

PERRY CITY NEWS BRIEF

www.perrycity.org 435-723-6461

MAYOR'S MINUTE: The When is Now!

Dear Perry Friends and Neighbors,

Many residents have asked for an explanation of some critical issues the city council and staff has been working to resolve. In keeping with my commitment to be accountable, transparent, and fulfill the responsibilities I have been elected and entrusted to do as your Mayor, this request will be addressed.

Also during the September 3rd City Council Meeting, as the Mayor I was accused by Jerry Nelson of manipulating the city

council in order to pass policies and procedures. This simply is not true. However, it can be added to a list of other unfounded accusations and many recent articles in the media concerning the jointly owned Perry-Willard Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) which have not focused on some of the important points of the issue. One can understand why many times as the Mayor I have been stopped in the store, cornered at community events, and called on the phone by Perry residents asking 'when' the Mayor was going to stand up to address these accusations and misrepresentations in order to shake off the dirt that has been thrown at Perry City. **Because there is a \$10,000,000 (TEN MILLION DOLLAR) reason why every Perry resident should understand and care about the WWTP issue as it will affect their wallets, The 'When' is Now!** For those residents who only want to read the short version here it is:



Notable dates

- 10/1-City Council
 - 10/6-**Recycle**
 - 10/8-Planning Comm.
 - 10/12 Columbus Day – City Offices Open
 - 10/15 – City Council
 - 10/20-**Recycle**
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When people are critical of everything and responsible for nothing it does not solve issues, it does not bring people together, and it certainly does not keep Perry out of the paper. Residents can be proud of Perry City; the City has nothing to hide. Perry residents with questions or concerns are invited to talk with the Mayor. I welcome the opportunity to work with the good people of Perry to implement ideas that will continue to make Perry the perfect place to call home.

Concerning the newspaper articles associated with the WWTP... Although there have been many news articles specifically focused on the WWTP there is critical information that has not been included in the articles. The business of running and maintaining the WWTP is governed by an interlocal agreement between the cities of Perry and Willard. For 5 years now, the agreement has successfully governed the running of the plant. A short time ago, however, the representatives for Willard City and the mutually selected board member appointed by both cities, strongly advocated for a change in interpretation of the contract. **The change they are recommending will significantly reduce costs for Willard's users and proportionally increase cost to Perry users.** The short story is that Perry City rejected the new interpretation of the agreement insisting that if a change was going to be made which increased costs to Perry's citizens, it should be negotiated and not unilaterally mandated. Willard has filed a lawsuit to compel those changes.

Where the proposed changes will cost Perry residents considerably more in their monthly bills and also in opportunity costs for using those funds in other critical areas, Perry City thought that any changes from the original agreement should be fairly renegotiated. **A conservative estimate of the impact of the changes (based on a 5 year historic average increase) is over 10 million dollars with the likelihood of being significantly more as the plant ages and O&M costs increase. This potential increase of millions of dollars will require a significant sewer fee increase to Perry residents for the remaining 45 year life of the contract.** Since the filing of the lawsuit by Willard City, Perry and Willard have been working together through mediation to try to come to agreement. It has never been the intent of Perry City to be unfair to Willard City our neighbor and partner. Perry is satisfied with the current agreement, but concurs, like most agreements, that there are things that can be improved on to

make things run smoother. However, Perry also feels that suddenly and significantly changing the costs to our citizens is neither fair, nor in keeping with the terms or spirit of that agreement.

Concerning the accusations of manipulation... As Mayor I did not manipulate anyone but rather I worked on a five member team with other city staff and a highly-qualified volunteer to update a set of guiding Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The SOPs were presented at a Gun Range Board Meeting where all eight board members, including Mr. Nelson himself, voted unanimously in favor of adopting the procedures. The same team of five people also worked to draft a set of policies which were discussed during city council meetings in July and August; the policies were passed by the City Council unanimously on August 20th. **Each of the 11 voting members of the board and council made their votes based on their own logic and conscience.**

The policies that Mr. Nelson was referring to are administrative in nature and were strongly recommended by the City's insurance carrier to mitigate liability issues associated with operating a gun range and to ensure City insurance coverage for volunteers who help at the Three Mile Creek Shooting Sports Complex, commonly known as the gun range. Based on the professional advice of the insurance risk manager I did tell the team members as we were drafting the policies that I could not support the use of volunteers at future competitions held at the gun range unless a policy was in place to ensure insurance coverage for the volunteers. This was done in an effort to protect the residents of Perry from needing to pay exorbitant legal judgments (paid with tax dollars coming from your wallet) against the City for negligence in the event there was an incident at the gun range.

