Mayor Holly H. Daines  
State of the City Address, February 20, 2024  

Good evening! I’m delighted to present a State of the City message. I’ve just completed my sixth year as Mayor.  

As I reflect on what we’ve accomplished, especially this last year, I’m so grateful for the support of the City Council members and the fine work of our excellent Executive Team, along with the city’s dedicated employees. Running the city is truly a team effort. I’ll share highlights from each department, framed in the context of my administration’s goals.  

When I ran for Mayor, I promised four things:  
1) Fiscal Responsibility  
2) Downtown Revitalization  
3) Focus on Infrastructure  
4) Enhance and Connect City Trails and Parks  

#1, Fiscal Responsibility  
The budget is how you get things done. The Finance Department has practiced years of good financial management by budgeting conservatively and setting aside funds for future projects. That philosophy, combined with a great economy, has positioned us to make major investments in capital projects and infrastructure, all while balancing our budget and maintaining a good fiscal position. This year the economy has slowed and sales tax is down, so we will be reducing our capital budget and being more conservative this year.  

We appreciate our IT department which is part of Finance. They’ve been laser-focused on addressing increasing threats to our cyber security and have upgraded training, procedures and software.  

The second goal is Downtown Revitalization and we’ve made excellent progress. We opened the beautiful new Carol and Jim Laub Plaza in September, and Parks opened the skating rink in November with festive holiday activities on Center Street and the plaza. Council member Mark Anderson got sponsors for
fireworks, and you can see from this photo it was a fabulous end to the celebration. The ice rink has been a great success! We’ve had over 11,000 skaters use the rink.

Our parks team will program fun, free activities in the plaza all summer for the public to enjoy. We have a generous sponsor who offered to underwrite a series of concerts on the stage; the team has lots of other great ideas as well.

The new Library is a wonderful accomplishment for our Library patrons and for downtown. We’ll cut the ribbon and open the Library on Monday, March 4. This is another project where generous donors enabled us to add extras which we couldn’t have afforded otherwise. The Hansen Sisters Foundation contributed $1M for the Children’s area, allowing us to put in the beautiful wood, trees and mural. This slide shows a sneak preview.

Another needed capital project, due to its age and seismic condition, is the new Fire Station, made possible by $10M in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. It’s a beautiful brick building that enhances historic downtown. We’ll soon be scheduling public tours before we put the station into active service. It is our busiest fire station, and is perfectly situated for its service area. The old fire station building is under contract, and the buyers plan to renovate it for an attractive project including restaurant, retail and office space, adding more activity to the charming Church and Federal area.

Our Public Works department has managed all of the projects listed above, and spent countless hours working with the contractors. There are so many details involved and we appreciate their efforts!

Pedestrians can use our mid-block walkway all the way from the Library to Center Street, making downtown an active destination with good pedestrian options, following our Downtown Specific Plan.

We also have quality new housing downtown, to further our goal of having people live, work and play downtown.
In summary, with vision and strategic investment, the core of our historic Downtown has significant, generational improvements which will benefit our citizens for years in the future.

Again, thanks to the city council members for their shared vision. I think we deserve an A+ on that goal.

**Goal #3 is a focus on Infrastructure**

In addition to the projects downtown, kudos to our Public Works department for their other infrastructure projects. Public Works’ multiple divisions include Engineering, GIS mapping, Streets, Water, Fleet and Shops and the Facilities Team. It is our largest city department.

They keep the water flowing, sewer heading to the treatment plant, streets repaired and plowed, vehicles operating and buildings maintained, and GIS keeps track of all our infrastructure.

They adopted a new Transportation Master Plan, negotiated with the Railroad to upgrade two intersections on 600 West with new signals and safety features, at 1400 and 1800 North.

If you’ve driven the new road and bridge at 100 West which merges with US 89/91, you’ve likely blessed them for that excellent project which was a $12 Million, multiyear project. The bridge was a major undertaking and includes a new 12 inch water line over the river.

