

Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

I retrieved your email addresses from the City website and I believe that you are the only active members listed on the website. So, please forgive me for not including ALL members of the PC.

I was also going to include our City Council members in this email in the CC: section for their record and information as well.

If possible, could you please pass this along to the others as I don't want to leave out any representation.

It was recommended that we email you to address our concerns that will be addressed in this Thursday's meeting (Aug 5).

Now to the "meat" of my correspondence.

I am writing to express my concerns for growth in Elk Ridge. Let me first state that I am NOT against growth. It is inevitable.

My concern is the following when it comes to growth in our small yet drastically growing community. Let me remind you that our growth doubled over the last census and perhaps most of that growth has occurred over the last 5 years. We are now just over 4,000 residents from 2,000 during this timeframe (rough estimates).

During this time I have not seen much growth in our infrastructure to help support this population growth. (Yes we have drilled a new well- very glad about that)

I now have concerns that this growth and any future growth as it is now will and has jeopardized Public Health and Safety.

1) Water ; residents are confused and ill informed on our aquifer and intake of water within our existing infrastructure. Many mainline pipes burst frequently and secondary lines (back up) already have compromised sections that release great amounts of water. -I am referring in particular to the line in the section of land that will be discussed this Thursday. -I have called and reported this breach when it occurs while in back up use. It is documented. I also have concerns that the recharging of the aquifer has its limits that will be evident if not addressed. Our water consumption often drains the tanks and recharging of the tanks can also be a concern.

2) Sewer - not enough sewer capacity to feed into Payson system. We have a limited amount of capacity left and it does not support the number of potential lots to be developed requiring such infrastructure or our Master Plan population cap of 8,000 residents.

3) Road infrastructure for egress - this was evident and a reality during the fire a couple of years ago. In the 10 years I have lived here the road capacity has not changed. Elk Ridge Drive was realigned but only to accommodate for more houses. -not more traffic.

The round -about was added as well which is debatable for its effectiveness for traffic flow.

Our increased traffic flow has also disturbed our neighboring community of Salem with Salem Canal Road leading North over the canal and into the Orchards Neighborhood. This was recently (over the last couple of years) constructed as a through street when it once was not. The residents of that

neighborhood were told this road was not going to exist. Yet it does. -Not our fault but it helps lead into the issue of traffic flows in less desirable streets- not intended for such traffic.

4) Policing - a community of 4,000+ residents deserve effective public safety support in its growth plan. Right now I understand that we contract 42 hours per week with Utah County Sheriff. I am not sure this is adequate. Possibly it is but I would like to see studies on the matter. I also have concerns that the rumor of a "no citation" policy has been instructed. In other words- no ticket for moving violations, etc. This is lost revenue for our community and doesn't adequately support changed behavior in driving practices. There are several streets in ER that are 30 mph and speeds exceed it greatly. This is a public safety concern.

5) City Revenue - I am always hearing how the city doesn't have enough money to support \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank). We had better figure this out if our city increases and the infrastructure doesn't support itself adequately.

6) Lack of City Communication with issues described above- we learn from each other on Facebook. - Wrong place as we all can agree. But it is the only effective platform for communication.

Instead of simply approving for growth at our current stage, I believe now more than ever that we need to ask for help on the above from developers wanting to profit from their developments within our city. We can ask for things and have it be okay. We can say no to parcels being "given" to us as Greenfield space. Much of which is unusable and costs money to maintain.

Please consider the above as a liability while considering growth in Elk Ridge. My concerns are increasing on behalf of Public Health and Safety. I believe that if not careful the City of Elk Ridge will be found negligent in keeping its residents safe and healthy. Please consider the above as areas that need attention and confidence from its citizens in order to feel confident in their safety and views on growth. We also should not attract families spending large sums of money to move here only to be unhappy or potentially at risk. I believe this to be irresponsible.

In conclusion, I am not against growth. I am simply expressing my concerns as a citizen of Elk Ridge. I would be happy to discuss this further with appropriate individuals.

P.S. Please excuse any typo's or grammatical errors.

Thanks,  
Clint Ashmead  
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