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**MAYOR'S MINUTE
TOM WESTMORELAND**

Setting goals and taking action in law enforcement

One of the most common questions I receive as mayor is: Why doesn't Eagle Mountain have its own police department? It's a fair question, and I want to take a moment to explain our approach to public safety and why it works for our community.

Eagle Mountain partners with the Utah County Sheriff's Office (UCSO) to provide law enforcement services. This means we have a team of 33 deputies assigned exclusively to our city, with two more in the hiring process and four additional positions proposed for the next budget cycle. As our city continues to grow, we remain committed to evaluating staffing levels to ensure your safety and peace of mind.

A common misconception is that these deputies are frequently pulled away to serve other areas. Let me be clear: the deputies assigned to Eagle Mountain are our police force. They work under the direct leadership of Chief Deputy Erik Knutzen and operate out of our local law enforcement office.

If you ever have concerns about law enforcement services or need assistance with a non-emergency matter, I encourage you to reach out to Chief Knutzen directly. He is available to answer your questions, address concerns, and ensure that our law enforcement efforts align with the needs of our community.

Some have asked whether our current model

is a short-term solution or less effective than having our own city police department. In reality, this partnership provides Eagle Mountain with a level of law enforcement service that would be difficult—and costly—to replicate on our own.

Through UCSO, we have immediate access to specialized resources, including highly trained detectives, forensic experts, and investigative teams. If a serious incident requires SWAT or other specialized units, they are deployed without additional cost to the city. This level of support ensures that no matter what situation arises, we have the necessary resources to respond effectively.

Creating our own independent police department would come with significant financial and logistical challenges. We would need to hire and train officers, detectives, and administrative staff, build a public safety facility, and purchase an entire fleet of police vehicles and equipment. These costs would likely require issuing a bond, leading to increased taxes—all while working to match the level of service we already have today.

Additionally, even with careful planning, transitioning away from UCSO would take years.

That's why we maintain a contingency plan should the need ever arise, ensuring we are prepared for any future developments.

Rather than taking on unnecessary financial burdens, our focus is on continuously improving the law enforcement services we receive. We want to remain responsive to your concerns and ensure that our approach evolves alongside our community's needs. Some key areas we are actively working on include:

Increasing neighborhood patrols to enhance visibility and strengthen relationships between deputies and residents.

Expanding traffic enforcement to address speeding and road safety concerns.

Enhancing school resource officer programs to provide safety education and mentorship for our youth.

I also want to invite you to participate in an upcoming discussion with Chief Knutzen, where you can share feedback, ask questions, and gain insight into how law enforcement operates in Eagle Mountain.

**ENERGY
TOWN
HALL**

**MARCH 10
7-9 PM**

**CEDAR
VALLEY
HIGH
SCHOOL**



EAGLE MOUNTAIN NEWS

Earn your wings at first-ever Eagle Mountain Academy

Eagle Mountain City is inviting residents to step behind the curtain and gain firsthand knowledge of local government operations with the launch of its first-ever Eagle Mountain Academy.

This six-week course offers an in-depth, interactive experience that provides a comprehensive look at the City's departments, leadership and essential services.

"So much goes on at Eagle Mountain City. This community is growing so quickly that sometimes it's hard to keep up with everything that's happening," says City Communications Manager Tyler Maffitt. "This is an amazing way for residents who want to learn more about their City government to gain access to information."

Starting on March 19, residents participating in the academy will meet on consecutive Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at various locations throughout the City. Each session will offer insights into the functions that keep Eagle Mountain running smoothly, from public safety to infrastructure, economic development, and community services.

The Academy's primary goal is to strengthen the connection between residents and their local government by providing direct access to City staff and operations.

"We want to give residents a behind-the-scenes look and take participants to places the public does not usually go to gain better insight into the inner workings of the City,"

says Management Analyst Natalie Winterton.

Each week, the Academy will focus on a specific aspect of City operations:

Week 1: Meet the City – An introduction to the Mayor and City Council, administration, finance, and communications.

Week 2: Keeping the City Safe – Learn about the efforts of the City's law enforcement, fire department, and emergency management team.

