



Message from Mayor Dennis Dunn...

Our sewer rates have been raised by \$12/month. Why?

Over a 21-year period from 1986 to 2007, our sewer rates were held at \$20.50. During that time, the rates did not change to keep up with inflation, to offset depreciation of an aging infrastructure, nor to build any kind of a fund that would be available for repairs or working on any kind of emergencies like broken lines and upgrades. Last year we had to raise the rates in order to start the climb out of the hole created by those twenty-one years of just letting it be.

The sewer (and the city as a whole) is similar to a small business. Our costs increase each year like any small business. We have salaries of city employees that need to keep up with the cost of living. Costs of postage, to office supplies, to electricity, to gas for city vehicles, et cetera, increase the expenses required to provide sewer and other services to our city.

In addition to the increase in the cost of doing business over the course of 20+ years, it became necessary to connect to the Payson sewer treatment system this last year. We were previously connected to the Salem sewer treatment system. Due to federal regulations and technological advances, the Salem system will soon be obsolete. Even Salem themselves may be connecting to Payson in the near future. The Payson system is more expensive than Salem, but it is an upgrade that will last for decades to come.

When our sewer rates were set to \$20.50 twenty-two years ago, the sewer fund worked very well and did not need any attention. Over time, however, costs to provide sewer have exceeded the money being collected each month. This year during our budget planning, it became clear that the sewer department was in need of catching up with the financial requirements to make it work. After much discussion and gathering of information, the council has made the difficult but proper decision to raise the rates to \$36.00 per month. This is a \$12.00 dollar a month increase--a 50% raise in sewer fees. This is an extremely large hit.

Our desire is to not let another twenty-one years go by before the proper attention is given to the rates. Moving forward, we plan to conduct an annual assessment to ensure that the financial needs of our sewer department are being met. Our goal is to have any future rate increases stay in line with real costs and not to let this fund ever get behind again. Hopefully, with this approach, future increases will be small ones—



If you have any questions or concerns about the sewer rates, please call one of the following City Council members for further information. It is important to us that you understand this rate increase.

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ray Brown.....423-4052 | Nelson Abbott.....423-8243 |
| Julie Haskell.....423-1523 | Sean Roylance.....722-4798 |
| Derrek Johnson.....423-8307 | |

Water tank update

An update on the water tank is as follows. The tank is presently full of water and we have tested the overflow. It has passed with flying colors and now is in the final stages of being covered up with earth. The tank will be completely covered up. Planting of the hillside will take place this fall when the plants will have a better chance to survive and with the help of a couple of Eagle Projects, trees will be added to the landscape for additional cover to the site.

The booster station will have a security fence installed around it to protect it from the current vandalism and to deter any future vandalism that may be possible. Please remind your curious children that our Cities culinary water system will be protected to the fullest extent of the law. Even the Department of Homeland Security has an interest in how we keep our system protected.

A NOTE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

A reminder to be very safe this holiday season...July 4th and July 24th. Fireworks will be allowed on the 4th (that means **LEGAL** fireworks, illegal fireworks will be prosecuted by the county sheriff with a ticket, which could include up a \$500 fine. Fireworks will not be allowed on the 24th due to the extreme dry conditions usually present at that time. I would recommend that if you are going to be setting off fireworks, that you have a hose ready nearby and a bucket of water (to drop all expended fireworks in after use). Even expended fireworks can cause fire due to the heat still present. Hope you have a safe and fun holiday season.

We are looking for volunteer EMTs and fire-fighters for the city. If you are interested, please come fill out an application at the city office or download one online at the city web site and mail to the city.

TAX INCREASE

Truth in Taxation Public Hearing

Tuesday, August 12, 2008

On August 12, 2008, the City Council will hold a Truth in Taxation Public Hearing with regard to exceeding the suggested Tax Rate for the 2008 Tax Year. Due to rising costs and the fact that the Councils have stayed away from raising property taxes in Elk Ridge over the years, the General Fund needs to make up revenue to cover current costs (About \$100,000). The proposal would be to increase the portion of the Property Taxes that come to Elk Ridge this year enough to cover the shortfall in General Fund Revenues; then to lower the tax rate back down to the suggested rate in 2009 plus a slight (possible) cost of living adjustment.

