

# Hurricane City

147 North 870 West Hurricane UT 84737 \* (435) 635-2811 \* [www.cityofhurricane.com](http://www.cityofhurricane.com)

# 2023

## Mayor's Minute

This past month the Hurricane Valley Fire District has met several times about the proposed tax increase. I was added to the board a few months ago by our County Commissioners. I voted along with Laverkin, Toquerville, Leeds and Virgin to recommend a denial of the tax increase. I visited with The Commissioners before the vote, and they told me they would not vote to increase taxes within the 7 cities and unincorporated parts of the county that are within the district. They chose not to add the tax increase to their agenda or to vote on it. This left the task to the fire district board to balance the budget without a tax increase.

We are working hard to find solutions to the revenue sources without sacrificing response times. Revenue is not the problem; expenses are the problem. This is not an easy fix, but doable. One time money is never appropriate for paying on going expenses, and that is what happened last year. Three solutions we are exploring are; 1. A fee instead of property taxes. 2. A legislative change by the state officials to adjust the ordinance for a second-class county. This would add an amendment because we have a National Park and 2 State Parks within the fire district. We could have a sales tax of a half cent fund the Fire Emergency Services instead of property taxes. That way tourism would help fund the services. 3. A charge on the nightly rooms at hotels or nightly rentals within the district to have a dollar each night to help fund the fire/emergency services that tourism demands. Those are the three revenues we are exploring. Now to be clear, cutting is always part of the conservation, and we are working and will balance the budget. It will be into next year before we make solid decisions. I will keep you updated. Happy New Year.

-Mayor Nanette Billings

## Planning Department

Hurricane City is creating a master plan for the downtown area. This plan will include a vision for the area and advise policies on achieving that vision. The city is looking for input on what the vision should be and how to achieve that vision. You can provide input and follow updates at [hurricanedowntown.com](http://hurricanedowntown.com), or contact the Hurricane City Planning Department for more ways to provide feedback.

## Streets Department

Winter road maintenance will be starting soon. Crews will be out on select roads and neighborhoods crack sealing. Please slow down and give them room as they work in filling the cracks in the road surface.  
*Gould's wash cleaning*

There will be an effort to clean Gould's Wash that runs through the city. The Streets Department will be going through the wash clearing debris and picking up garbage with equipment to help maintain a path for storm water to flow as it goes through town.

## Water Department

Colder weather continues this winter, and we would like to remind our residents that outside watering can be decreased or even discontinued altogether until spring. Lawns and landscapes are expected to go dormant for the winter in our climate. If you continue to water your landscape through the winter, please make certain sidewalks and public walkways are kept clear of water that can turn to ice and cause a hazard. Also, please remember to wrap any exposed pipes to prevent freezing. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our community safe.

The Water Department will be **closed** from February 28th – March 3rd for training. If you have a water emergency, please call 435-668-5610.

We would like to thank our residents for their ongoing conservation efforts. Efforts to conserve our water resources are still needed.

Have a Happy and Safe New Year!



## Washington County Water Conservancy District

Following state recommendations, Hurricane City adopted a landscape ordinance earlier this year. The Sod portion of this ordinance mandates no more than 35% of your yard for new residential could be grass. However, Southern Utah has adopted another resolution allowing new residential lots up to only 15% grass. Our landscaping ordinance is coming back to the planning commission for a recommendation in early January. If the change is approved, current residents will be eligible for the turf rebate program offered by the Washington County Water Conservancy District. With this rebate, current residents can remove up to a certain portion of grass and receive a rebate of \$2 per square foot to add desert landscape. You can find more information at <https://www.wcwc.org/?fbclid=IwAR3CKVu2oRylH3NkiUZmvku3ameiSiYCqzuNyfveYJPaS5gIiYR7rSomjco>.

## Power Department

Hurricane Power Department would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! Each year, the Power Department crew installs and maintains the Christmas decorations on State Street. The crew takes great pride and care in ensuring these decorations are in good repair and operating properly. The process of decorating State Street requires the crew to work in the street exposing them to traffic dangers. Although the crew takes precautions to help mitigate those dangers, your help by slowing down and/or moving over would be greatly appreciated.



