

State of the City 2020

Presented by Mayor Debbie Winn on February 19, 2020

Tooele City Council, department heads, staff and residents of Tooele City, I am grateful for the opportunity to address you this evening and present to you the state of the city.

Local government has the responsibility to provide essential services to the people. Here in Tooele City, we do not take this responsibility lightly. We take pride in providing clean water to your home, providing a place for waste water to go, plowing snow from streets, and providing officers and firefighters to protect you and your families. We also provide enriching amenities which include beautiful parks for outdoor recreation, an aquatic center and a top rated golf course. Our library provides many learning opportunities for residents of all ages. Working as a team this past year; our staff, administration and council members have accomplished many things to preserve the quality of life to our citizens. I am proud of all of our dedicated employees who respond with excellent customer service.

The highly anticipated construction of our new police station will be completed in a few weeks. A public ribbon cutting and open house is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 6th. This is the first building constructed in Tooele City for the use of our police department. I wish to express my appreciation for our project manager, Mr. Paul Hansen and all others who have worked diligently to ensure that the building funds were being spent effectively and efficiently. This building has been constructed under budget and will include space for future growth. Thank you to our officers who respond to thousands of calls every year. Each time they leave their homes, they put their lives at risk for each one of you. I am grateful for their professionalism and dedication to Tooele City residents.

Tooele City is proud of our excellent volunteer fire department. This past year, our department celebrated the 100th anniversary of their official formation. Our 50 volunteer firefighters donate their time away from family and friends to participate in weekly training, attend fire school and other training opportunities to become certified in all aspects of firefighting. They educate hundreds of children about fire safety each year. They use their own vehicles, saving the taxpayers thousands of dollars annually. They jump at a moment's notice, day or night, to respond to a fire call. During 2019, they responded to nearly 400 calls. It is my hope that the residents recognize the great service these men provide and the millions of taxpayer dollars saved by providing this professional service as volunteers.

This past year we have been able to continue our replacement of much needed capital equipment, including new snow plows and other heavy equipment to enable our staff to perform their duties in a safe and efficient manner.

Our parks continue to improve. A new restroom facility was constructed at the park on 200 West and Vine Street. A new pavilion at the golf course was completed and it can be used by the public for all kinds of events that can be held at what I believe is the finest golf course in the valley. An automatic sprinkler system was installed at Elton Park this year, alleviating the need for a night waterer. This will now enable our staff to use irrigation water on the park when it is available. Other improvements to Elton Park include pickle ball courts that provide recreational opportunities for young and old! A pickleball tournament was organized last fall by the Tooele Pickleball organization. Over 60 participants from all over the state competed in this event. This spring we will install 6 more courts and lighting so that we may expand the use of the facility later into the evening and hold even larger tournaments. The sidewalk around the entire park will also be completed soon, creating a continuous and safe walking path. The next task this year for our parks department is to complete portions of England Acres. We have a tentative plan for additional parking, a pavilion and other uses.

We are looking forward to Memorial Day as we recognize and celebrate the service of our veterans. The second statue to be placed at the Veterans Memorial Park was sculpted by lifelong Tooele resident and local artist, Marvin Hitesman. This project has been funded by generous donations from many local residents through the Tooele City Arts Council. The statue is a Vietnam Soldier and his tracker dog and will serve as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the men and women who have served and who are currently serving our country today.

For the past two years, staff and residents have participated in the spring clean-up effort. We call it "Take Pride Tooele". We asked residents to clean up their own yards and help their neighbors in an effort to show their pride in our city. Families, individuals and community groups helped us clean up many areas of our city. I appreciate the efforts of all those who participated and ask for your help again this year. We are asking neighborhoods to dedicate the morning of Saturday, May 16th to organize and complete a project in their own neighborhood. The members of the city council and myself, are looking forward to joining you in your efforts on that day.

Our city continues to grow, not unlike other communities in our state. The City Council and I recognize the challenges that come with managing the growth. The need to provide homes and employment for our own children and grandchildren is a difficult task. Many others recognize the benefit of living here and will need places to live and work. Tooele City has recently completed a moderate-income housing plan, which is required by state law. This plan will allow for housing opportunities in the future for all income levels. Our Community Development staff is working with the planning commission on other elements of our general plan. Later this year, public meetings will be held to give our residents the opportunity to share their ideas on what growth might look like in our city.

Collaboration, partnerships, and working together as a team is the only way to accomplish great things. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with Grantsville City Mayor Brent Marshall, Stockton City Mayor KJ Karjola, and the County Commissioners. We meet often to discuss the

needs of our valley and how we can work together to solve difficult issues. As a group of valley wide leaders, we discuss transportation issues with UDOT and UTA. We are currently participating in two studies to address the future public transportation needs and solutions to the bottleneck of traffic at exit 99. Leaders from all areas of our valley are currently meeting on a monthly basis to combine our efforts to acquire additional water and sewer resources. I am appreciative of the efforts of Dr. Scott Rogers, Tooele County School District Superintendent; and the Tooele County School Board as we work together to share our facilities in an effort to save taxpayer dollars. Tooele City is also grateful for the collaboration we share with the Tooele Technical College and Utah State University Tooele Campus, who train and educate our workforce.

I am grateful for the communication and support we receive from Tooele Army Depot and Dugway Proving Ground. Colonel Gould and Colonel Burnley are exceptional men who are committed to our country and our community.

Thank you to the staff and board of the Tooele County Chamber of Commerce, who work hard for the business community. I made a promise to our local businesses that Tooele City would work hard to become a business-friendly city. I will continue to work with staff and find ways to help improve our service. We will continue to make recommendations to the city council to improve our codes to help our small business owners achieve the American dream.

I believe that the only way to bring great success and economic development to our city, is to work together in a spirit of friendship and unselfishness.

The council members and I are committed to making our community a place where residents are proud to live, work and play. We are committed to being transparent and accountable. Your ideas and solutions are extremely important. We are in the process of planning several ways to gather your input through social media, surveys, and town hall meetings.

There are so many good things happening in our community. Thank you to those who step up following a tragedy; showing love, compassion and support. Thank you for helping the elderly and those in need. It takes a community working together to preserve our quality of life. I am honored and proud to serve as your Mayor. May God continue to bless America and our community. Thank you.