Now for those of you who want the expanded version, Read On.... (Some info will be repeated and expanded upon below.)

Perry City holds its council and staff to a high level of accountability, responsibility, and transparency. We strive to treat each other and especially the Perry residents with the utmost respect. Perry City highly values individuals who volunteer their time, skills, expertise, and resources to help in a positive way to allow Perry City to function on a very conservative and tight budget. However in their volunteer capacities, volunteers represent Perry City so they are held to the same high level of accountability and professionalism as city staff. As Mayor I am very protective of you as residents of Perry and of the tax dollars that come from your wallets. Perry City utilizes highly qualified staff, contractors, and industry experts to give advice on critical issues of the City. With researched-based information, and acting within the budget and parameters set by the City Council, as the Mayor I work to guide the City staff to do the City business in such a way that is fiscally responsible, logically sound, and ethically correct. Although by nature I am fun-loving, friendly, and kind-hearted, I am not afraid to go toe to toe in protection of those things that are important to the quality of life for Perry residents. I will not be intimidated and I will not be bullied into making decisions that are not in the best interest of Perry residents.

To the latest accusation by Jerry Nelson, made at the September 3rd City Council Meeting, that the Mayor manipulated the City Council in order to pass policies and procedures, I answer unequivocally, I did no such thing! Other than communicating with the team who worked on the policies and procedures, I did not communicate with the voting members of the board or council regarding the policies and procedures except during the public meetings. Each made their votes based on their own logic and conscience. There was no attempt to sway votes by means of manipulation or coercion. Being accused of such and tried in the court of public opinion in the newspaper was unfortunate as Nelson's accusations caused Perry to be captured in the newspapers in such a petty way as opposed to being represented by the more positive stories Perry has to showcase.

The policies and SOPs were drafted by a five member team, passed by 11 different voting members, and yet Nelson only makes accusations against the Mayor? Additionally he does not site one policy or procedure that does not have merit, was not instituted to reduce liability, or added a layer of protection to the City nor has he come to talk with the Mayor to try to resolve his concerns.

The policies also addressed some issues dealing with safety and access to the range which concerned the Chief of Police, Dale Weese. In support of the recommendation of Chief Weese, Perry City allowed Chief Weese to enact certain policy requirements a few weeks prior to the entire policy document being passed by the City Council, namely having a lock put on the entrance gate to the gun range and asking Range Safety Officers (RSOs) to note 48 hours in advance of when they would like to shoot at the gun range so as not to be shooting at the same time that someone else may be down range doing maintenance at the gun range. Since that time a suggestion has been received proposing another way to accomplish the same desired safety goal and may allow for the RSOs to have more real time access to the gun range. Perry City is very open to exploring better ways to accomplish the desired safety goal and credible ideas will be reviewed by the management team to be evaluated and enacted if deemed viable. Some residents have asked why Perry City supports the ac-

tivities of the gun range. The 3 top reasons Perry City supports the gun range are 1) because it provides a safe, controlled environment for individuals to shoot and learn to safely shoot guns, which is a popular pastime in our area. It also encourages people to shoot at the gun range rather than in the foothills, which makes it much safer in the foothills for hikers, mountain bikers, those riding ATVs, etc. 2) the visitors coming to use the gun range provide a strong economic advantage to businesses in our area. Lately most of the 21 shooting bays have been busy during the 3 days a week the gun range is open to the public. The people coming to shoot at the gun range are eating at our restaurants and purchasing goods and services from our gas stations, stores, and fruit stands. All of the purchases from out-of-town visitors utilizing the range equate to higher sales tax revenues for the City, which could mean lower property taxes. 3) The Perry gun range is a unique recreational facility that puts Perry on the map (along with Maddox of course J). The 1,000 yard shooting distance, being open to the public, having on-duty Range Safety Officers, and being so close to a major freeway makes the Perry gun range the only one of its kind in Utah, and really in the entire mid-west.