Week 3: How We Grow – A deep dive into planning, engineering, and economic development.

Week 4: Enjoy the City Outdoors – Explore the parks, recreation, cemetery, forestry, and street maintenance services.

Week 5: The City's Inner Workings – Insight into stormwater management, facilities, water, and wastewater services.

Week 6: Building Our Unique Community – A look at the library, events, and local wildlife programs that contribute to Eagle Mountain's identity.

The City designed the Academy to be an invitation for residents to be active partners in local governance. By learning about the policies and philosophies that shape administrative decisions, attendees will develop a greater appreciation for the complexities of municipal operations and be encouraged to contribute their own ideas for improving the community.

EVENT CALENDAR

MARCH 4 City Council Meeting – Council Chambers

MARCH 6 Dog Man Party – Library

MARCH 7 Laptime – Library

MARCH 10 Energy Town Hall – Cedar Valley High School

MARCH 11 Planning Commission Mtg – Council Chambers

MARCH 14 Laptime – Library

MARCH 18 City Council Meeting – Council Chambers

MARCH 21 Laptime – Library

MARCH 25 Planning Commission Mtg – Council Chambers

MARCH 28 Laptime – Library

MARCH 31 Pickleball Registration Deadline

APRIL 1 City Council Meeting – Council Chambers

APRIL 4 Laptime – Library

"Decision-making is not always easy when you have competing interests," says Maffitt. "We want to show interested residents what goes into those decisions and the work that takes place before any vote is taken."

At the conclusion of the six-week program, participants will be formally recognized by the City Council and receive a certificate of completion along with a limited-edition Eagle Mountain Academy T-shirt.

Interested residents are encouraged to sign up soon, as space is limited.

Ever wondered how Eagle Mountain City operates? Now's your chance to get a behind-the-scenes look! Join us for Eagle Mountain Academy, a fun and interactive six-week course. Register today to claim your spot! →



KNOW THE CODE Landscaping standards

As spring approaches, the warmer weather encourages residents to host yard sales, garage sales, and moving sales. To ensure compliance, please visit the Eagle Mountain City website at eaglemountain.gov to obtain a temporary sign permit.

Additionally, please refrain from placing signs in prohibited areas or securing them with tape. Eagle Mountain City Neighborhood Improvement officers are available to assist residents in understanding and adhering to City Code.

17.80.100 Yard sale temporary signage.

Small private events such as yard sales, garage sales, and moving sales must comply with the following signage standards:

A. Sign Copy. Signs may be no larger than four square feet in size.

B. Location. Signs must be located on private property, unless the sale is registered with the city prior to the date of sale for temporary right-of-way signage. On major streets (arterial and major collectors) signs may not be located in the park strip (between the street and the sidewalk/trail), but may be located between the sidewalk and a property line or fence. Signs may not be placed on utility poles, light poles, fences, or trees. On local roads, signs are allowed in the park strip.

C. Duration. Temporary signs in the right-of-way that serve as directional signs to the event may be posted on the day of the sale only and must be removed by the end of the day. It is the owner's responsibility to remove all signage during the appropriate time period. No sale or signage will be permitted for more than two consecutive days.

D. Approval Process. The yard/garage sale must be registered with the city for any signage to be allowed in the public right-of-way. Any sign in the public right-of-way that is not registered with the city may be immediately removed.



LIVING WITH WILDLIFE TODD BLACK

Brace yourself: Rodent problem to persist

It looks like our rodent problem is here to stay for a while. With the mild winter we've had, it's likely that the mice, voles and gophers that took over last spring and summer are going to keep multiplying.

As I drive around town, I see the damage to our parks, lawns and grassy areas. More frustratingly, this means more roots and grass are getting chewed up, and we'll probably find a few of these critters creeping into our homes, too.

I get it; no one likes dealing with rodents. But here's the thing: if you don't want them around, it's time to take action. And please, don't just catch them and release them somewhere nearby. If you're going to relocate them, it's best to take them at least 10 miles outside of the city.

Here are some simple, effective ways you can start controlling the rodent population now, before things get worse this spring and summer.