They’ve also added new traffic signals on 100 East and 100 West to create better safety and mobility for both pedestrians and autos.

The next project beginning this spring is Tenth North, from 50 East (by Petsmart) to 250 West with widening, intersection improvements and a new signal at 200 West. Another challenging project with lots of small pieces of land to acquire from different owners for right of way,
We may have forgotten, but last winter we had the most snowfall ever recorded in Logan with 134 inches. Normal is 55 inches. Snowplow drivers plowed the entire city an average of every three days. It brought a spring with extremely high water flows, and public works managed 24 hour river watch efforts and monitoring of the pumps at DeWitt Springs to ensure runoff did not get into the culinary collection area to keep our drinking water source safe. They coordinated the filling of 50,000 sandbags as well.

The water department made structural repairs to one of our deep culinary water wells and repaired 57 emergency water leaks after hours.

Other stats: streets placed over 3,000 square yards of chip seal to make our roads last longer, replaced 1,400 feet of sidewalk to fix hazards, upgraded 40 ADA corners and installed seven rapid flashing beacons at pedestrian crossings.

These are just a few examples of our constant work on infrastructure, either creating new, or maintaining and upgrading our existing assets.

**Goal #4 is to Enhance and Connect City Trails and Parks**
The **Parks & Recreation Department** has a wide variety of responsibilities, from the 53-acre cemetery, to the 162 acre golf course – named one of the “Nine Best Public Golf Courses in Utah” for 2023, the Aquatic Center, which recorded over 15,000 patrons last summer, and for one additional year, the Rec Center. Our joint operation of the Rec Center will terminate June 30 of 2025 to allow the School District to accommodate more high school sanctioned sports and other student needs at Logan High School. Parks & Rec is rethinking how they provide recreation programs as we transition out of the facility – which has been a great partnership for 48 years.

The Cemetery staff coordinated hundreds of volunteers to paint a good portion of the perimeter fence on Tenth North, clean up pinecones and needles and clean headstones. This was a massive undertaking, and they will be asking for volunteers this summer to finish painting the remainder of the fence. We appreciate volunteers!
Parks staff also take care of our many wonderful parks and trails, and provide activities for our citizens which help create a sense of community, including the traditional 4th and 24th of July events, Center Street Halloween Festival, and Christmas events. They helped with the Great Pumpkin Weigh Off as well.

Some exciting news for parks this year was $750,000 from the state’s Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant program. It will help fund the new Logan Outdoor Recreation Complex. Parks applied for one large RAPZ grant to provide matching funds, and received $450,000 from RAPZ last year.

This park is in cooperation with the Environmental Department as they close the Logan Landfill. There is nearly 200 acres of land that was part of the landfill and protection zone which will be repurposed into recreation space. In addition to providing the land, significant funding for this project is coming from the Environmental Department as part of their diligent stewardship of funds, over many years, planning for the landfill closure. We are grateful for their excellent management.

A park this large will likely be a ten year project, but Phase One, beginning this summer, will commence with the installation of the road, a Woodruff Neighborhood Park, a 60-acre competition disc-golf course – keeping much of the existing natural landscaping and wetlands – and an 11 acre dog park. Trails will connect all areas of the complex and tie into both the city and county Trails Master Plan. Phase Two, in a few years, will turn the landfill “trash hill” into a 90 acre mountain bike park. Other Phases will come later.

Another trail-related project coming soon is the bridge across the river at Trapper Park so we can access the 47 acre, grant-funded conservation easement along the Logan River. Parks received a RAPZ grant to pay for bridge design and subsequently another grant for construction. The next step is to seek funding to put in the trail. Staff also built new restrooms at Trapper Park and paved the parking lot.

We get excellent marks in this area as well as we’ve focused on the goal of expanding and connecting parks and trails.
I’ve mentioned the Environmental Department and their key role in closing the landfill and transitioning much of their land to recreation space. They too manage a large portfolio with solid waste collection, wastewater treatment and the new composting facility, landfill management and the forestry division, which does everything from trimming and planting trees to mosquito abatement to handling Christmas lights and decor.

