

**Paradise Town**  
**Office of the Mayor**  
[www.paradise.utah.gov](http://www.paradise.utah.gov)

**June 2014**

**DOWNTOWN PARK REFRESH** – Using a combination of funds from the Town, the Lion’s Club, and other generous donors, the Lion’s Club and other volunteers accomplished a very nice refresh at the park behind the Cracker Barrel. Water lines were fixed, electrical and lighting upgrades made, pavilions painted, horseshoe pits installed, the volleyball court updated and landscaping overhauled to make that park a nicer facility for all of us. Kevin Norman is the current Lion’s Club president if you are interested in joining that organization or finding out more about what they do for the community.

**BUDGET AND TAXES** – A Public Hearing was held at the Town Hall on June 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss the current year Budget Amendments, a proposed Budget for next year, and certification of our current Tax Rate. Unfortunately, only one resident of the Town made it to the Public Hearing. Following that hearing, the Town Council voted to approve the Budget Amendments and next year’s Budget, but stalled out when the topic of the current Tax Rate was being discussed.

The Town Council appears somewhat divided on whether taxes should be raised to provide more, better, or timelier services regarding roads, maintenance of public property, mowing right-of-ways, or increased savings towards eventual building/equipment replacement.

It seems easy to assume that residents are reasonably satisfied with both their current tax rate and level of services based on the lack of candidates for public office that we have had during the last several election cycles, and the tiny numbers of residents that attend the budget hearings. If I am making an incorrect assumption with this – please let me or a member of the Council know!

Obviously expecting more services at the current tax rate is not very practical since we really do try to squeeze as much as we can from each dollar. So the immediate question at hand for the June 18 Town Council meeting is to determine if we are going to go forward with the existing tax rate or propose an increase to the Property Tax rate. A separate Public Hearing will be held if a new rate is proposed.

**PARK DISTRICT PETITION EFFORT** – As many of you may be aware, there is a petition effort underway where a group of sponsors are attempting to create a separate Special Service District within the Paradise and Avon geographical region. The concept is to bring the areas that are not within the Town corporate limits into a system where they can share in the costs of maintaining the parks in the Paradise area as well as having a funding mechanism whereby additional improvements can be made to both existing and future park facilities.

The Park District would be a separate taxing entity that would have its own elected and appointed officials that would determine the tax/fee structure and would be responsible for their own budget, public hearings, staffing, insurance, bookkeeping, and other items as required by State Law. Certainly they will be working with both the Town and residents of the surrounding neighborhoods to set priorities for projects and services.

A joint Public Hearing with the District Sponsors and the Town will be scheduled for a later date (probably in July/Aug) where the objectives of the District will be discussed. Also a draft Resolution from the Town will be presented where the Town would turn over some level of authority for projects and services to that District. Also, in accordance with the State Code 17B-1-210, the process of District creation will be described as well as the methods of adding/removing names from the Petition or the methodology for protests or dissolution of the District.

The public is certainly invited to come to that Hearing(s) to become as educated as possible and to determine for their own situation if having an additional government entity to help with parks and recreation in the area is right for them and their family. Depending on the timeline of the hearings and the mandatory dates of the process as directed by State Code 17B-1, this will likely appear on the ballot for the General Election to be held on November 4, 2014.

**ROADS** – I know that the contractor missed a couple of potholes in Town, but generally it looks like the roads made it through the winter in pretty good shape. We are working with them to complete those repairs. During July, we will be sealing the roads that were paved last summer near the Cracker Barrel and on 100 West between the Post Office and 8800 South.

**CONTACTING US** – The Office Hours are 9-12 on Monday thru Thursday. If it is not convenient to stop in, you can e-mail Alyssa at [clerk@paradise.utah.gov](mailto:clerk@paradise.utah.gov) or leave a message on the voicemail at 435-245-6737.

For emergencies, please call me on my cell phone at 435-720-3893 and leave a message and I will listen to it and respond as soon as I can.

Feel free to call or e-mail me with any concerns, comments, or questions regarding the above notes or other Town issues.

Leland Howlett – Mayor

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