



A New Recreation Center?

A New Era of Cooperation

by Mayor Joe Johnson

Of the many things to be proud of as mayor of Bountiful, few are more important and gratifying than working with the other mayors on the south end of Davis County. We are working toward consolidating the South Davis Fire District and the Bountiful City Fire Department. We have looked at consolidating public safety dispatching into one location and organization. And we are working to form a new recreation district that would be responsible for building a new recreation center to replace the "bubble" that has served us so well for the past thirty-plus years.

On August 3, if all goes according to plan, the citizens of North Salt Lake, Woods Cross, Bountiful, West Bountiful, and Centerville will go to the polls to vote on a bond issue to build the new recreation center. The \$18 million bond issue will fund a modern, state-of-the-art center that can be used by the citizens of those communities. The center will be governed by a board with citizens from each community. The center will hopefully meet the needs of our citizens for the next 30-plus years, from the youngest to the oldest, and everyone in between. In case you can't tell, I'm ex-

cited, enthused, and hopeful that all of our citizens will respond favorably on August 3!

The new recreation center will have swimming pools to meet the needs of competitive swimmers and divers, as well as young tots and senior citizens who wish to do water aerobics or simply walk against the current in a warm, well-lit environment. It will have a walking/jogging track so people who used to be "mall walkers" can walk indoors on a soft track every season of the year. It will have a new ice sheet that will be used by hockey players, figure skaters, learn-to-skate lessons, and general public. It will have three gymnasiums, two of which will be used by Bountiful Junior High students during the school year, and all of which can be used by citizens on nights, weekends, and during the summer. It will have racquetball courts, a climbing wall, a fitness area with the latest in cardiovascular equipment and weights, and it will have rooms for birthday parties, family reunions, and neighborhood and church recreational gatherings. It will be reasonably priced so family can buy an annual pass and enjoy active recreation together. It will be a place where

the next generation of Bountiful residents can learn to swim, ice skate, and build their skills and confidence. Am I excited about it? You bet!

The total cost of the center will be \$23 million. Bountiful City and the Davis County School District will partner to fund \$5 million of the cost for the gymnasium portion of the facility. The balance of the facility will be paid for with an \$18 million general obligation bond that will hopefully be approved by the voters on August 3. The bond will fund both the capital expense and the projected ongoing operational support necessary to run the facility. User fees are projected to pay for 75% of the daily operational and maintenance expenses. On the average (\$180,000 assessed value) home the property tax cost would be approximately \$3 a month, with future new growth in all of those cities projected to lower that cost over time. The increase in property tax, like the current property tax, can be deducted from your federal and state income tax. While I will tell you that no one I know likes to pay any more in taxes than they have to, do I think

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City Council & Committee Chairmanship

The City Council and Mayor Welcome Your Input and Suggestions.

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that's a reasonable amount to invest in a center that will help all ages become and stay physically fit? Absolutely!

The combined population that will be served by this Center will exceed 80,000 people, half of whom live in Bountiful. Citizens of all cities will be participating and sharing in the cost and benefits of a new center, rather than each city trying to build its own facility. Do I think that sort of cooperation makes sense and is an example of good government? Positively!

Between now and August 3, Bountiful City and the other cities in the south end of Davis County will be trying to inform

the public about this new recreation center, and about the costs and benefits of having such a facility in the south end. The voters will have the final say about whether or not this facility will be built. The city staff, the city council and the elected officials from all of the cities look forward to answering any questions; meeting with any interested groups, and doing everything we can to inform the public about the new district and the new recreation center. Do I trust the voters to ultimately make the right decision, and do I think it's fair that they have the final say? In a word, YES!

