



**Parowan City Town Hall Meeting  
November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.  
Parowan City Council Chambers  
35 E 100 N, Parowan, UT 84761  
“Community Focus on Traditions, Activities & Holiday Events”**

**Elected Officials Present:** Mayor Mollie Halterman  
Councilmember David Burton  
Councilmember Sharon Downey  
Councilmember Matthew Gale  
Councilmember Jim Shurtleff  
Councilmember Rochell Topham

**City Staff Present:** Callie Bassett, City Recorder; Heather Shurtleff, Deputy Recorder; Stacy Gale, Deputy Treasurer; Jet Smith, Events Coordinator; Cori Adams, Library Director

**Public Present:** See attached sign in sheet.

- 1. Welcome and Call to Order:** Mayor Halterman  
The meeting began by viewing the YouTube Video “I Love Parowan,” which can be found at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLLEgradK0o>
- 2. Opening Ceremonies:** Councilmember Rochell Topham offered the invocation. She then led the Council and the public in the pledge of allegiance.
- 3. Recap of 2022 Town Hall Meetings:** Mayor Halterman  
Mayor Halterman gave a brief overview of the Town Hall meetings held in 2022:  
February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022: *“Pool & Fairground Update”*  
May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022: *“Know Your City Services”*  
August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022: *“Family/Senior Support & Volunteerism (Postponed – possible future date TBD)”*  
November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022: *“Community Focus on Traditions, Activities & Holiday Events”*  
Upcoming State of the City Address - *Early 2023, Date TBD*

The mayor said there are a lot of new people that have moved to Parowan and she wanted to bring the community together around this topic and provide information about all of the events going on in town and to share the traditions that make Parowan special and that we can hold on to forever. She said she has had an opportunity to think about community character and culture. She said as a council they try to preserve and protect these things. There are five things that came to mind that she feels makes Parowan special:

1. *Historic significance and sacred places*
2. *Arts & Culture*
3. *Outdoor Recreation*
4. *Patriotic Traditions*
5. *A Place of Restorative Peace*

She said tonight they are focusing on the things that make Parowan Parowan.

#### **4. Special Guest Speakers:**

##### **Jenifer Terry, Parowan Theater Board President: *Historic Aladdin Theater***

Jenifer gave a brief history of the Aladdin Theater. The theater was built in 1928 and was known as the Aladdin Movie Theater. It was the spot for talking movies. The Aladdin has had many owners over the year until it was donated to Parowan City. It then became a community theater. The theater was in bad shape and needed some TLC. Countless hours of volunteer work were donated by community members. The theater, to this day, provides community plays, community events, private parties, and other happy, memory making activities. The theater has also brought back talking movies every now and then.

Community plays are held in the spring and fall with community directors, producers, choreographers, and costume artists. She said the talent that resides in our area is worth watching. These plays feature community members from Parowan and the surrounding areas. There have been top notch plays put on in the Aladdin Theater.

During the summer is summer youth theater program. These plays are put on by energetic, talented youth who bring amazing productions to the stage. You will always know when something is happening at the Aladdin Theater because the marquee is illuminated and there is energy buzzing about. It is a delightful place, and she encouraged people to come out and enjoy the events. Jenifer added that there will be a Christmas variety show during "*Christmas in the Country*" on Saturday night. They are looking for participants for this program, and anyone interested in participating can contact her.

##### **Steve Decker, Parowan City Historian: *Parowan Arts and Culture***

Mayor Halterman recognized Steve Decker and Sandra Benson as Parowan City's historians. They have been the city historians since 2010. She said Sandra Benson includes an article in every edition of the city's newsletter. She asked Sandra to stand and be recognized.

Steve said he and Sandra have a little different approach to things. He does research type papers that are 15-30 pages, and Sandra does tattles and tales in the newsletter, and that works out really well for them.

Steve reported on the Iron County Public Art Commission and the possibility of establishing a Parowan City Art Coordinator. He said to date, the Iron County Public Art Commission has reviewed about 200 monuments and pieces of art. Eighty of those have been selected to use as public art and they come from all around the county. Of these pieces, nine are attributed to Parowan or the Parowan vicinity. Mayor Halterman, Trisha Harris and Steve Decker serve on this Commission. This commission currently works through Maria Twitchell's office in the Iron County Tourism Bureau, and is chaired by Jessica Kinsey, the director and curator of the Southern Utah Museum of Art.