Two weeks ago during a NRA sanctioned State Championship Match at the gun range, the Utah State Rifle and Pistol President and a NRA Washington representative both commented on what a well-designed and distinctive facility it is currently and what amazing potential it has to add on other highly sought after venues such as clay pigeon shooting, trap, skeet, Bull's Eye Pistol, and to house one of less than a dozen Electronic 1,000 yard Creedmoor venues in the western United States. Not only were they excited about the potential of the gun range, they were very open about helping to secure funds to develop the potential new venues.

Perry City's support for the gun range is however bridled by a commitment to not extend city funds on facility growth unless there is a grant or donation match, producing a positive return on investment. Also there has been established a separate line item budget for all transactions associated with the gun range so all expenditures are completely transparent.

Now on to issues with the Waste Water Treatment Plant... The simple version of this issue has two parts. One part was covered at the beginning of this newsletter with the reference of a \$10,000,000 impact to Perry residents based on the recommended changes that will significantly reduce costs for Willard's users and proportionally increase cost to Perry users.

Part two of the WWTP issue relates to the make-up of the volunteer advisory board which is called for in the interlocal agreement to monitor the operations of the WWTP. The interlocal agreement requires a 5 member board with two members being appointed by Perry, two members being appointed by Willard, and one member being mutually selected by both cities to represent both cities without prejudice or bias.

Besides the advocated changes to interlocal contract, there was also an attempt by certain board members to take on additional responsibilities not currently allowed for in the interlocal agreement which would also bring additional costs to the Perry residents in the form of yet another sewer fee increase. In an effort ensure its board members were advocating to bring things back into compliance with the interlocal agreement, Perry's City Council voted to rotate some of its board members, including pulling its support of the mutually selected board member. Unfortunately this rotation caused concern for Willard and the jointly appointed board member. Perry has tried to address these concerns through healthy teamwork and conversation between the two cities. Willard included their concern in the lawsuit filed against Perry. A recent newspaper article speculated that Perry has paid over \$15,000 in legal fees because of unresolved issues regarding the WWTP. I can tell you with straight up honesty that Perry has only paid, up to this point, \$155.00 (yes that is right, only one hundred fifty-five dollars) in additional legal fees for the City's involvement in this issue. However, other fees may be incurred based on how long it takes to resolve this matter.

It has never been the intent of Perry City to be unfair to Willard City our neighbor and partner. Keep in mind Perry has not asked for one change to the contract, Perry has not filed one lawsuit against Willard, and Perry's way of working for fairness is to support and abide by the contract that was signed by both cities and has worked to ensure that the WWTP has operated within budget and within the state certifications and requirements for the past five years.

So I end this accounting to my bosses, you the residents of Perry, with a reiteration of my opening statement...

When people are critical of everything and responsible for nothing it does not solve issues, it does not bring people together, and it certainly does not keep Perry out of the paper. Residents can be proud of Perry City; the City has nothing to hide. Perry residents with questions or concerns are invited to talk with the Mayor. I welcome the opportunity to work with the good people of Perry to implement ideas that will continue to make Perry the perfect place to call home.

Mayor Karen Cronin

COMMUNITY NEWS:

DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS

Daughters of Utah Pioneers 3 Mile Creek will be held at 1:00pm the first Monday of every month. We will be meeting at the LDS Chapel which is located at 2450 South 900 West. Casual dress, Great lessons, and Everyone is invited.

THREE MILE CREEK ELEMENTARY HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL:

Three Mile Creek Elementary PTA is bringing back it's Halloween Carnival this year!! IT will be on Friday October 30th from 5pm to 8pm at Three Mile Creek Elementary!! We will have some new and interesting games this year!! Family Pizza meal deals may be purchased in advance!! Please call or text Andrea Argyle (435-239-0299) for details on the pizza deals!!