2004-05 Budget Highlights

"Providing for the Present, Planning for the Future"

The Bountiful City budget for the upcoming fiscal year (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005) has been tentatively set. The total budget is \$48.5 million, down \$6 million, or 11% from the \$54.5 million budget for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2004. The tentative budget includes no tax increases, but does include the following rate and fee increases:

1. A 10% water rate increase, effective with the July, 2004 billings.
2. A 10% power rate increase, effective with the July, 2004 billings.
3. A 12¢ increase in the E-911 telephone billing effective July 1, 2004.

The budget contains funding for two additional personnel – one police officer and one street and stormwater worker. The budget also contains a 2% cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, permanent employees, and requires a 50% cost share of the 10% medical insurance premium increase.

Electrical Service Increases

Almost 45% of the city's budgeted revenues and expenses – \$21.8 million – is for electrical service. Power supply costs continue to increase due to the decreased amount of hydroelectric power being generated at Glen Canyon, Flaming Gorge, Pineview, and Echo reser-

voirs. The drought has decreased the amount of water, and therefore the amount of power, available from these sources. Replacing this power has required purchases of power from fossil fuels such as coal and gas, which are both increasing significantly. Glen Canyon reservoir is down almost 120 feet, and is less than half full. Replacement power costs twice what clean hydroelectric power costs. We are doing everything we can to find economical replacement power, but we are very concerned about the effects of the 6-year drought on both power and water supplies. Power supply costs represent over 2/3 (\$14 million) of our total power budget.

We are also starting with a 10-year "weak link" program where we have identified the oldest and most vulnerable components of Bountiful's power distribution system. The distribution system improvements range from simply trimming trees more regularly to replacing major substation transformers which cost several million dollars each. Our goal is to have a system that provides the most reliable electrical service while minimizing disruption and damage caused by power outages. Bountiful has always had a tremendously reliable system, and this 10-year program will continue that tradition, while at the same time keeping rates competitive with Utah Power and Light.

Water for Now and the Future

When compared to many surrounding communities, Bountiful's water supply and system is in excellent shape. However, water supply costs are increasing. Weber Basin Water, which supplies 1,000 acre feet of culinary water, has been increasing their cost of water 10% each year over the past three years, and will continue to do so for the next two years. In addition, the cost of pumping water out of the ground for culinary needs is increasing – the water levels in most wells have dropped over 30 feet, and the cost of pumping the water out of the ground has increased over \$70,000 in the last several years. We have been working with the South Davis Water District to help supplement our culinary supply demand in the southeast area of the city, where the greatest growth has been occurring. We are extremely fortunate that most of the city is served with pressurized irrigation water that provides for lawn, garden, and park and golf course watering. The continued drought has made supplying this water increasingly difficult. We thank our residents for their continued conservation, and realize that water conservation is not only good sense, but will be a way of life for Utahns for the foreseeable future.

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2004-05 Budget Highlights

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As with electrical service, Bountiful is identifying “weak links” in our water supply and distribution system, and annual projects to correct these deficiencies are being budgeted. We hope to be able to supply the culinary water needs of our citizens and businesses not only now but in the future, even in the face of continuing drought.

Recreation Center Replacement

While not in this budget, a vote will take place on August 3 within the boundaries of the newly-formed Recreation District to replace the current recreation center (see accompanying article in this newsletter). Mayor Johnson has worked closely with the cities of North Salt Lake, Woods Cross, Centerville, and West Bountiful to form the district and share in the capital and operational costs of this facility.

Other Major Expenses

The major tax-supported expenses are police services (\$5 million), fire services (\$3 million), and street maintenance (\$4 million). The golf course (\$1.3 million) is totally funded by golf