It is required that trees are trimmed to maintain a safe distance from power lines. Every spring, a contract tree company works to clear the power lines. Hurricane Power Staff directs the tree contractor to trim the trees allowing for two years of growth before requiring additional trimming. The trimmers consider the summer power line sag caused by ambient temperatures and heat created by the line being heavily loaded. The company is professional, knowledgeable, and concerned about the health of the trees. If you have trees that have grown too close to the high voltage power lines, expect them to be trimmed in the next few months by our contractor. If you have trees approaching the power lines and would rather hire your own tree trimmers to clear the limbs, please contact the Power Department so we can take your trees off our list.

Hurricane City Power holds a Gold Member Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3)® designation from the American Public Power Association for providing reliable and safe electric service. We're proud of this designation and work hard to maintain it. We are currently working on some upcoming projects which will help.

- Our crews will be working along 600 North to upgrade this line with new steel poles and install new distribution and transmission circuits. It is a critical line that is nearing the end of its life and is a huge component for the load in the main part of Hurricane.
- We will also have crews working on the construction of a new substation near 1300 South that will be named Three Falls Substation. Substations are important because they provide a power source near the load that is requiring that power. As power is transmitted over longer distances more losses occur. This affects efficiency as well as capacity. We currently don't have a substation in that area of town and have an increased need for a power source closer to those loads.
- We have another installation project that will occur along with a new road that will be constructed along 2800 West. This line will contribute to an important transmission loop for us. For efficiency and cost management for the City, we will install our equipment in conjunction with the road construction project.

We had a great turnout for our annual Public Power Day in October! We enjoy teaching residents about power, showing things that are part of our daily jobs, and answering questions to help people understand how they can be safe around high voltage power. Thanks for coming out to join in the fun!

## Recreation Department *Christmas Tree Festival*

Hurricane City Recreation extends our sincere appreciation and expresses gratitude to everyone that participated in this year's Hurricane City Christmas Tree Festival. Many community members, families, and youth groups volunteered their time and talents to assist with the planning and execution of this event, while many businesses, civic groups, and organizations generously donated beautifully

decorated Christmas Trees for the silent auction fundraiser.

### **Programs**

We are blessed to live in such a beautiful part of the world. Recreational opportunities abound, and the Hurricane City Recreation Department encourages all citizens to get outdoors and get active as we transition



to warmer weather in the coming months. As you consider activities for your family, here are some of the options offered through the Hurricane Community Center. Youth leagues include Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Track, and more. Adult leagues include Pickleball and Women's Volleyball. In addition to sports

leagues and activities, Hurricane City offers a variety of programming options to include Art, Dance, Karate, Jiu Jitsu, and Tumbling classes. Programs begin in early January, but registration will continue until classes are full, so don't delay!

For more information, including registration deadlines, please visit our website at [hurricanerecreation.com](http://hurricanerecreation.com) or call 435-635-2609.

### **Fitness Classes**

Come start off the new year with Hurricane Recreation Group Fitness! With 34 classes on our schedule and a variety of classes throughout the day beginning at 5:30 am until 8:00 pm, you're bound to find a class and time that's perfect for you! Have little children at home? We offer child watch for 9:30am classes. We also have classes specifically designed for Seniors, along with free memberships for qualifying Renew Active and Silver & Fit insurance plans! Prices range from \$27.50-\$32.50/month for UNLIMITED classes!



### **Animal Control**

Hurricane City limits dog ownership to two (2) dogs at one residence, unless a kennel license application has been completed and approved by the Animal Shelter. *With an approved kennel license*, there may be up to, but no more than four (4) dogs. If you are interested in a kennel license application, it can be picked up at the Animal Shelter located at 2084

South 700 West. There is no cost to complete an application.

All dogs are required to be licensed annually. For your convenience there is a Dog License Registration Form included with this newsletter. All licenses expire at the end of the year, regardless of what time of year they were purchased. If you have an approved kennel license on file, all dogs must stay current on licensing each year in order to avoid having the kennel license revoked.



