Huntsville Happenings

www.huntsvilletown.com P.O. Box 267 801-745-3420 January 2025

Town Council Meetings 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month at 6:00 PM

Planning Commission Meetings 4th Thursday each month at 6:30 PM

The Public is always welcome!

**Save the Date**

Save the date of Saturday, February 8, from 4 to 6 pm for our New Town Hall and Community Center Open House. There will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 5 pm. Further details will be forthcoming.

**Thank You from Cathy and Carol Stoker**

We hope you have taken the time this Christmas Season to enjoy the lights and decorations at the town square. The new snowman family has been such a great addition. Many thanks go out to the community people who came at the beginning to help with moving all the big and heavy decorations from the town shop, helping with the new lights, and fixing the electrical problems. This Christmas project could not happen without people stepping up to help in many different ways. We especially appreciated those people who donated money from around the Huntsville area to help purchase decorations and other materials to make the town bright and cheerful. Thanks so much for all your generous help and many thoughtful words.

**The Great Leak of 2024**

This December we experienced a large leak in our pipe that sends the treated water from our treatment plant to our reservoir. It resulted in an inability to get as much water into the reservoir as we were demanding. We were immediately trying to find the leak, but eventually we used all the reserve in our reservoir, necessitating shutting the system down. This left the town without water in our taps for about 48 hours. Through the concerted efforts of amazing volunteers, both organizations and individuals, the resulting situation had been identified in time to plan for and obtain emergency supplies of water. It was a reminder of how we take for granted having clean, treated water available on demand, and how essential it is to our way of life. The shutdown further meant that pressure in the piping throughout the system could be less than the pressure outside and a situation could exist whereby contaminants could be introduced from the leak. After some long days working on it, we found and repaired

the leak. Governmental health and safety guidelines required us to enforce a Boil Order until we could repair the leak, enable the system capable to once again supply treated water, and then progress through an orderly process to ensure any possible contaminants that may have entered were flushed through the system. The town and surrounding communities handled the inconveniences in an exemplary manner. The most common phrase which our team heard was, “How can I help?” For 24 years, we have been the benefactors of an above average small-town water system. But these systems are not invincible. They age just like we do. For example, we are currently working on the EPA required Lead/Copper inventory to find and eliminate any lead containing components in our system. On behalf of all the water team members and everyone else involved in providing assistance to address and resolve ‘The Great Leak of 2024’, thank you for your patience, support and resilience in dealing with this setback. We are using the experiences gained to reduce the likelihood and prepare mitigations for the inconveniences from any potential future occurrences. It will come with costs and we as a town will have to make decisions on the choices in front of us. Any resident interested in this process is encouraged to join in Town Council meetings where these decisions will be addressed and debated.

**Emergency Preparedness**

The recent water situation reminds us to be prepared for Emergency Situations.  We learned a few things from our recent event.  First, we have many good people who volunteered to help and checked on neighbors.  People stepping up to help is critical in difficult situations and Huntsville residents came through.  Second, we had a lot of help from the rest of the Valley and many other organizations.  However, what if this had been more widespread, and outside help was not available?  How would that have changed our situation?  Many people have water stored for such an event.  Most of us could do better.  We learned how much water toilets use and how much water we need overall.  Sanitation and water are critical, and we can be better prepared.  In the future we hope to provide more information about water storage, water purification, and sanitation.  For now, here are a few links with good information to be better prepared. <https://beready.utah.gov/> is a great resource with lots of information.  Also, Sue Hegarty, in Liberty, has created an Ogden Valley Emergency Preparedness website at ogdenvalleyprep.com.  She has provided a lot of info here.  To get full use of everything on the site, you need to sign in with this username: ogdenvalleyprep@proton.me and password Ready123! Again, thanks for everyone’s help during our recent water problems.  Huntsville is a great place to live.

**A Note From Your New Huntsville Maintenance Team**

Neighbors, I wanted to introduce myself as the new Maintenance Supervisor. My name is Blaine Vernon and I am a new transplant to Ogden Valley. I bring a lot of experience but not a fraction as much as Gary and his team had. This year we are in uncharted waters with a completely new maintenance team and snowplow drivers. Please work with us as we settle in and learn the most efficient method of clearing our little town. I want to touch on a couple points concerning snow removal. First, please be kind to our plow drivers, they are very experienced but, as a team, this is our first time working together. Your help will make our job easier and leave cleaner and safer streets for everyone to use. Town Ordinances make it unlawful to push, place, or blow snow from private property onto a paved Town street. When clearing your driveway please place the snow on the same side of the street as the driveway where possible, or on the parking strip, or within the shoulder of the paved street. Please note, when possible, our plow drivers will try and minimize wind rows in front of driveways. If possible, please wait to put out trash cans if there is snow in the forecast. Also, bring your trash cans in off the road as soon as possible after the trash is picked up (and help your neighbors if they aren’t home or aren’t able to get out.) The fewer obstacles left in or near the road make storm clean up much quicker and minimizes additional clean up needed. Unfortunately, we no longer have access to inmate labor from the County Sheriff. In the past, they were available to clear around hydrants. We no longer have the ability to do it so we are asking you to protect your house and your neighbors by clearing any hydrants around your property. Also, remember to clear around your mailbox. Lastly, I have asked our drivers to open up the roads at the beginning of the season to minimize the narrowing of our streets. The land on either side road is technically town property. We are doing our best not to tear up the grass, but I apologize in advance for any inconvenience. I will make an effort this spring to address any major damage that may occur. This will become less of an issue as the snow accumulates. As our banks of snow get higher, be patient, slow down and be extra careful at intersections on our narrow streets. Again, some of us are new to the town and still learning where the edges of road are, I’m sorry in advance. If you have any concerns, grievances, or if we missed your street, please reach out to me at MAINT@HUNTSVILLETOWN.GOV. It is a pleasure to serve this great town. I appreciate your understanding and your patience as we find our groove.

**Mayor’s Message**

As another year has passed, we hope you had a great holiday season, complete with warm, running water. Our water emergency 2024 will go down in our history books and comes with a bit of irony. In 1923, Huntsville presented a petition to the county commissioners requesting the privilege of again incorporating, and it was granted on 10 March 1924. The main purpose in again incorporating was to secure an up-to-date water system through a bond issue. On 3 December 1924 the water system was officially completed with a celebration in honor of the event. Huntsville was the second community in Weber County to incorporate, Ogden being the first. For the irony, 2024 marked our 100-year anniversary of being an incorporated town, but our water crisis began almost exactly 100 years after our original water system was installed. Many residents, neighbors, organizations, and municipalities stepped up in our time of need, and we sincerely appreciate those efforts.

Happy New Year and wishing everyone a prosperous 2025.

Sincerely,

Richard L Sorensen

Mayor