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State of the City 2022



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It is incredibly humbling to be delivering my first State-of-the-City address.

As I sit down to write this, I am watching the Winter Olympics. In some ways, I can relate to those athletes! Give me a second to explain... They have trained for years, committing to doing the best they can in order to achieve their dream of being Olympians. Obviously, I haven't trained to be an athlete. But I did serve on the Murray City Council for 10 years; in essence, I was training to be the Mayor!

The athletes who are interviewed are quick to thank their parents, coaches and supporters for getting them to where they are. In other words, they know none of it was possible without the scores of people who have supported them along the way.

I want to thank all of you who supported me and my campaign for Mayor. I will and have been working tirelessly to make sure the City is moving in a positive direction.

I also want to thank my colleagues for the past decade on the City Council. I fully understand and respect the legislative and administrative roles. I can honestly say that's a bit odd to move from the legislative to the administrative side of things! Thanks also to the amazing employees at the City! You have welcomed, advised and given me the emotional and mental support I have needed through this transition.

So, what has the City done for you? Without boring you with the details, I will highlight the ways the City has tried to make your life better. Your personal safety is always a top concern. The Police Department hired 12 new officers to help with the number of calls that grew by more than 25%. They still need a few more officers to be fully staffed.

Fire Department calls also increased 10% from the previous year. But thankfully, the crews were ready, having logged more than 7,000 hours in training. Fire also supported wildfire suppression efforts, traveling to three, out-of-state fires for 49 days in the past year.

The City has also been focused on the things that you hopefully take for granted. For instance, keeping the lights on. A storm blew through in July causing multiple outages for 6,000 Murray customers for up to eight hours. Everyone from line workers to office personnel pitched in to help restore power. Natural gas prices doubled during the summer, but Power ran turbines almost continually to generate power, saving more than \$1(m).

You may not realize that more than 100 miles of sewer line were cleaned. But you might know if such cleanings did not take place. Crews also replaced a mile-and-a-half of damaged sidewalk. More than 5,000 tripping hazards were removed, and 724 potholes were filled.

During this current ongoing drought, we're very proud of our Murray residents who reduced their water use by more than 130-million gallons, which resulted in a \$600-thousand cost savings to residents.



Some of the other ways the City has tried to improve your life include:

- Created an online container reservation system for 20-yard and 30-yard trailers and green waste containers.
- Referred hundreds of critically ill or aging customers to various assistance programs like HEAT or CAP for help with paying their bills.
- Provided drive-up window service at the library during COVID for convenient and efficient curbside service.
- Created a book bike in the park to provide an easy means of checking out and returning books.
- Replaced 5 pavilions at Murray Park, increasing capacity and improving the experience for patrons.

There were also other efforts that are underway to make the City even better!

- The old Murray Theater, with the help of Salt Lake County and the state legislature, is being restored and renovated.
- The Murray Mansion is getting a 'facelift' to include a new elevator and restroom.
- The City received a clean audit report which ensures that federal funds were spent correctly.
- Construction of the new City Hall is moving along with completion set for March 2023.

What would this State of the City report be if it did not include some interesting tidbits of information?

- The Murray Parkway Trail saw a record-breaking 276,448 people in 2021.
- There was an 11% decrease in the number of customer service calls to our Finance Department. But there were still more than 32,000.
- For decades, the basement of City Hall has collected old documents and supplies. Now, after more than 300 round trips to the basement, the extra items have been removed, much of it sold as surplus garnering \$8,044!
- Public information included 195 Public notices, 45 Public hearings and monthly e-newsletters.

Finally, I again want to thank everyone who participated in the General Election. Three municipal races were on the ballot, including the Mayor's race. Congratulations to Councilpersons Pam Cotter in District 2 and Diane Turner, who won reelection, in District 4. Also, welcome to Garry Hrechkosy in District 5. All of us and those already serving will work hard to represent you and the City well in 2022 and beyond.

Again, I have an open-door policy and would love to sit down and talk with you about your ideas for making Murray the best place to live in America. Submit your ideas to: mayor@murray.utah.gov. If you would like an appointment with the Mayor, please call 801-264-2600.

In closing, I am happy to say the State of the City is just fine.