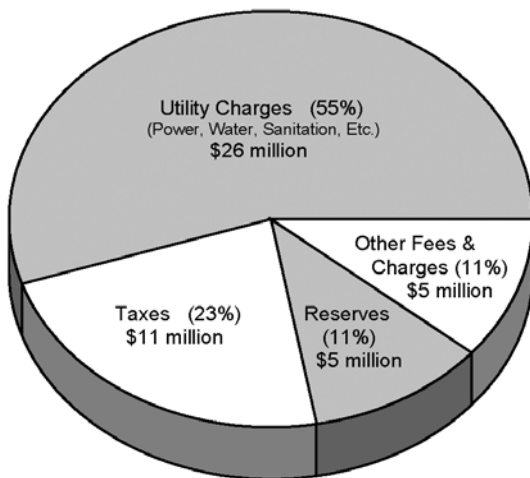
fees. The landfill and sanitation funds (\$1.6 million) are fully funded by user charges. The recreation center (\$1.4 million) is funded 80% by user fees and 20% by a subsidy from taxpayers.

Summary

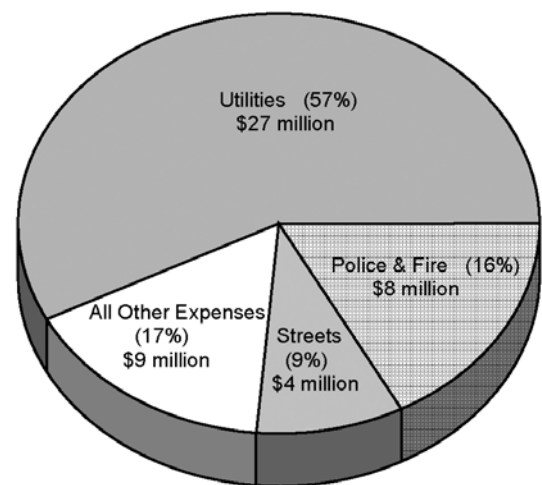
As the chart below indicates, 57% of the city’s budget involves the delivery of utility services. Taxes – property, sales, franchise, and gasoline – make up 23% of the budget, and pay for police, fire, streets, parks, and other services provided to all citizens. The balance of the budget involves the provision of other services such as recreation, golf, cemetery, storm water, and other services which are primarily paid for by those who use the services.

The 2004-05 budget will provide for the present, and plan for the future as Bountiful nears its ultimate population and is totally built out. As the “City of beautiful homes and gardens” it will continue to be an outstanding place to live, to work and to play, and to enjoy a safe and lovely place to live.

Where The Money Comes From



Where The Money Goes



Head Start Registration

The Davis County Head Start Spring Registration began on April 28 for the 2004-05 school year. This is a **free program** for families who are income eligible. There are several programs that families may qualify for. All programs include services for children with special needs. Call the Family Enrichment Center at 402-7309; Ext. 355, to schedule an appointment.

- Early Head Start** for parents and their children ages 0-3
- RA.T.T.** for parents and their children who will be three by Sept. 1
- Head Start Classroom Based** for children who will be four by Sept. 1

Full Day - Full Year, DATC students needing full day (6 hrs.) child care, ages 0-5, and do not qualify for state child care assistance

Family Skills, an evening program for the entire family. Classes are available for parents to earn a GED/High School diploma or attend an ESL class while their children, ages 0-5, attend a Head Start class. Elementary age children attend a Learning Enrichment class.

Bountiful City and South Davis Sewer District Combine Sewer Collection Systems

The South Davis Sewer District assumed responsibility on January 1, 2004 for the ownership, operation, and maintenance of the collection system serving Bountiful City. In the late 1950's Bountiful City was the only area of South Davis County that was served by a sewer system. The treatment facility serving that system was at capacity and not capable of meeting proposed future discharge requirements. Local government leaders could see that anticipated growth in the area could not be supported by on-site septic tank systems. The District was formed in 1959 to meet these area-wide needs for wastewater collection and treatment.

Collection systems were built in Centerville, North Salt Lake, West Bountiful, and Woods Cross. Trunk lines connecting the collection systems to the two treatment plants were also constructed. The District has owned and operated the collection system for all areas except Bountiful City, which retained ownership of the existing lines in their city. This arrangement continued to the present with Bountiful City owning its original lines and any extensions within areas served by its lines, and the District owning lines that have been added within its original collection system service area, including those areas that have been annexed into Bountiful City.