Steve said when we think of public art we think of murals, memorials, statues, architecture, landscapes that beautify or interpret history, community or issues. He said he serves a dual role on the commission. One of his roles is directly related to his employment with Cedar City Corporation. His residence, he feels, presses him to represent Parowan also. He administers and maintains the data base for the commission that they use to identify and control inventory. He said the purpose of the commission is to bring distinctive art to Parowan and Iron County, to serve as stewards, to seek and provide funding for public art, to create a selection process and a means of maintaining and conserving those pieces, and to increase and promote the understanding that public art has a social and economic benefit.



Steve talked to the council about the need for an art coordinator in Parowan. The mission and purpose of the arts coordinator is to promote and coordinate events, design, creation, display, and instruction as a city program and to be a liaison between entities. When a coordinator is established, the city would provide an avenue through which grant and operating funds would flow. already do. They would also provide space, as available, for administration, instruction, and display. He had a tentative calendar with allowed for a big bang opening, regular programs, and other programs as they become available. He said that art coordination takes a lot of time. It does not take a lot of money. It recognizes the need to cooperate and not interfere or usurp current established events.

Steve said the vision is easy to define. He would like to improve quality of life and provide for artists to create and display locally. He said as we face a projected 34% growth rate between 2020 and 2030, he would like our peers and neighbors to say, "Hey! Have you seen what Parowan is doing?" He asked the council to please allow and encourage public art in the community and to actively pursue continued funding and gifting opportunities to install works of public art in the community. Seek, hire, appoint, assign, do something to provide for a comprehensive arts coordination that would capitalize on the assets of the community and provide another way to make Parowan a destination city.

**Heather Shurtleff, Director: *Annual Christmas Cantata***

Heather said that this year will mark the 78<sup>th</sup> year of the Christmas Cantata in Parowan. She said for many in Parowan, the Christmas season is not complete without the tradition and music of the Christmas Cantata. The same beautiful music has been sung since 1944 when school music teacher Newell Waite chose the music with the help of his ward in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A few different solos are interspersed each year for variety, and a narrator adds beautiful messages of the birth of Christ and peace on earth, good will to men.

Heather said it would be impossible to name everyone who have, over the decades, made the Christmas Cantata possible. She said since she came to Parowan in 1988, she has had the privilege of enjoying the talents of dedicated people like Myrna Mitchell, Ramona Stubbs, Vyonne Chamberlain, Frankie Lou Bentley, Carl Mitchell, Katrine Rowley, Mary Halterman, Spencer Kohler, Brenda Chamberlain, Jay Wilcken, Marie Adams, Jim Robinson, Leslie Nims and countless others. She said it has been such a gift to work with Leslie Nims and the exceptional choirs these past two years.

The Christmas Cantata will be held this year on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Third/Fourth Ward building at 90 S. Main Street. Right after the cantata, the Parowan Daughters of the Utah Pioneers will serve delicious refreshments just a short walk away at the Old Rock Church. Heather said all are welcome, and she would love to see the whole community come out and celebrate the warmth and spirit of Christmas through friendship and music.

**Bret Jacobsen, PHS Vice Principal & Athletic Director: *Parowan High School Community Traditions & Athletics***

Bret said that he and his wife have lived in Parowan three years. They love it here.

Bret said that one of the best ways to keep up with what is going on at the school is to use the school district app. He said if you haven't downloaded it already, he encouraged everyone to do so. He said all you have to do is search for Iron County School District, or ICSD, in your app store. He said once you have it installed, you can select Parowan High School and it will bring up the feed at the school, and you will be able to see all of the events and activities taking place at the school. He walked through the app showing the audience how to navigate through it.

Bret spoke about some of the great traditions at Parowan High School. Thanksgiving dinner is a favorite, where the entire school meets together for a Thanksgiving meal. Another great tradition is the Veteran's Day program. Veterans who graduated from PHS and veterans in the community were honored. This year they had a slide show recognizing veterans clear back to WWI who either went to or taught at PHS.

Another great tradition at PHS is the "Running of the Halls". Anytime a sports team has post-season play, they run the halls before they leave for state. Students line the hallway, and the athletes are led through the hall by the band drum line. At the end the students sing the PHS fight song out in front of the gym. The community is welcome to participate in those to help pep up the sports teams before they participate at state.

Bret said that Jr. Prom is another big tradition. The juniors have what is called a promenade where they are presented to their parents and the community. They perform a choreographed dance for the parents, and then the parents have the opportunity to dance with their junior. It is a special occasion. Brett added that the drama department always presents a fall musical. These are always well done and well attended.

