

Huntsville Happenings

www.huntsvilleutah.gov 7474 E 200 S, P.O. Box 267 801-745-3420 November 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!

New 4-Way Stop in Huntsville Town

Beginning the first week of November there is a new 4-way stop at the intersection of 7300 E and 200 S. This is the intersection just east of the Town Hall. This was approved by the Town Council October 16 and is intended to slow traffic along that block in front of the Town Hall. The west side of that block already has a 4-way stop. This is a wide street and borders the side of the park with the children's playground. This issue is a good reminder to please respect our 25-mph speed limit in Town. Now with our darker days, it is important to be even more cautious. We have residents who like to walk, we have some residents in wheelchairs, and we have children on our streets. We all want to be safe.

Winter Carnival Save the Date

Save the date of Saturday, January 24, for Huntsville's Annual Winter Carnival. The date has been moved to January. The last two years were a little sketchy with weather. Let's hope for perfect weather—cold for ice; and plenty of snow for the ice sculptures and xc ski races.

Sales and Use Tax Revenue for Huntsville

This is the first submission in a 3-part series on Sales and Use Tax. It is important to spend extra time on this tax because it is the "lifeblood" of small towns, like Huntsville.

What is Sales and Use Tax?

It is a tax levied on sales and purchases, of qualified products and services, by our valued local businesses, residents, and importantly, visitors. Our local businesses, and online businesses, report sales to the State Tax Commission and pass along the appropriate tax dollars, which then get distributed at the State, County, and City levels.

What are the benefits of this tax for Huntsville?

1. It's the primary source of revenue! Sales and Use Tax is Huntsville's single largest source of revenue from General Fund operations, and it is not even close. Sales and Use Tax revenue was \$234,000 (31% of total revenue) for Fiscal Year-End 2025 (ended June 30). Property tax revenue, our second largest source, was half that amount (and, only 16% of total revenue). Based on trends, Sales and Use tax will become a growingly important source of income for our little Town.

2. The State of Utah has created ways to help small towns "share the wealth" when distributing out Sales Tax revenue. Put simply, the distribution calculations factor in local sales and a sharing of pooled funds based on population. This way small towns share in the success of larger cities with more robust commerce.

3. Small Towns in Utah share in the rapid growth of E-Commerce (Amazon, etc.). Sales tax revenue from online sales has become the largest part of Huntsville's sales tax revenue via a population split calculation of State-pooled funds. This has been a major lifeline for Small Town's with limited commerce.

4. Sales tax captures visitor dollars and exports the tax burden. Huntsville, as a "Gateway Town" to amazing outdoor adventure, has a unique opportunity to have tourists help fund Town needs by "buying local".

5. Sales Tax is responsive to growth - without raising property tax. The very apparent growth in Ogden Valley, and across Utah, brings in more sales tax revenue to meet the Town's needs, limiting pressure on property tax.

6. Sales tax revenue is broad-based and relatively stable - the mix of point of sale POS (local business) plus population pool (shared revenue) makes revenue more predictable (Tax revenue has grown about 10% per year for Huntsville). The POS side reflects local

retail and tourism cycles, and the population pool provides steady per-capita support.

In Summary Sales and Use Tax is, by far, the largest source of revenue, and revenue growth, for Huntsville. Town leadership has taken the necessary steps to optimize our tax rate putting the Town on track to double this revenue source. And, the Town possesses a golden opportunity to build more community through commerce, like Huntsville was in decades' past, by supporting our local business community and envisioning a future that includes a more vibrant town center with more local businesses serving local and visitor needs.

Mayor's Message

Fall is one of my favorite times of the year, and this one was truly one for the history books. We had record-breaking rain in early October, followed by beautiful fall colors and, more recently, a pleasant Indian summer. On October 25th, we hosted our first annual Fall Festival, and it was an overwhelming success. Huge thanks to Chandlyr Shupe and the rest of the Events Committee, along with the many volunteers and donors who helped create such a fun day. I think Laurie Allen summed it up best when she said, "Isn't this great? It's just like the 4th of July used to be." I couldn't agree more. It was small but well attended, with all the old-fashioned community games—nail driving, an obstacle course, playground kickball, and more. And best of all, there were free hot dogs and hamburgers for everyone. I'll admit, I quietly tiptoed away from the dunk tank, afraid someone might ask me to take a turn in the chair. Fortunately, we had a few brave young volunteers who came prepared with wetsuits for the chilly water.

A week later came Halloween. I was able to go trick-or-treating with my grandkids, and it brought back great memories from years past. Downtown Huntsville was bustling, thanks to all the families who decorate their homes, dress up, and make it such a fun experience. We even had decorated trailers—complete with straw bales—giving rides to friends and neighbors collecting their year's supply of candy.

Vision Committee

In mid-2024, the Vision Committee was formed with the goal of thinking creatively about new revenue sources for our town while staying true to our rural character and family values. Town expenses have risen sharply in recent years, from police services and animal control to road maintenance and, of course, water system upkeep. Resident volunteer, Tommy Christie, has dedicated countless hours to organizing and implementing the committee's efforts, and we're already seeing results. Several subcommittees have been formed to explore ways to strengthen the town's financial foundation without compromising our small-town, rural and agricultural atmosphere. In the months ahead, Tommy will be sharing informational updates, beginning with the first in this newsletter. Membership is open to everyone, so if you'd like to get involved, please reach out to Tommy directly or contact the Town Hall at 801-745-3420.

Holiday Season

As we move into the holiday season, please take care of your families and check in on your neighbors. This time of year can be difficult for some. Thank you for being such great neighbors and friends, and happy Thanksgiving to you and your families.

Best Regards,
Richard Sorensen
Mayor, Town of Huntsville