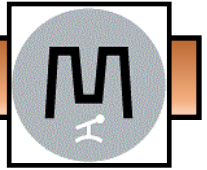


City Council Message



February 2020



Diane Turner

As a seasoned Murray City Council Member, I am enthusiastic about the year ahead and a rather significant change in the look of the Murray City Council. With the election of two new female council members, a quorum of women has been established. Bringing diverse experiences, skills, capabilities and perspectives to Murray City – we are well positioned to commence the decade ahead.

Let me not diminish those who have served and moved on to other challenges. Dave Nicponski with eight years and Jim Brass with sixteen years of service have been effective representatives for the people of our community and have helped to move our city forward in so many areas.

And, reelected for a third term, Brett Hales, continues his service for District 5 and brings much experience and expertise to the council, along with Dale Cox, in his first term, with extensive knowledge in governmental issues.

You may have noticed a surge in women who were successful at the municipal ballot box this season. We are beginning to see greater numbers of women meet the challenges and obligations of work, family and community service to become political candidates and leaders. Enduring the rigors of a political campaign are difficult, but we have observed proven success with Kat Martinez and Rosalba Dominguez joining the ranks in Murray City. These are qualified, engaged and eager representatives, devoted to the community in which they reside and raise their families.

At the state level, however, women account for just 24% of the Utah State Legislature and are far outnumbered by men at 76%; yet the state population reports 49.8% of Utah's 2.7 million people are female. Would government function better if it better reflected the people it represents?

If you are one of those women who has considered running for office, it might be helpful to consult the book written by Kate Black and June Diane Raphael, *“Represent: The Woman’s Guide to Running for Office and Changing the World”*. This book offers a 21-point checklist covering topics from fundraising to managing family life. It also helps to have supportive spouses or partners, friends to motivate you, great advisors and allies you can trust.

Murray City residents have always been forward thinkers and I am pleased to see that they have recognized the value qualified women bring to public service.

This promises to be an exciting year as we move forward together as a city council to set policy, make laws and responsibly budget the finances of our city. We pledge to provide Murray residents and businesses the community services, utilities, public safety, great parks and recreational activities they deserve to strategically move forward into the 2020's and create an environmentally responsible community where children are proud to return to raise their families.

Diane Turner

District 4