We would like to remind residents that dogs are not allowed in City Parks, with the exception of the Dog Park located west of Stout Park at 300 West 750 North and at Grandpa's Pond located at 350 North 3700 West. Even though dogs are allowed in Grandpa's Pond Park, they **must** be on a leash and are restricted to the paved pathway and sidewalk areas at all times. If your dog is found in any other park, or off leash in the appropriate parks, a citation may be issued by an Animal Control Officer.

### **Police Department**

It's a new year, time for some resolutions, right? Let me suggest just a few that would help us at the Police Department out immensely!

1. Please lock your vehicles each time you get out of it. This will greatly reduce the chance of anything being stolen out of it along with increasing the likelihood that it will be in the same place that you left it. We took way too many vehicle burglary and theft reports last year in which vehicles were left unlocked and some with the keys left inside.
2. Pay MORE attention while driving! STOP at red lights, know what the speed limit is and follow it, yield the right of way to other motorists, and watch for pedestrians.
3. Be wary of things that seem too good to be true or things that just don't make sense..... SCAMMERS are everywhere. They will call you, email you and they may even approach you in parking lots. They will prey on fears, they will offer something for nothing OR just deals that are unrealistically good. WHY??? Because they aren't



real. When in doubt give us a call and we can help you decide whether something is a scam or not, we are happy to answer these questions rather than taking a report of you losing money and us having very little recourse or action that we can take against suspects in an unknown location.

We are thankful for this great community we live in and if you can help us with these few resolutions, we can be that much safer in our community!!

### ***Winter Weather Driving***

Winter brings the potential for dangerous driving conditions. Motorists need to use extreme caution when driving in any type of winter-weather condition. The presence of snow or ice on the roadway greatly increases the chances of losing control of the vehicle and crashing. Good defensive-driving techniques are extremely valuable for avoiding weather-related accidents. Make sure to decrease your speed and increase the distance between you and any vehicles in front of you. Give yourself a little extra time to get to where you're going. Also, remember to give yourself time to completely clear your windows of ice and frost before operating your vehicle.



### ***Washington County Drug Task Force Tip Line***

The Washington County Drug Task Force has created a website for citizens to submit a tip about possible drug activity. Please use this form to report narcotics activity or drug dealers that you observe in your community:



<https://taskforce.dixie911.org/>

### ***Parks Department***

Hurricane City is home to mild winters and sunshine throughout most of the year, making outdoor recreation a way of life. Parks promote this way of life and are a welcoming resource to the community. Our

parks offer amenities such as; open space, picnic areas, play structures and ball fields. However, new residents and those who have lived in the area for a while may not be familiar with where they are located or their specific amenities. To learn more please go to <https://www.cityofhurricane.com/174/Parks-Department>

Let's get out there and enjoy these beautiful green spaces!

### ***Secure your Load***

Litter has been an ongoing problem in all our communities. Here at the landfill, after a substantial amount of time giving warnings, we are enforcing a strict uncovered/unsecured load policy with associated fines at the gate.

Washington City has a code/ordinance for unsecured loads that allows them to act against violators. They will be starting to enforce a no tolerance posture on unsecured loads. The intent isn't to generate fines, but to change behavior. The roadside trash/litter is a substantial problem. Law enforcement will be issuing fines for violators be it residential or commercial.

It will take all of us unitedly to improve or correct behavior to reduce trash on our roadways. Thank you for your strong support!

### ***Utility Department***

**xpress** BILL PAY Xpress Bill Pay is the only method approved by Hurricane City for online payments. You can link a single account or multiple accounts together. There is no fee associated with payments on this site.

Using any other online payment system may result in additional fees and charges as well as delays in receiving your payment. If you have any questions about which service you are using, please contact the Utility Office at 435-635-2811 extension 4.

For more information, go to: [www.cityofhurricane.com](http://www.cityofhurricane.com) and click on "Xpress Bill Pay".

If customers already have automatic ACH withdrawal directly through the City, that is still in effect. Customers would need to cancel ACH withdrawal in order to utilize the Xpress Bill Pay optio