- The Tax Rate for 2007 was .001655, with budgeted Property Tax for Elk Ridge at \$211,516
- Suggested Tax Rate for 2008: .001768...yielding budgeted Property Tax of \$234,439
- Proposed Tax Rate for 2008: .002345...yielding budgeted Property Tax of \$310,950 (this would nearly make up the shortfall in the General Fund; coupled with a careful review of Expenditures...taking into consideration the rising cost of everything, from equipment to materials).

This is a Hearing to consider the proposed increase; this does not mean the proposed Tax Rate has been set at this point. All interested parties are invited to be heard, or you may write to the Council via letter or email.

ELK RIDGE CITY NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

In the event of a disaster, Elk Ridge will need HAM radio operators to assist Emergency Teams as they save lives. This is your chance to become a licensed HAM radio operator.



Not only will you be rendering a great service to our city, but you will have a method of communication with friends and family that surpasses the range and clarity CB radio or 'walky-talkies'.



Mark your calendar for **SEPTEMBER 20th**. There is an all day class at **BYU** that culminates in a test. After passing the test, you will be registered and receive your license within about a week. There are no age restrictions!!



Please Call Paul Jones at 319-5393 or 423-9136 if you are interested. The city really needs your help!!

Thanks!!!



SHERIFF'S CORNER

Thank you everyone for the great turnout at the 1st Annual Bike Safety Fair. I really appreciate the willingness from the Fire Department, City Council, and the Mayor for their support. I think all of the children were excited, and hopefully got something out of the event that will last a lifetime.

Parents, you too need to be acknowledged for the great job you are doing with your children. It's been a long time since I was at an event where children were so respectful of others and really attempted to get something out of the Bike Fair. I look forward doing it again next year. Go ahead and mark your calendars for the first Saturday after school gets out in 2009. **THANK YOU!** Now back to a few issues we need as a community to resolve:

DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE:

Close to half of the calls for service in Elk Ridge are animal calls. Obviously these calls could be avoided. Each call cost Elk Ridge City money which could be spent on other items to improve your community. Recently I conducted a dog fair and all homes in Elk Ridge received a notice personally delivered to each residence notifying them of the fair. The purpose of this was to bring the opportunity closer to your home as a public service. There were only six dogs and two cats which were licensed. If your pet has received it's vaccinations elsewhere that is great, if not, please contact the animal shelter and get it done ASAP. Due to the amount of calls received, the Sheriff's Office has no other choice, but to start enforcing the animal laws more rigidly. Please help us help you. If you have any question please contact the South Utah Valley Animal Shelter. It's cheaper to get it done now than to pay the court and still have to get it done. **Currently there are only forty-three dogs registered in the city limits of Elk Ridge.**

ATV'S

Since school has been out, there have been more calls received about speeding ATV's on the roadways. As mentioned before, Elk Ridge has asked 10 mph on the side of the roadway, and ATVs must yield to all pedestrians, and vehicular traffic. Helmets are also required under the age of 18.

Dust being created in open fields is also a problem. The way the current law is, permission must be obtained from the property owner to ride on the property. The problem is, even though permission is obtained, the activity on the property cannot be in violation of the nuisance ordinance. Dust and noise created by the use of ATV could be in violation, thus having the property owner responsible for the nuisance. Some property owners have been contacted some will be posting no trespassing signs on the property. This is a result after several calls to the city office about the problems mentioned above. I am in no way attempting to remove the use of ATV's in the community, but there has to be a safe and reasonable solution where we all have to sometimes give a little when we live close to each other. Please help.

Voice your proactive concerns directly to me at: jt195@yahoo.com. Just include location of the concern. All others please call dispatch at 851-4100, and report the incident there. I will return your email as soon as possible and you will remain anonymous. Thank You!

