

2018 State of The City Address

Honorable city council, staff members, employees, citizens, and guests. It is my distinct honor and great privilege this evening to report to you. Because of sound financial stewardship in this great city, our ability to invest in the future of this community is secure. Our community now has an opportunity to invest in a new package of capital projects.

To make sure our major infrastructure is ready for both the challenges of today and tomorrow, we continue to move forward with our Main Street project, upgrading an antiquated delivery system. Funding for this project is nearing completion. It has been very challenging to secure the best terms for our community. We have secured the sewer bonding at a rate of 1.75%, and the water bonding will be finalized next month at a recommended rate of 1.5%. Public hearings and public information meetings will be held in the future. Bonding proposals for the project will soon be presented to the city council for approval. Selection of an engineering firm will also be added to the agenda in the coming weeks. This is an essential project to complete before UDOT starts addressing the rebuild of Main Street in the summer of 2019.

The North Well Replacement is combined with the Capital Water Line project. Since the well casing has deteriorated, the project consists of drilling a new well. Production at this well site continues to decline. These three projects have been on our horizon for numerous years. There is so much happening, but at the same time we're making headway in preparing for our community's future.

These projects will not be painless; nothing worth doing ever is. Our patience will be tried, and our strength will be tested. We saw this with Tooele, our neighboring city. Although difficult, we will lay the groundwork for future generations to build upon.

A healthy community is not based only on its financial stability but also includes the safety of its residents. Our police and fire departments have continued their excellent work in the community during the past year. We have purchased a new fire engine to upgrade the public safety equipment and keep the city's emergency services exceptional.

Our beautiful Justice Center, the new home of our municipal court and police department was recently dedicated. Both departments can now function more professionally because of the

additional space that they desperately needed. I would like to recognize our public safety organizations and thank them for their protection and outstanding service to our community. To all the extraordinary men and women who wear the uniforms of our police and fire departments, we salute you.

We will continue to apply for grants to grow our sidewalk and trail connections. We received three different grants for sidewalks, totaling over half million dollars, and our contribution totaled 14%. We have received notification that we have been approved for another sidewalk grant to continue the sidewalk west on Durfee Street to Cooley Street, although the funding year is still to be determined.

Two new pedestrian-activated crossings were installed on Main Street, making it easier and safer to cross from one side to the other side on our busiest highway. This project cost over \$150,000 with no cost to Grantsville City.

Streets will be prioritized and evaluated with repairs completed during the summer. Last summer, street repairs were completed at a cost of just over \$750,000. We will achieve our long-term goals by maximizing every dollar and being good stewards of our taxpayers' money.

Parks and recreation are also part of a healthy and livable community. Growing our parks and recreational opportunities has never been more important than now. Recreation should not have an age limit; older adults and seniors are just as active as anyone.

We may be a younger city, but I often think about those who came before us. The story of Grantsville is rich with history which should be preserved. The Donner-Reed Museum repairs are nearing completion. The contractors are working on the southeast corner, the last of the structure repairs. The north wall and the inside structure repairs are complete and stucco still needs to be applied to the building. From the start of this project, repairs have been photographed and documented. A scrapbook will be put together so our citizens can see the process of restoring this historical landmark. We are anticipating a grand re-opening on Memorial Day.

The Historical Preservation Commission's project of promoting some of Grantsville's historic homes is currently being printed. The Commission's goal is to have this booklet ready

for distribution at the annual Grantsville Sociable in March. We thank this committee for their interest, hard work, and dedication in completing this project.

Grantsville City is financially sound. The eighth audit during my tenure as Mayor was just completed with no findings. This is the sixth year in a row the city has received a clean audit. As we have applied for the bonds for our capital projects, having our finances in order has facilitated our ability to receive a better interest rate. In each of the presentations for our capital projects, our finances have been scrutinized extensively for our ability to repay these bonds. Our finance department is very conscientious and accurate with the numbers, no question about it.

I would like to say thank you to all the volunteers in our community, from the scout leaders to the coaches and everyone in between. You make our community unique. Thank you.

I would also like to recognize our military veterans and their families. Their sacrifice to our country is great. We sometimes forget that our freedom does have a cost. Veterans and your families, thank you. We salute you.

I am committed to fostering working relationships with other government agencies. We know the solutions we need can't be achieved by a single stakeholder. We have to work together.

Thank you to Mayor Dunlavy, Mayor Winn, the Tooele City Council, Representatives Nelson and Sagers, County Commissioners, and other leaders throughout the county. Great progress has been achieved in goals that were only discussions years ago. We committed ourselves to several initiatives and improvements; now they are becoming a reality. Our strength comes from our partnerships and our ability to work together.

Thank you to our City Council for their dedication to the city this past year. They have always looked to create a better, more stable future for our community, including our children and grandchildren. Thank you for your hard work and determination to ensure the viability of our community. We do have three major improvement projects moving forward that will challenge us. Our strength comes from our ability to work together. United we can accomplish these goals.

I would also like to take a moment to thank our dedicated staff and employees. We are fortunate to have the most talented, dedicated and experienced individuals working for our city.

They work hard to provide the services we all expect and enjoy. Thank you employees. You're incredible.

Thank you to my wonderful family and my loving wife, Corene. We are getting ready to celebrate our 43rd wedding anniversary in four weeks. She thinks I will forget. I am so blessed to have a strong, loving partner. My sons, Ryan and Colin, and their families, as well as my mother, brother and sisters and their families are always standing with and beside me. Family is our community's foundation and I love mine. They are my greatest joy. I am very proud of all of them. It truly is a blessing to have family close by for support.

Eleanor Roosevelt said, "Believe in yourself. You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you stop to look fear in the face... You must do that which you think you cannot do... The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

Looking back, I've dreamed big; moving forward, I will continue to dream big.

God bless you, and God bless the city of Grantsville.

Thank you.