

Mayor Barbara Bruno Council Report

Meetings with Property Owners

Rick Wixom, Tom Dansie, and I have continued discussions with property owners in an attempt to acquire properties that would be used to promote the objectives of the General Plan. Specifically, we have been looking at properties that would be used to build a medical clinic with a retail pharmacy, and to facilitate the development of moderate-income and workforce housing. Those properties would be acquired through development agreements and without cash payment. Once discussions are complete, development agreement proposals will be reviewed by the Planning Commission and Town Council in our standard public process.

We are also looking into the purchase of land to expand the Town's public campus. An appraisal is being completed to determine the value of the land, and an offer will be made.

Women in Business Event

Attended the Washington County Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business event and spoke on the assigned subject, "Self-Care While Serving."

Women's Influence Network Event

At the request and compliments of Shirlyne Quayle, I attended the Women's Influence Network event in St. George.

DTEC

Attended the Washington MPO (DTEC) meeting. Updates included the new master plan for the St. George Airport. The greatest deficit there is the concessions (vending machines). The terminal will be expanded, and food services will be added. Fees collected from travelers will pay for the expansion.

A transit committee was formed and will begin to meet soon to talk about routes that include the St. George to Springdale shuttle. I was named to that committee and will report back as we make progress.

Mayors' Special Meeting

A special meeting of the Washington County mayors was held to explain "will serve" letters from the Washington County Water Conservancy District. In the past, developers could get a "will serve" commitment for a subdivision and "hoard" the water indefinitely. A new process has been put into place that gives the developer one year to record a final plat and pay the impact fees for each particular lot. They have two more years to build the home(s) and get a certificate of occupancy. At both junctures, they would go to the back of the line and a new "will serve" letter would be issued if water is available. This is being put into place to acknowledge that activity "in the field" is more important than procedural steps to keep a "will serve" letter active.

The District believes we would be okay if we stopped issuing building permits now. They also believe that the next five years will be critical; at that time, some new water projects will be available to help the situation.

Verizon Upgrades

We received an update on the efforts Verizon is making to improve our cell service in Springdale and eliminate the “dead zone” between Rockville and LaVerkin. Boosters have been added at the water treatment plant that should improve coverage up to the entrance of the library and at Town Hall which has improved coverage through the first floor down to the basement and also toward the library. A drive test is being analyzed to identify and resolve other coverage gaps in Town. They are looking for potential areas on which sites can be built.

The RF and Real Estate teams are narrowing down the best locations for a tower in the dead zone. The next step is to have a call with the mayor and staff to discuss their build-out plans and timelines.

Fiber Optics

First Digital is moving ahead with its commitment to bring fiber optics to all residents of Springdale. Their Engineering Team was in Springdale the first week of June to map out the fiber build.

Arbinger Training

I attended the Arbinger training at the Ash Creek Special Services District building on May 23. It was great training, and I would recommend that Council members attend a session in the future. I attended specifically to learn more about the 3A+ performance reviews we use for Town staff, but it was also a great refresher on appreciating our differences and working together effectively.

Bocce Ball Courts

Max Gregoric has offered to fund the installation of one or two bocce ball courts at the Town Hall campus, and we have identified three potential locations. Work will begin in the Fall.

ZRC Housing Forum

The Zion Regional Collaborative is planning a Housing Forum to talk about the housing crisis in our area and brainstorm ways to address the problem.