

STATE OF THE CITY

DELIVERED JAN 2017

Opening

As Mayor I am pleased to deliver to you our State of the City Address.

I'm aware of very few organizations in the private sector that offer such a wide range of services or products as a city does. We have to be experts in the industries of fitness, law, water conservation, real estate, construction, land management, finance, engineering, and pool operations. We manage people, water, books, information technology, records, broadband, property, and sports programs. Our organization collectively runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

It takes a very skilled and dedicated group of people to run the vast array of operations offered by a city. Yet by the very nature of their jobs, city employees work for very little recognition. We only think about our water when there is none. We only consider the roads when we see a hole. And so, as I go through the City of American Fork's accomplishments for 2016, I am proud to recognize the great men and women who work to make our community run smoothly.

Infrastructure

The City of American Fork has 120 miles of roads to repair, plow, sweep, and maintain. It requires no small effort and no small budget to maintain these roads, especially when you also consider the 500 miles of water, sewer, secondary irrigation, and storm drain lines under those roads that also need maintenance. For our current fiscal year we allocated \$2.8 million toward road and sidewalk maintenance, improvements, and repairs, and \$4.3 million for utility projects. 74% of the FY 2017 capital budget was for road and utility work. Our infrastructure is a priority.

The outcome of all that investment in 2016 was significant. Last year we were able to complete utility and overlay improvements along Utah Valley Drive, add a traffic signal at N. County Blvd, make updates to our spring collection system to improve our storm water collections, and improve access to our regional Art Dye Park, just to name a few projects.

Economy

In a past time our City logo was a wagon wheel, representing movement, travel and industry. It suggested innovation and perseverance. At the center of a wheel is a strong, central "hub" connecting everything. Though our logo has changed, our role as a strong community connector remains.

As the "hub" we provide commercial resources to the region, garnering us over \$7 million in sales tax last year. We were ecstatic to welcome 40 new business into our community in 2016, including five restaurants and four new retail businesses. Site plan applications increased by 74% in 2016 over 2015, with notable applications being two different 200,000 sq. ft. office warehouse spaces, a Harts Service Station, and an LDS church on 1100 South in anticipation of residential growth on South Side. We processed 729 residential and commercial permits, an astounding 39% increase from 2015. What makes this more astounding is when you consider that each permit requires about 10 -12 inspections. That's 7,290 permit inspections last year, or about 20 inspections every day of the year.

We also saw residential growth, with 549 new single and multi-family lots or units approved. Thanks to this growth in 2016 the City collected \$3.8 million in property taxes to help fund vital services to our community; all while avoiding any property tax increases for yet another year.

Last year we passed our main street vision plan which will guide development of our main street to allow for the future growth expected to take place in and around American Fork. This main street vision lays out our plan for a beautiful downtown corridor that embodies the tradition and values of American Fork. Work continues on our Transit Oriented Development, which will bring a mixed-use development adjacent to the Front Runner station.

Financial Security

Last year the City had about \$44 million in outstanding (unpaid) debt in the form of bonds. Most of these bonds are for the installation of our pressurized irrigation. While bonds can be useful for funding necessary projects, American Fork City is working to reduce its current debt and move toward a pay-as-you-go system. American Fork's current debt represents only 17% of the allowable debt as determined by the state. We plan to have that percentage continue to fall as we work to pay off our obligations. We will see that happen this coming year when we will retire three more bonds whose collective amount's totaled \$14 million.

Services Offered

We as a city are defined by the services we offer our residents and in 2016 we stand behind what we provided.

Residents of American Fork can enjoy a library at no cost that provides over 120,000 books, movies, e-books, e-audiobooks, magazines, and more. Last year people checked out 290,000 items. That's over 10 times the population of American Fork! In 2016 10,276 people logged onto a library computers, 10,676 people attended library programs, and 8,912 wireless sessions occurred. In an effort to be more efficient and user friendly, the library moved last year to self-checkouts using RFID scanners.

In American Fork we value the balance recreation can bring to our busy lives. Evidence of this is seen in our Fitness Center which saw over 260,000 annual users. In 2016 we also provided basketball, soccer, flag football, skateboarding, tennis, kickball, golf and Ultimate Frisbee to over 9,000 registrants. Our youth basketball alone had 2,000 children participating in 224 teams, 6 days a week, in every gym we could find within our city.

One underappreciated service the city provides to the community is our merit badge class offered in partnership with the Boy Scouts of America, which had over 3,200 participants last year.

If you drive through our town you may chance upon our newly constructed Seasons Memorial Garden. Finding it will be easy if you look for the 50-foot American flag waving majestically in the air above our garden and our Statue of Responsibility, a steel sculpture representing the combination of liberty and accountability in our community.

Our police are some of the best out there and they deserve greatest respect for their work. Last year Officer Diego Garcia was named Officer of the Year by the Utah Chiefs of Police Association for successfully intervening in an attempted suicide and Officer Brian Morgan was recognized by KSL in their

“Beyond the Badge” initiative for quietly purchasing with his own funds a new scooter for an 5-year old girl who had hers stolen. Every hour of every day they are working to make sure we are safe. In 2016 our Police Department responded to 27,842 service calls, and opened more than 1,000 investigations. Among these, our officers made 226 felony arrests, 1,042 misdemeanor arrests, they served 36 search warrants and confiscated more than 4,000 grams of illegal drugs. But successful policing in American Fork isn’t just about monitoring and reacting. It’s about educating and preventing. That’s why our police continuously work to teach through social media, school programs, demonstrations, and open dialogues with the community. Starting this year our department will hold monthly citizen training meetings called Community Partners in Policing, where they offer training on various situations and answer questions that matter to the community. Additionally, our police are reestablishing the neighborhood watch program, complete will citizen training and police officers dedicated to specific neighborhoods.

Last year our Fire & Rescue department responded to over 2,200 calls requiring EMS dispatch. That equates to about 7.5 EMS runs every day of the year! For a department that only has four active ambulances, that is a lot of wear and tear; on the vehicles and the crew. While our EMS crews are up to the challenge, the vehicles can only handle so much. That is why this month our Fire department will be surplus two EMS vehicles, each with over 150,000 miles and acquiring two new state-of-the-art vehicles. In addition to EMS calls our Fire department responded to 686 Fire calls across the city.

In 2015 citizens in our community approved a one tenth of one percent increase to sales tax to improve our quality of life through parks, arts, recreation, and culture. Last year this money was used to increase the Fitness Center parking lot by 50 stalls and create a pick up drop off lane. We added a restroom facility at Evergreen Park and will be adding five new benches in parks throughout the city. Art Dye, our regional park, received funding for significant improvements which should be finished by spring of this year. Thanks to this program patrons of our state-of-the-art golf course can perfect their swing in our indoor diving range simulator. Our boat harbor received funding to start Phase I of a plan that will turn our harbor into a regional destination spot for boaters and beachgoers. Additionally, through the PARC program, our library was able to work towards their goal of improved literacy in American Fork by giving away books and dictionaries to children citywide. In all \$845,000 was invested through our PARC program last year to improve quality of life for our residents.

Closing

There are a great many things to be proud of in the City of American Fork. I have only been able to list a few. Even though the services we offer residents vary drastically in size and type, they are all brought together for one single purpose: community. We value the employees who support our community and are eternally grateful to the community who in turn support our employees. Together, in this symbiotic relationship, we have and will accomplish great things.

Thank you.