Planning Commission Update

Last month the commission worked on various issues regarding the city development code. Development proposals have slowed down allowing us to take more time to review our code to make sure it is what the general plan supports. Some things being reviewed included creating a Sensitive Areas Map, discussing problems with the Planned Unit Development code, reviewing the Rural Residential 1 Zone (west Gooseneast area) and whether the current minimum lot size is too small to preserve the rural uses, flag lots, and conditional uses. The commission will continue working this summer on the Planned Unit Development code, code to reduce fills and retention walls, the update to the general plan, and better ways to arrange our development code to make it easier to use.

Public Hearings - Thursday 10 July 2008 7:00pm

Public hearings are your chance to give input on merits or concerns about an issue. Most public hearings are not well attended or when controversial, have those only against the issue attend. If you are for, against, or just have ideas or comments, this is your opportunity to get involved. Attend the meeting, write a letter addressed to the planning commission at 80 East Park DR, Elk Ridge, UT 84651, use email at staff@elkridgecity.org, or call the office at 801/423-2300. The following new code and projects have been reviewed by staff and approved to be forwarded onto the planning commission for public hearings at their July 10 meeting.

• Hillside Residential 1 Zone - Ridgeline Setback

The Hillside Residential 1 Zone is basically the undeveloped hillside areas in the southern area of the city. As the commission did work on developing a Sensitive Areas Map (the map was a requirement of the HR-1 zone) they found that one of the requirements in the zone was too restrictive. Ridgelines are designated on the map as prominent ridges and the current zone requires that a building be setback 100 feet past a designed ridgeline and its associated steeper slopes. The commission is proposing that the required setback be changed to 50 feet. You can view a copy of the Sensitive Areas Map at www.elkridgecity.org

• R-1-15,000A Zone - Rescinding

The R-1-15,000A Zone encompasses a small subdivision east of the LDS Stake Center along Rocky Mountain Way. This zone allows large animal rights, as you would see in rural farm areas, on third acre lots. The subdivision has private restrictions that do not allow farm animals. Rescinding the code and rezoning the area to R-1-15,000 brings the city zoning in line with the private restrictions and disallows a use that is not appropriate for lots of this size.

• Uses in All Zones

10-4-1.1 of the development code states that any use that is not listed within any zone of the city as permitted or conditional is considered conditional in all zones of the city. It is proposed to rescind this code since it could be harmful to allow any use not listed in the code as conditional. Conditional basically means that the planning commission can apply conditions to a specific use to mitigate impacts on neighbors. If a use is not currently listed within a zone it is better that an applicant petitions the planning commission and city council to request that it be amended into a zone.

• Kimber Estates Subdivision - Preliminary and Final Plats

Kimber Estates is a one lot subdivision located south and east of the intersection of Hudson LN and Sunset AVE. A 3.5 acre lot is being developed with one single family residence.

ELK RIDGE SPORTS



FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

Flag Football sign ups – Aug. 15th
Basketball Sign ups – October 24th

SPORTS EQUIPMENT – If there are any coaches who still have equipment from past sports, please return it ASAP to Kara Cook at 91 W Hudson Lane. Thanks for your help!

CHECK OUT THE CITY WEBSITE

www.elkridgecity.org

Find such useful information as:

- Current City Buy Forms (food orders)
- Elk Ridge Codes and Ordinances
- Zoning Maps
- Announcements of upcoming Public Hearings
- Links to other useful information
- Past issues of Elk Ridge City Newsletter

CONTINUING VANDALISM LOCK YOUR CARS !!!

Unlocked cars in Elk Ridge continue to be a target for thieves. Recent incidents have resulted in items being taken from unlocked cars. Please remember to lock your cars – at home as well as away from home.

A request from the city – if any of you parents notice your child in possession of a Garmin Nuvi 250 with a 4.3-inch screen (navigational device), ask them where they got it. If you find this item, please call the city, 423-2300. We will make sure it is returned to the proper owner.