The Forestry Division, working with parks, received a $300,000 grant to help with new tree plantings, replace aging trees, and help with a tree inventory.

Environmental successfully concluded the downsizing of our solid waste collection program last October and assisted other cities as they transitioned to private collection. We sold 17 garbage trucks and all containers used by other cities to the new entities. Because our dedicated employees worked a tremendous amount of overtime during the transition, we reduced our personnel by 17 equipment operators through attrition and retirement, without laying off any personnel. We are now “right-sized” to serve our citizens.

We will continue to receive solid and green waste from the entire county and operate the transfer station at the Logan Landfill. They’ve also opened another cell at North Valley Landfill.

The Environmental department manages the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is now operating at full capacity. It has outstanding effluent quality, surpassing permit requirements, demonstrating the city's commitment to environmental standards. They secured a $5M grant for the design of a fourth bioreactor for the plant to accommodate future growth.

As part of effectively using biosolids from the treatment plant, they’ve also built a new composting facility utilizing a $4M grant which facilitates increased diversion of green waste from the landfill. Once mixed with solids from the plant, it produces nutrient-rich compost for landscaping and agricultural use.
I mentioned the **Library** building earlier but wanted to acknowledge that with a reduced staff, squeezed into a temporary facility, library staff added over 1,500 new library cards for patrons, checked out 195,000 physical items, many of which they walked out to patrons in their car; presented 225 library programs in creative locations and digital programs with over 24,000 participants.

Once the new library opens, patrons can check out a telescope, Spiral Jetty Backpack, blood pressure kit, kid’s stress kit, chromebook or Wi-Fi hotspot – in addition to their wonderful collection of books. Folks can use the new community rooms, maker space and more! As part of the move to the new building, Library staff handled each and every one of the 113,000 print and AV items in their collection.

I also have to thank both the Library staff and the other employees at the Service Center for patiently accommodating the temporary situation for nearly two years with everyone in cramped quarters in an effort to keep the library operating and to save the city money. I’m so impressed that everyone works together for the greater good!

**The Light and Power** department also has some major infrastructure projects underway. In the last year they brought online two new substations to keep up with growing demand and have started a two year project to add 10 megawats of natural gas generation. The gas generators will help balance the significant addition of solar power in our portfolio because it can ramp up quickly when variable renewables go offline.

L&P is relocating a transmission line on 1000 North to accommodate the road widening project and upgrading conductors on the 400 East line to the hospital to handle larger loads.

They’ve contracted for sediment removal at 2nd dam to facilitate more hydro power. Sediment is getting in hydro intakes and damaging equipment.
Looking forward, we’ve signed power purchase agreements for two potential geothermal projects as well as for additional solar power, some with battery storage, if they all develop as planned.

They’ve hired a consultant to produce an Integrated Resource Plan to assist the city in accomplishing its Renewable Energy Roadmap Goal. They will examine modeling and costs for the city to achieve carbon free power at the level of 50, 75, and 100 percent in ten years.

**Economic Development**
Our Economic Development Director continues to work with our legal team and spearheaded the redevelopment of the aging Cache Valley Mall. We worked with Logan School District and Cache County to create the 1400 North Main Community Reinvestment Project Area, which will include a major national retailer, other commercial space, and housing. We anticipate demolition of the mall within the next few months. The construction will include all new infrastructure. There will be a new traffic signal at 200 East and 1250 North as part of the project.

Economic Development has also been heavily involved in the construction of the Laub Plaza and in assisting significant housing projects downtown to get folks living, working and shopping downtown.

**Community Development** also has a wide range of responsibilities from Planning Commission and Historic Preservation to building permits, plan review, building inspection, and code enforcement. They’ve updated our code with new Landscaping & Useable Outdoor Space requirements, Critical Lands requirements and Planned Development Overlay Standards. They received a grant to help fund the new General Plan update, which will begin this year.

