

Barbara Bruno
Council Department Report
10/7/26

TC Report October 14, 2026

Homelessness Mitigation Task Force

This task force continues to meet every two weeks to discuss funding allocation for shelters throughout the state. Meanwhile, West Valley City has added a homeless shelter that further dilutes the available funding. I know this seems like a “northern Utah” or “city” problem, but we all pay into the fund and want to make sure it is used in an effective way.

Day of Service - September 11

Our Day of Service project was a clean up at the Jolley-Gifford Cemetery. We had a small turnout, mostly Town staff, but we were pleased that a representative from Congresswoman Maloy’s office came and helped us out. Kudos to James Leavitt for his work on our behalf.

Healthy Utah Annual Conference

I attended this conference as a keynote panelist with the Mayors of Bountiful, Vineyard, and Cottonwood Heights. I’m proud of what we are doing as a small town, and many of our initiatives mirror those being done in the large cities.

Several booths at the conference were geared toward an aging population, and I made some connections that could be a resource to Springdale and the health coalition.

Town Engineer Selection Committee

Randy and I served on the selection committee to consider hiring a new Town Engineer. It was an interesting process, and the finalist will be presented to the Council at the October meeting.

Mayors Association of Washington County

Our October meeting was hosted by the town of Leeds. They have just become the second “fire wise” community in Washington County, inspired by the threat of homeowners losing their fire insurance. The program is Fire Wise USA; this allows some access to grants for mitigation of fire hazards. Mayor Peterson recommends that other municipalities get involved with this group.

We had a presentation from Susannah O’Brien of the Virgin River Land Trust, who also presented at the Canyon Community Center later in the week. She gave an overview of the Land Trust. Almost 4,000 acres in Washington County have been permanently preserved through conservation easements. It has been almost exclusively through private landowners,

but they recently worked with Washington County. The key phrase is “is it worth preserving?” They are now starting to work with municipalities and want us as a council to consider what lands we would like to preserve from development and work with them to make it happen. Priority is given to areas along the Virgin River and its tributaries.

Jordan Hess did a training on TRT taxes and applications for those funds. Applications are due February 1 and August 1. The County likes projects that are “shovel ready.” There must be a 50/50 match (cash only, not in-kind). “Placer AI” tracks people through their cell phones and helps justify the visitation information. The County doesn’t fund swimming pools or recreation centers. Parks and trails are, however, a great fit for funding. It’s helpful to talk about solving a safety concern in your application. Southern Utah Economic Alliance has the Placer AI software and can provide us the information on visitation. There is a difference between destination development that brings people in and places that people visit because they’re already there.