**Jet Smith, Parowan City Events Coordinator: *Parowan City Seasonal Events & Activities***

Jet said her main goal is to make sure that everyone is happy in this town and to make sure they are entertained. She said she loves to see happy, smiley faces.

Jet brought a schedule of events for 2023 (see attached). She said this is a very busy time of year for them at the visitor center. She said usually their priority is tourists, but during November and December it is the community. Everyone likes to send Parowan items for Christmas. They have a lot of neat items for sale in their gift shop.

Jet reported on some of the events taking place right now. Pickle ball is an ongoing event that has a lot of participants. November brings Christmas in the Country (Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving). This is a long standing tradition in Parowan. The holiday bazaar is held Friday-Saturday. This bazaar is unique in that all vendors sell homemade items. The Santa Parade is Saturday morning. The Candlelight Parade is Saturday evening, followed by the lighting of the city Christmas lights.

Jet said that their biggest project right now is the "Sub for Santa" program that they do every year. Last year they helped 63 families (over 160 children). They help families from Parowan, Brian Head, Summit, Paragonah and the outskirts of Enoch. The SUU Holiday Assistance Program works with "Sub for Santa", "Toys for Tots", and all of the local churches. People sign up for assistance through SUU, which allows everyone to be in the same data base, and everyone gets a nice Christmas. The community has raised a little over \$7,000 to purchase toys, blankets, etc. They are purchasing turkeys for every family. Donations are coming in already.

Jet mentioned some upcoming things to watch for. Jr. Basketball will start in January with registration taking place in December. Parowan's birthday and the birthday ball are in January. The swap meet will take place again out at the fair building. She added that if anyone would like to volunteer to help with any of these events to please give her a call because she loves to put people to work.

**Tom Zaleski: *Upcoming Old Rock Church Days***



Tom said that he, his wife Liz, and Karen Miller (director of the Old Rock Church), met with Mayor Halterman to discuss a new event in Parowan. They would really like to promote Parowan Old Rock Church Days. The first annual event will be held June 16-17, 2023. This will be sponsored by the DUP and Friends of the Parowan Old Rock Church.

The purpose of this event will be:

1. to raise money to preserve the building and museum artifacts;
2. to help unify our community;
3. to connect the past to the present and to help preserve the life skills and fiber that have made Parowan a great place to live and raise families; and
4. to reach out to those who have Parowan connections to enlarge our sense of community.

So far, their plan includes a Friday night quilt show in the basement of the Parowan Old Rock Church and a program (free to the public) to be held in the church building at 90 South Main Street. On Saturday, they plan to have activities morning and afternoon. There will be free events and entertainment throughout the day. They will also have fund raising events going on throughout the day: food sales, quilt show, silent auction, children's games, pioneer home crafts and demonstrations, as well as brick sales. It has been suggested that they have some type of competition. Competitions seem to bring people out. They are considering having the "Alma Richards Games."

Tom said they are open to ideas and suggestions to make this event successful. They would especially welcome volunteers. He said again that their goal in doing this is to preserve the Parowan Old Rock Church and the artifacts inside.

#### **Dayla Ulrich and Lindsay Swiderski, Parowan Chamber of Commerce: *Holiday Events***

Dayla said the Parowan Chamber of Commerce, in honor of the Sweet Tour campaign, brought in an assortment of cinnamon rolls for the meeting. She said you can get Parowan cinnamon rolls at Southern Country Chevron, Calvario's, the Parowan Café, Sweet Pea Farm and Orchard, and at Your Story Utah. The website for this campaign is [www.thesweettour.com](http://www.thesweettour.com). They are going to put little magnets on the building where cinnamon rolls are sold. The cinnamon rolls are all a little bit different, but they said they are all good, and they encouraged everyone to try them all.

Dayla said they wanted to let everyone know what the Chamber has going on this holiday season. She said that during Covid, the city did not do "Christmas in the Country". She said one of the things they wanted to do as a Chamber for their businesses and business owners who were feeling the crunch from the Covid lockdown was to do an outdoor holiday market to fill in that gap. One of the things that they learned that year was that it was really great for all of their businesses to have visitors moving throughout the community. Since then, they have kept this holiday market going and have made it their mission to keep people in Parowan all day long. She said between Christmas in the Country, all of the wonderful parades that Jet organizes, Hometown Holiday Market, the tree lighting, and Winter Wonderland after that, they can keep everyone in town all day long.