There are several effective and humane ways to control rodents. PVC pipe traps are a simple, cost-effective option, while Harris live traps are affordable and

widely available, allowing you to catch rodents without harm—just be sure to handle them responsibly.

Bucket traps are another method, though they require more effort, and it's important to check them regularly to prevent unnecessary suffering. For baiting, apple slices, oatmeal, and peanut butter are all great options for attracting mice, voles and gophers.

—“
Now is the time to take action - before the warmer weather arrives
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If you reduce what makes your yard attractive to rodents, they'll be less likely to settle in. Keep garbage cans tightly sealed, pick up any fallen fruit, and store birdseed and pet food in rodent-proof containers.

If you're overwhelmed or dealing with a major infestation, it might be worth bringing in a professional pest control service. They can assess the situation and use environmental-

ly-friendly methods to manage the problem.

Now is the time to take action—before the warmer weather arrives. Start trapping early, as winter transitions into spring, and be proactive in managing the rodent population.

It's also crucial to avoid using rodenticides, as there are safer and more effective methods available that won't harm wildlife.

Speaking of wildlife, we recently lost a pair of owls near the LDS Church south of the Chevron in City Center. Sadly, the owls ingested poisoned rodents. The poison makes the rodents act disoriented and slow, making them easy prey for raptors like owls.

Unfortunately, when the birds eat enough poisoned rodents, the toxins build up in their systems, eventually leading to their death.

Rodenticides don't just hurt owls, they can affect other wildlife and even your pets.

So, let's all do our part to control rodents without using harmful chemicals. It's better for our wildlife, our pets, and our community as a whole.



BUILDING & PLANNING MIKE MALAY

Building division offers tools for your home project

Whether you are planning a home improvement project, building a new home or starting a business, the Building division is here to guide you through the process.

The primary responsibility of the Building division is to enforce building codes and regulations designed to keep Eagle Mountain a safe community. This includes issuing permits and conducting inspections, ensuring that new structures and renovations meet necessary safety standards and comply with local ordinances. We are committed to making sure every project supports the safety and future of our community.

A common question we receive is, "Why do I need a permit?" Building permits are essential because they ensure that your project meets both local and state safety standards. These codes were created to protect life, safety, public health and property, both during and after con-

struction. By obtaining a permit, you are helping to ensure that your project is safe and built to code.

There are many instances when a permit is necessary. If you are building a new home or making significant changes to an existing structure, a permit is likely required.

Projects like changing load-bearing wall configurations, converting storage space to living space, or adding square footage to a structure all require permits. Similarly, finishing a basement or installing a new water heater also mandates a permit.

If you're ever unsure whether your project needs a permit, don't hesitate to contact us. Our team is happy to clarify requirements and help guide you through the process.

It's also essential to note that many homeowner insurance policies require all living spaces to

be permitted. Unpermitted work may put you at risk of losing coverage, leaving you financially vulnerable.

To make the process smoother, we recommend planning ahead. Before beginning your project, familiarize yourself with the necessary permits and requirements. The City's website provides valuable information to get you started.

Another tip for a smooth building process is to schedule inspections as early as possible. Inspections should be scheduled when your project reaches the appropriate stage, helping to keep everything on track and ensuring that all requirements are met on time.

Unpermitted work can complicate matters, especially when it's time to sell your home. If it's discovered that work was completed without a permit, the sale could be jeopardized, and getting a permit for work that has already been done can be costly and difficult.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Business owners optimistic about future



Eagle Mountain City recently completed its annual Business Climate Survey, asking business owners about their view of the local business climate, what challenges they are facing, and what they need to succeed.

We were happy to see that business owners continue to remain optimistic about their future, that Eagle Mountain is increasingly seen as a strong location for business, and that our efforts to support them are being seen and felt. Businesses also stressed the need for more commercial space and infrastructure improvements, both things the City is working hard on right now.

This survey has helped suggest to the City to continue working on its infrastructure development projects, explore additional ways to streamline regulations, and build up even more robust business support programs. We hope to deliver on these things early in the year and continue to make Eagle Mountain a premier city for business.