They are tasked with implementing the Public Art Master Plan and have coordinated several art installations recently, including two on the Library plaza, with more potential projects on the way.
Providing **Public Safety, which is Police and Fire Service** for our citizens is a huge part of what cities do. Our Public Safety employees are selfless individuals who do amazing work to serve our community.

Let's start with Police: we have 94 employees – which includes patrol, School Resource Officers; investigations, including the Drug Task Force, administration and dispatch. Police responded to over 22,000 total incidents in 2023, with 2,400 arrests. Of those, officers had 215 DUI arrests, making our streets safer for all.

One stat we're very proud of is with over 35,000 contacts, there were only 91 incidents of “use of force”. The council members and I review camera footage of all use of force incidents monthly. We are continually reminded of the difficult situations our officers have to deal with, and their professionalism. The reviews also serve as training opportunities, continuing to improve officers skills in stressful situations.

One big concern is calls related to mental health subjects have doubled in the last five years, to nearly 700 in 2023. It takes a lot of our officers time.

The Investigations Division participates with 75 other agencies statewide on the Internet Crimes Against Children task force. They received the Agency of the Year award for their work in combating child pornography and trafficking cases, including arrests of several men who came to Logan attempting to meet up with children to sexually assault them, to learn they had been texting with an undercover officer.

Our 911 Dispatch team serves the entire valley, and continues to coordinate all calls for public safety personnel county-wide with calm professionalism.

The **Fire Department** is thrilled to move into the new station soon, which will give them a space to house training for the entire team. They have 68 full and 11 part time employees divided between four stations. In 2023 they responded to nearly 6,000 Fire and EMS calls which means almost 11,000 apparatus responses to be prepared for any situation.
EMS added a new advanced certification of Critical Care Paramedic, with higher level skills in difficult airway management, medications and cardiac care. Overall, personnel logged over 15,000 hours of required training for the year to keep certifications current and stay on top of best practices. They received a donated heavy rescue unit from the state, and with some upgrades have put it into service to use for a wide range of technical rescues such as ice, confined space, trench, swift water and structural collapse.

Last spring the department also worked with public works in coordinating the emergency management efforts on flood mitigation and risk reduction with sandbagging and other efforts. It was a team effort.

These fire and EMS crews respond to many difficult incidents nearly every day, which can have an impact on their mental health and well being. The department received a grant of over $150,000 to provide mental health services for all current Logan Fire employees and their families as well as retirees. The city is also proactive in providing that opportunity for police officers as well.

Our city employees are our most valuable resource, and the Human Resources Department is a great liaison for those employees. In 2023 we were able to give good raises, and when our medical premiums increased by 15%, we didn’t pass that cost to employees, but covered the entire amount. HR does monthly wellness challenges to promote health and well-being, the annual employee appreciation luncheon, Golf Tournament and a 5K Run/Walk for all employees and families. They also help employees navigate retirement and insurance issues as needed.

We want our employees to be safe, and our Legal Department handles risk management and safety initiatives. With the combined efforts of all city departments and employees, Logan City has maintained a track record 25% below state and national averages on accidents and injuries which results in significant savings on insurance – and more importantly, safer employees. Our legal department also handles hundreds of contracts and other details every year to support all city departments. We appreciate their work.
**City Recorder**
The City Recorder keeps track of thousands of important city documents, is the liaison with City Council members, and takes care of all their agendas, noticing and oversees minutes. The state requires us to contract with the county for city elections, but the City Recorder is responsible for candidate filing, election notices and working with candidates throughout the election as the point of contact.

In summary, with the support of the Council Members, Executive Team and our outstanding city employees, we – as a team – have accomplished a great deal! All our departments work well together to achieve common goals. It’s easy to recognize and notice the “big” projects, but we’re mindful of always trying to do better and be better in providing services for our citizens and value for the taxpayers. We truly work to be good stewards of the funds we’re entrusted with to run the city, provide services to our citizens, and help all of us enjoy an outstanding quality of life here in Logan.

It has been a great year! Thank you.