Over the last several years discussions between the City and the District have focused on the increasing cost of operations and maintenance. In recent years these costs have begun to exceed collection system revenues. This has meant funding current operation and maintenance costs with capital reserves. In addition, each of these collection systems is too small to have a really good operation and maintenance program.

By combining the two collection systems we have reduced overhead costs. The combined system better utilizes equipment and manpower. The District has committed to operate and maintain both systems with no increase in sewer rates for a minimum of five years. The District will begin billing Bountiful residents for sewer service in July. We feel that the District can provide better service to both systems than either of us was able to do independently.

On July 1, 2004 Bountiful City will no longer bill the \$5 per month sewer collection charge. Instead, Bountiful residents will receive a semi-annual \$30 bill from the South Davis Sewer District. The District has agreed not to increase the \$5 per month charge for the next four years.

Summer Lunch Program

Free summer food for kids 18 and under. Mid-June to Mid-August. Bountiful site: Washington Elementary, 340 West 650 South, 11:30 - 12:30. Call Utahns Against Hunger, (800) 453-3663 for more information.

Plan Now For Handcart Days!

Hundreds of Bountiful volunteers are already working on Handcart Days 2004 for July 23 and 24. The annual celebration was voted the most popular in Davis County last year and attracts from 115,000 to 125,000 people. It requires up to 7,500 volunteers to staff.

The theme this year is "Go Forward With Faith." Entries are now encouraged for the arts and crafts exhibit and for the talent showcase at the park, said Dallas H. Bradford, this year's Handcart Days co-director with his wife, Marjorie.

Handcart Days is an unusual joint effort of the community and the city that began in 1950. Community volunteers organize and run most of the programs, and the city sponsors others. (More details are at www.handcartdays.org.) Among the popular attractions:

Arts and Crafts Exhibit, one of the most popular shows at the Bountiful/Davis Art Center, 745 South Main, opens early this year on June 2 and runs through July 24. Photography is a new category this year. Work is being sought in painting, drawing, ceramics, sculpture, metalwork, woodwork, and quilting. Open to everyone: professionals, amateurs and students from junior and senior high schools. Entries are due by May 22. Contact the Art Center, 292-0367, for details.

Grand Parade is one of America's largest with an estimated 75,000 people watching 116 entries last year. Floats, marching bands, antique vehicles, clowns and many more will be on hand. The parade begins at 6 p.m., Friday, July 23. Those wanting to enter should apply before June 20. Go to www.handcartdays.org for applications and parade rules, or contact the parade committee chair at 299-8250.

Food Concessions. Crowd pleasers are corn-on-the-cob, barbecued beef, Navajo fry bread, hot dogs, cotton candy, and slushies, and new this year, nachos. Food booths will be open July 23 from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. and July 24 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Talent Showcase at the west end of the park. A variety of groups and ages share their talents during several hours of live entertainment. Performances run from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, July 23 with a break during the parade, and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on July 24.

Pioneer Games. Ring tosses, climbing bears, Jacob's Ladder and more – they were all part of pioneer celebrations and you'll have a chance to try them again.

Chuck Wagon Breakfast gets July 24 under way with a hearty serving of pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, milk and orange juice. Sponsored each year by the Bountiful Exchange Club, with proceeds to help fund Davis County programs to prevent child abuse.

Recreation Center fun. Free swimming from 8-10 a.m. on July 24. Family swim races from 10 a.m. to noon, and a free figure skating exhibition from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Carnival rides and games. Midway West Amusements will be back this year with their popular rides and games.

Fireworks are a dazzling feature on Friday, July 23, at about 10 p.m. east of Mueller Park Junior High. Sponsored by Bountiful City, the booming starbursts are a favorite event.

Pageant held last year as part of the celebration will be back next year, and every other year thereafter.