EARLY VOTING

Early voting for the General Election will be held October 20th through October 30th at the Perry City Offices from 7am to 5pm.

City Council Candidates Running Vote Up to 3:

Toby K. Wright
Jerry Nelson
Steven Pettingill
James Taylor
Nathan T. Tueller

For more information visit our website at:
<http://www.perrycity.org/records-office.htm>



MAN ON THE STREET: What is Your Favorite Thing About Autumn

Jennie Moore: Changing Leaves

Jessica Riding: Beautiful Colored Leaves

Kathy Perry: Cooler Weather

City Staff: Fall Produce including Apples, Squash and Pumpkins!



PHOTO CONTEST:

Perry City Photo Contest

Prize: \$25.00 Gift Certificate to Maddox or Walmart

Contest open to any Perry resident.

Requirements: 8x10 photo of an activity or a scenic view in Perry within last 12 months.

The winner will be requested to give Perry a signed release giving Perry City the rights to use the photo in future Perry City Publications and provide a digital copy of the photo.

(Please Fill Out, Cut and Attach to Photo Submittal)

Name:

Phone:

Picture Title:

VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET

PROPOSITION 1—AN OPINION QUESTION TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

Shall Box Elder County, Utah, be authorized to impose a quarter of one percent (0.25% or the equivalent of 1 cent for every \$4 spent) sales and use tax (except on sales of food and food ingredients) for the specific purpose of transportation improvements such as roads, trails, sidewalks, maintenance, increased bus and rail service, and safety features, with the revenues divided among Box Elder County, the public transportation provider, towns and cities within Box Elder County?

Argument For

We all want our children and grandchildren to enjoy a wonderful quality life now and in the future. Box Elder County and cities within the County face a growing population, deteriorating roads, and local budgets that fail to keep up with increasing costs. The need is visible on our streets, sidewalks, and roads. Our transportation choices are limited by gaps in available transportation options. The result: longer commutes, more wear and tear on our cars, hampered economic prosperity, and a diminished quality of life.

With new funding through Proposition 1 (a sales tax for local transportation), local elected leaders can prepare for population growth, take better care of our roadways and sidewalks, and promote economic prosperity in our community.

Prop 1 will provide a substantial piece of the transportation puzzle in Box Elder County, helping us maintain our local roads, keep our economy moving, and reduce our traffic so that we spend more time with our families and less time in our cars.

The cost of doing nothing is far higher for the average Utah family than this sales tax. Prop 1 would cost 25 cents on a \$100 taxable purchase (food is not subject to sales tax), but our current road disrepair costs the average driver over \$600 more a year in added fuel use, tire wear, and extra car maintenance. In addition, investing now in infrastructure will save us money in future repair and reconstruction costs. We know that roads cost more taxpayer dollars when they are not maintained. Things like slurry seals, chip seals and overlays, that help keep roads in good shape cost money, but are far less expensive than going without maintenance and having to rebuild a road years later. Choosing to maintain our roads today is the financially responsible and fiscally conservative approach for families.

Prop 1 is dedicated exclusively to *local* transportation. Prop 1 is not for the construction of major highways and rail lines, nor will it fund the overhead of large agencies. Prop 1 will fund transportation needs in all 16 of our incorporated cities and towns, and the unincorporated County – the transportation options you use and need the most. It will fill a nasty pothole on your local street, finish a sidewalk between your house and your children's school, or add to bus service, trails, and bike paths so you have more transportation choices.

More than 110 cities and towns across Utah passed resolutions supporting Prop 1, including Box Elder County communities as diverse as Brigham City, Tremonton, Perry, Honeyville,

Argument Against

If approved, the combined state and local sales tax in Box Elder County will increase from 5.95% to 6.2% countywide and push it over 7% in some cities—a change that will increase taxes in Box Elder by \$1.35 million, or \$26 per person and \$104 for an average family of four every year. This could mean the difference between a week's worth of groceries for many families.