Dayla said they will be holding the Hometown Holiday Market again this year. She mentioned that the vendors do make an effort to make sure all of their visitors go up to the holiday bazaar for Christmas in the Country and participate in the whole community experience. There will be two different locations for market vendors this year. The first is on Main Street and the second is at Sweet Pea Farm and Orchard on 600 W. The market will be held on Saturday, Nov. 26, from 10 am to 6 pm. Dayla

encouraged everyone to participate in the weekend events including Christmas in the Country, the Candlelight Parade and the town lighting.

Lindsay gave information on the Winter Wonderland display, which is her favorite holiday event. The display is open every night in December. The Chamber decorates the park next to the library, and it becomes this very magical wonderland. Every Saturday night, including the opening night, is hot chocolate night. Everyone can come and get free hot chocolate, roast marshmallows, meet the fun holiday characters, and interact with the vignettes. This year they are adding singing Christmas carols. This is a fun event for kids and for kids at heart. It makes our little Hallmark town even more Hallmark-y.

Dayla said she wanted to let everyone know that everything they do for Winter Wonderland is done through donations. They received a grant three years ago that helped them get started. Since then, every year they add on to the display through donations and sponsorships. Dayla read a list of this year's sponsors. She said the donations go to adding more lights and things. Their goal is to fill the entire park so people can spend hours walking through it.

Dayla announced that they will be having story time on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> at the Sweet Pea Farm and Orchard from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm. This is free to the public. They invited anyone who would like to volunteer to help put lights up on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Parowan City Council Members: *Invitation for Comments Regarding Favorite Parowan History and Traditions***

Mayor Halterman read an email from Rex Burton regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade program and ancestor essay report that they do each year (see attached). This year the program will be on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Mr. Burton mentioned other Parowan events and traditions, including Parowan's birthday program, the elementary school Christmas program, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade program. He said these are things he hopes will continue in our community. We cannot let the traditions of Parowan die with the wind of change. There is so much that the people of Parowan are doing to maintain traditions. Let's keep it going.

Councilmember Burton thanked Mr. Jacobsen and stressed how important the traditions are that the kids have in the schools. He said he thinks Principal Bailey is on board, and we need to preserve them. Traditions unify the community, and it is important that we continue with them. It is important for the kids to be able to relate to the past and understand the values that made Parowan. He said we can not lose those things. He talked a little about Thales Brown and instituting the Thanksgiving dinner at the school. He said it will be very important to institute these traditions into the future.

Councilmember Topham said she didn't grow up here, but she loves Parowan and is grateful she can raise her kids here. She loves the Parowan's birthday celebration. Her father-in-law and mother-in-law used to make huge pots of chicken noodle soup and hundreds of rolls for that celebration. She said it is so important to instill in our children the love of Parowan and what Parowan is. It is so important to keep these traditions alive. She said Parowan is very unique. The community, the gathering, the friendships...there's nothing like it.

Councilmember Downey said she moved here in 2012 and was on the interfaith council. She said she grew up in San Diego and there weren't any traditions like Parowan has. She loves Parowan and every thing about it. It is a Hallmark town and she loves it.



Councilmember Gale said when he moved here they started a tradition of driving around town on Christmas Eve looking at the Christmas lights. He loves the Christmas lights. He said Parowan is a neat community and he feels very welcome here. He appreciates the friendships, the culture and the people here. He said he has grown to love it.

Councilmember Shurtleff said that every single one of the council have the same sentiment. He said he was fortunate enough to be schooled by Sandra Benson and Gail Harris. He thanked Sandra. They worked together for 30 years. He said the Veteran's Day assembly was one of the best they have had in a long time. It was special for him to see all of the young kids that he taught in school that are now brother veterans on that slide show. He said that is a big thing, and that is what Parowan is about. It's a good place to be. We need to keep it going. He said he appreciates people like Sandra that have made Parowan his home for the past 40 years.

Ben Johnson was recognized by the council, and he announced that the MOU with the school district was signed, the school district committed to the \$7,000, and the P-Hill is lit.

**5. Q & A, Additional Comments: All**


Jerry Vesely said he has been here for 20 years and he loves Parowan. He said it is important to engage and get involved with the community. When they first moved here they were very involved with the elementary school, the high school, PTA, PTSO, etc. He said it is important to engage. One of the endearing things he remembers is that he was at an event at the fairgrounds. A big black cloud came up over Brian Head mountain bringing a huge storm. He said they announced that there was going to be some imminent flooding on 200 south and needed help filling sandbags. He said everyone in that stadium left to go help.

**6. Adjournment:**

The Town Hall Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.



Mollie Halterman, Mayor



Callie Bassett, City Recorder

Date Approved: December 8, 2022