. Look for detectors such as Knox, First Alert, Kiddie, and others.)
4. Post and teach all family members the number to call in an emergency—911
5. Have a fire extinguisher on each level of your home and know how to use them.
6. Practice a fire escape plan with your family and have a central meeting place away from the home.
7. Have an address posted on the front of your home visible from the street. Teach children their address.
8. Keep flammables away from furnace and water heaters.

As a fire department, we want Ephraim to be fire safe. From time to time we will bring you information that will help us accomplish our goal. Please watch for any posted information.

Feel free to call or reach out to us with any questions or concerns. 283-5829.

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**Granary Arts**

**Workshop Wednesday Schedule**

3:30 pm

02/02: Stipple Butterfly  
02/09: Valentine Zoo Animals  
02/16: One-Point Perspective Pals  
02/23: Wire Wrapped Rings

**Exhibitions**

Tomiko Jones / Hatsubon

Lydia Gravis / Survival and Resilience

The Family Trade / Bird’s Eye Chisel album + Tintypes by Holly Hooper

David Lindsay / Our Valley Speaks: A Sanpete Experience (virtual exhibition)

To see recent video interviews with our artists, visit our Vimeo channel, Vimeo.com/GranaryArts
some of the finest in any Sanpete County city. Our Public Works crews take pride in that fact. In addition, this past year we had Ephraim’s 2nd drinking water well come online.

As we head into 2022, plans have been made and finances have been procured to retrofit a large, high capacity well north of town for culinary purposes. We hope that this well will come online sometime at the end of the summer. This third well has the capacity to double our well water access. Additionally, we are now in the process of procuring a fourth well to meet future water needs in our city. Fortunately, we were the only city last summer in Sanpete County to not implement water restrictions.

Moreover, our city has been granted a 3-million-dollar earmark in the federal budget to repair and replace aging pipelines which bring our spring water down from the east mountains into the city water system. This is an excellent thing especially since those pipelines are over 50 years old in many cases. Congressman Stewart worked with us in remarkable ways to get this done, which will lift the financial burden off our residents.

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, and recreation. Plans have been put into place to expand our footprint at several of our city parks. The park behind the library will be repurposed into an all-abilities park which should be completed by the beginning of summer, June 1st. Ephraim City will be the first community in Sanpete to have an all-abilities park, which will serve children with special needs. Generous grant monies came to us that made this possible, including monies from T-Mobile and the Eccles foundation.

The park by the Senior Citizens Center will, this year, be repurposed into a park that our senior citizens can walk through with paved trails, benches, and large concrete recreation items. In addition, we are making plans to develop other parks throughout the city. Additionally, we have secured an extension with Snow College for the use of the recreational facilities north of Ephraim.

Biking trails were completed in 2020 and 2021 east of Ephraim that are both challenging and beautiful. Our Ephraim Granary Arts center provides quality art exhibits throughout the year, and art instruction for children during the summers. 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.

As you know, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has announced that a new Temple will be built in Ephraim. This represents a tremendous boon to our city and how our city is viewed by others. Already, I have visited with new members of our community who have been drawn to purchase a home here because they felt the need to be here and serve in this temple. The planning and zoning processes have already begun, and we had our first council approval of zoning requests at the beginning of January in connection with this new Temple. All I can say this that it will be a jewel in our community and a great addition to the tremendous investments already here in Ephraim City.

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 twelve years 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. 2021’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. Throughout the year our tax revenues have increased significantly as more people bought commodities in town and so a feared shortfall in city tax revenues never happened as they did in larger cities. Our 2021 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 firm, 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 Hi-Tech 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 want, with good paying, family sustaining jobs. Our future never looked so bright in this area.

You will also notice the building that is happening in our city with housing and other business ventures. This will continue. We all want a new grocery store in Ephraim, but the grocers don’t want to look at that until we have more “roof tops” as they put it. So, new businesses, such as a grocery store will be coming eventually when there is a sufficient population to support that kind of business.

A yet to be announced major health care industry is set to locate in Ephraim. We hope for more information on location, timing and an actual roll out of services sometime in the future. Another federal earmark of 4 million dollars in the federal budget has been granted in the federal budget to help with infrastructure needs and additional needs with this project. This will not only be a great economic boon to our city, but also will have a major impact on quality of life.

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. City government tries its very best to be responsive to our residents, looking out for the welfare of all 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