Utah families have had enough new taxes this year as it is. The local option sales tax would be the third tax increase Utah residents have faced this year. In March, the legislature voted to approve a 5-cent-per-gallon increase in the gas tax, which now means that Utah drivers will pay over 48-cents –per-gallon just in taxes every time they fill up the tank. The state legislature also raised homeowner's property taxes in the valley an average of \$50 per home.

Considered separately, these tax increases may not sound like much, but for lower-income and middle class families, every dollar counts and higher local sales taxes would only make their financial struggles worse.

Supporters say that the proposed tax increase is, in part, for road and infrastructure improvement. But 40% of the tax increase—over \$540,000 dollars worth—will actually be diverted to help fund the Utah Transit Authority. The Utah Transit Authority already receives \$1.4 million in Box Elder County alone.

UTA executives receive six figure salaries and tens of thousands of dollars in bonuses and perks. The agency's CEO travelled out of state on agency-funded trips 42 times in 28 months, travelling internationally nearly as often as the President of the United States.

It's about stewardship. If the UTA can afford to pay such high salaries and award such benefits, then they probably can also afford to better shepherd the resources taxpayers have given them.

The Utah Transit Authority just doesn't need another \$40 million in extra revenue. Instead, the agency should be looking toward reducing executive pay, cutting down on travel costs, and reducing inefficiencies wherever they find them.

This sales tax increase will fall hardest on those who have little or nothing left at the end of the month. According to the Utah Taxpayers Association, the average Utahn already pays \$720 in sales taxes every year and \$3,304 in combined state and local taxes. The local option tax would add a few cents to most purchases, which quickly adds up.

Argument For

Fielding, and Snowville. The business community solidly supports the measure because business leaders know that investing in transportation today will save taxpayer dollars tomorrow. This is a historic moment to join our local government officials and the business community in support of Prop 1.

Voting FOR the tax will save Utah families money, protect local businesses, improve transportation, and preserve our quality of life.

Box Elder County Commission
Brigham City Mayor Tyler Vincent
Perry Mayor Karen Cronin
Tremonton Mayor Roger Fridal
Utah State Representative Lee Perry

Argument Against

If the sales tax increase is passed, Utahns would pay a quarter of a cent more for all purchases. In Box Elder County, this increased sales tax would scrape \$1.35 million out of our checkbooks, according to the state's own analysis.

Government doesn't need more money—it needs to better prioritize where it spends the taxes we already pay. Please vote AGAINST Proposition 1

Kim Weis, Bear River City resident

Argument For Rebuttal

No rebuttal submitted.

Argument Against Rebuttal

Box Elder County communities do not take tax increases lightly. However, they also deal on a daily basis with transportation needs. County-wide, the current funding shortfall for transportation is over \$4.4 million. There is no way to meet these needs with current funding without cutting other vital services such as law enforcement, fire protection, etc. Proposition 1 is projected to generate approximately \$1.3 million, which does not completely address transportation shortfalls in Box Elder County, but would help tremendously in improving local transportation.

Under Proposition 1, sales tax rates would exceed 7% in only one Box Elder County community - Snowville. The rest of Box Elder County communities, and the unincorporated County, would remain well below 7%.

UTA operates in Brigham City, Perry, and Willard. Outside of these communities, UTA currently receives no funding, and would receive no funding from the proposed sales tax increase. UTA would receive an estimated increase of \$258,286, not \$540,000 as stated by the opposing statement. The portion of the sales tax that would otherwise go to UTA will go to the County to address transportation needs in these areas.

Over the last 18 months, UTA has completely revamped its compensation and travel policies, including adopting a market-based compensation policy. UTA now performs an annual compensation audit of all administrative positions in order to ensure that market comparisons are accurate and fair, and has drastically reduced incentives and bonuses.

We urge voters to make an informed decision on this issue based on factual information.

A public meeting will be held at the Box Elder County Courthouse Commission Chambers

01 South Main, Brigham City, Utah on October 21, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

For additional information concerning the November 3, 2015 General Election, please visit www.boxeldercounty.org/elections or call the