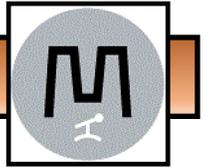


## City Council Message



January 2019



**Dale Cox**

**BUY LOCAL!**..... If you're like me, this has certainly become a catch phrase that I have heard repeatedly in recent years. It is synonymous with supporting locally owned and independent businesses. And, it is certainly a healthy option when considering fresh produce, which may be shipped an average of 1500 miles before hitting the supermarket shelves.

You might ask as a Murray City resident, what does that mean to me and why is it important? **BUY LOCAL!**

This is one of the best ways to support the precious job market and our friends and neighbors. Wouldn't you rather walk into a business where you have developed a friendship with the owners and staff, where they know you by name as a regular

customer? In addition to receiving better service, this is critical in providing consistent business for a trade or industry to be successful. Whether it is a favorite restaurant, retail store, automobile dealership or quality healthcare, we desire that our local businesses flourish with success; we want our community to grow and develop and provide for our needs. **BUY LOCAL!**

Additionally, I always consider traffic and travel time. It is such a pleasure to leave home ten minutes before an appointment and complete errands in close proximity to my home. I love the fuel savings, improvements to air quality with limited driving and the idea that my needs are taken care of, just down the street. Here in Murray, in the heart of the Salt Lake County, we benefit from little need to leave our city boundaries. **BUY LOCAL!**

Over the last year my service as a council member has revealed another very important factor related to buying local. Murray City is highly dependent upon the revenue produced from our retail and business community.

Sales tax is the bread and butter for running the operations of the general fund, which includes many of the services you enjoy and depend on, like fire, police, parks and recreation, as well as, snow removal, street maintenance, planning and community development. The sales tax amounts to 49% of the revenue for general fund operations and 64% of total tax revenue. In fiscal year 2018, this sum was over \$20 million. Thank you to our retail outlets and business operations. **BUY LOCAL!**

The sales tax rate is set by the state legislature and is divided between the state, county and city following the sale of goods. All municipalities in the state have imposed a one percent tax called the local option tax. Cities share the revenues of that local option tax based on the 50/50 distribution formula. Fifty percent of the one percent stays at the point of sale, the other 50% goes into a pool that is reallocated based on population. Therefore, regardless of whether your community is a commercial center, like Murray, a small town or a bedroom community, every city benefits from the one percent local option. **BUY LOCAL!**

This year we have heard talk of legislators who would like to change that distribution formula to something more appealing to cities with growing populations. This comes up from time to time by those who would like to benefit from the commercial centers built and developed over many years in other municipalities. As you can imagine, if the point of sale amount were decreased it would be a devastating loss to Murray. We have a robust business community nurtured by years of relationship and providing excellent services.

Now that the legislative session is in full swing, I ask that you watch for legislation that would have an impact on Murray City. The Murray City Council can provide details and contact information for you to engage your state representatives and voice your opinion on issues and bills.

And, always remember to support our business community by **BUYING LOCAL!**