

Standing before you today, the first mayor of this beautiful little community, I am still a little bit in shock. Never in my craziest dreams, and I have some pretty crazy dreams, did I ever see myself as mayor of Spring Lake. On the other hand my heart is full of pride and humility. Even though it is not a position that I aspired to or sought after, I do consider it an honor to serve you, my friends, and neighbors. I consider all of you, everyone in Spring Lake my neighbors and my friends and it is for that very reason that I do not take being elected as mayor lightly. I know that many of you were reluctant and maybe even fearful and some of you were even opposed to incorporation. Believe me I had some of those very thoughts and I am nervous, but more than being fearful or nervous of the challenge we now face of establishing a new town I was more fearful of what would become of Spring Lake if we did not incorporate. I feared that we would lose our identity as Spring Lakers. Now there are worse things than being annexed into Payson or Santaquin. I love our neighbors to the north and to the south, however, I am convinced that not incorporating would have eventually led to being annexed into Payson or Santaquin and maybe that would not have been such a bad thing. But for generations, this community has been our home, our way of life, our shared legacy. Angela Stanton said it best in the Spring Lake history book, Spring Lake born and Spring Lake Bred and when I die I will be Spring Lake dead.

For generations, we have cherished our independence, our open spaces, and the strong community ties that define who we are. We are not a city of big business, or curb and gutter. We do not have libraries and ball fields or grocery stores. We do not have stop lights and traffic or city lights that hide the view of the night sky. We do not have restaurants or subdivisions. Our wealth does not lie in any of those things but it does lie in the fertile soil of our hay fields, the quiet of the night that sings with frogs and crickets, the orchards and farms, the lake that might not be ours but is the name sake of our community. It is in the mountains that surround us to the east like a warm embracing hug and the fields to the west that lay open up like a welcome mat to visitors. Our strength comes from the calloused hands of farmers, a meal

from a neighbor in times of need, the resilience of our families, and the unbreakable bonds that tie us together.

This challenge of becoming our own town requires that we stand together. It calls upon our resilience and our shared history and love of this community. We are not just a piece of land to be divided up between cities to the north and south but we are a living, breathing community with a spirit and determination that deserve preservation. We will face challenges there is no doubt. We will need to be problem solvers not problem creators. We will need to cooperate and practice tolerance and patience. We will need to balance a budget. We will need to be creative in making ends meet. The path ahead will be difficult some times but it will also be sweet most of the time. We must remember the residents in our community are our greatest asset.

My vision for our community is simple: to preserve the very essence of who we are while building a future that is sustainable and prosperous for everyone. This is not a job for one person; it is a shared endeavor and that is why I thank those who ran for town council, whether you were elected or not. It is evident that so many people want this to work and they want to be involved. It does not end with a mayor and town council but we will be reaching out to you as we look for people who are willing to serve on a planning and zoning commission, as a town recorder, a town treasurer, and other town positions. And it goes beyond that as we ask for all of you to be patient. To share your thoughts and ideas. To be involved. To pray for us. It will require open dialogue, community engagement, and a commitment to working together, respecting the wisdom of those who have lived here for a very long time, some of them 90 plus years and at the same time embracing the ideas of those who represent our future. Let me say that once again, respecting the wisdom of our elders and embracing the ideas of our youth.

As mayor I promise to live up to the oath I just swore to. To obey the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of Utah with fidelity. I needed to look up the definition of fidelity just to make sure I was willing to do that. The definition says faithfulness to a cause, a person, and a

belief. I can do all three of those. I promise to be faithful to the cause for which I became involved in to begin with. The cause of saving our community and way of life. Faithful to a person or people, the people of Spring Lake who I love and respect. And faithful to a belief, a belief in God and the two great commandments to love God and to love our neighbor. If we can do that then I believe we can make this work. I personally pledge to be a mayor who listens, who advocates fiercely for our way of life, and who will give my blood sweat and tears if needed to ensure that our community remains...oh there are so many adjectives; vibrant, peaceful, thriving, beautiful, supportive, quiet, loving, engaging, and the list goes on, a place that we can call home, a place we can call Spring Lake.

Thank you for your trust, for your dedication, and for allowing me, seriously, the immense privilege of leading our community into its next chapter. Thank you.

Mayor Wade Menlove

(Delivered at swearing in of first Spring Lake town council on 12.10.2025)