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From: **John Patterson**

Date: Tue, Jun 13, 2023, 3:05 PM

Subject: City Agreement

To: **DaLyn Marthaler**

Dalyn,

I was shocked and saddened to see on Fox 13 the news that Ogden City is forcing you all to leave the old animal shelter. I was the Ogden City CAO that negotiated the terms of your agreement with the City. While my memory of events in 2011 are not crystal clear I do recall how excited I was to have the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah take over the old animal shelter. The work you do is important. I know you have saved thousands of animals. I recall seeing first hand the medical care you provided injured animals. The love you and your associates have for each creature was evident.

The old animal shelter was in bad shape and would have required significant upgrades, hence our agreement with the county to take our animals. So, from a city perspective, you were putting to beneficial use an old building that would have cost us money. I thought this was a win-win. You received a facility to rehab injured animals for the cost of upkeep, including all systems. The City freed itself of the cost impacts associated with a worn out building. I believe our attorneys said we couldn't just give you public property outright without a competitive process so the best thing was to make it a "temporary" agreement. Well, after 12 years why would anyone think it was any longer "temporary". And I am sure you have had to replace the roof, A/C and no telling what else.

And to expand the Dinosaur Park? Or as I heard recently to put in additional parking for the Dinosaur Park; even more incredulous. Mr. Bob Marquardt was the drive, spirit, and funding behind the Park. When he died in 2012 I gathered from some in the community there was a loss of funding and focus on the Park. While I'm glad this gem is being given some attention, surely there is a better way to meet their infrequent need for more parking than to take away the resource you provide.

To summarize, the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah took a cost burden away from the City. In exchange, the City gave you use of a building with you bearing all costs. In this facility you have saved thousands of birds and animals and you have saved the City thousands of dollars. After 12 years no reasonable person would believe the "temporary" agreement was ever to be terminated. I recall (and it could be faulty) the only reason for it being titled "temporary" was because a city can't give public property away without a formal, open process. Surely, there is some way to resolve this issue to every party's satisfaction. Mayor Mike Caldwell is a reasonable, compassionate person. I would seek his help. And there are several on Council I believe to be equally rational and caring.

My best to you. Let me know what else I can do.

John Patterson

Ogden City CAO

2005-2011