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Mona City opens up comment period regarding changes to sign ordinance

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

A new sign ordinance was reviewed by Mona City council and will now be advertised and then addressed for action at a council meeting next month.

Katrina Long, council member, initiated the changes following a discussion a month ago about needed amendments to the sign ordinance. After that first discussion, she proposed some changes.

She presented a copy of the proposed changes for review at the Tuesday meeting.

"A right-of-way means ownership of property and an easement is like a utilities use," said Richard Hatfield, city engineer.

An easement is an agreed-upon use of land by a party other than the landowner. Often these are utility easements. This can include access to natural resources on the land, development of necessary utility pipelines or construction and maintenance of a water storage facility.

Rights-of-way differ greatly from easements because they do not allow other parties to use the land, but simply pass through. A right of way allows others to travel on private property to get to a different destination. For example, a deed with a right of way may permit individuals to travel on a driveway, through a backyard or on another area of property. Typically, rights-of-way are issued to allow access to an adjoining property.

Long had struck out a few words and phrases to improve clarity.

See **Signs** on page 10



SANTA WAS THE STAR • of the Nephi Light Parade this year. Rather than riding in his sleigh, he rode on Nephi City Fire Department ladder truck. Winners of the parade as per popular vote were: 1st Place - Phillips Family, 2nd Place - Ed Park Family, 3rd Place - Tony's Window Cleaning, 4th Place - Park Home Furnishings and 5th Place - Central Valley Medical Center. Photos on page 7.

Two Mona residents request Mona City to reconsider decision regarding fence construction

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

A fence in Mona is still a problem according to two residents who share a property line.

Rick Carlton, a county commissioner, and Doni Carlton, his wife, wrote a letter to Mona City council members telling of their two protests to the decision made by the council who agreed with an assessment of the situation made by the city engineer, Richard Hatfield.

D. Carlton, who acted as spokesperson, and her daughter were present at council meeting to request the city reconsider the decision made to let the Evan and Vicky Davies family construct a fence on

their property line at 95 E. 380 N.

There is a dedicated walkway between the two properties. In spite of the fence being built, the walkway was to be kept open by erecting a gate that would allow access. The gate lock could not be reached from the outside, said D. Carlton.

"The walkway is used by the public," said Carlton. "There is only 12-inches between the utility pole and the fence. I cannot squeeze through that opening."

She said that numerous children and adults used the walkway as a shortcut between 340 North and Main Street traveling in each direction.

"There is not enough room

to squeeze through our side of the walkway between the telephone pole and the fence post to allow anyone to walk in the platted walkway."

She said the city should not allow the walkway to be blocked in anyway.

She also said that, under state law, had the right to ingress and egress. It stated that such egress and ingress should be allowed within the public utility easements.

"We have kicked this topic around for a spell," said Greg Newton, mayor. "I was of the opinion that after our last discussion that we were done. We had our engineer look at it and we agreed with him."

Carlton said that the Davies knew that there was a walkway and a separate utility easement that needed to be honored when they purchased the property. She said that the Carltons also knew that and, 15 years ago, when they had purchased their property, they were told that they could not block the easements.

"The utility easement and the walkway are blocked by the Davies' fence," said Carlton. "The gates are locked on the inside and the utility road is blocked."

She said that the Davies were to contact the utilities but that had not been done. She was there when Blue Stakes came.

Hatfield said that the proper mechanism was for Blue Stakes to contact the property owner. If the fence needed to be removed to allow access, it would be the responsibility of the utility to replace the fence.

"I disagree," said Carlton. "Fifteen years ago we were told that any such repairs would be at the expense of the homeowner."

The Davies knew that the

utilities were in the ground, she said. In her opinion, the walkway and utility easements should have been maintained by the city. As for the claim that the walkway was not used, that was not so. She said that 500 feet north of the walkway there was still a bus stop.

"It is used daily," she said.

There had not been any action taken to abandon the dedicated walkway.

Hatfield said that if the walkway was to be abandoned, then the Davies would need to do the work of contacting the nearby residents. That was the job of the property owner.

Council members agreed that they would, some in a group, others individually, go to the Davies property and look at the fence and the gate.

"If we have latch problem issues," said Jeff Hearty, council member, "then we need to address that with the Davies."

The easement between the utilities companies and the Davies would entail a civil dispute, said Katrina Long, city council member.

It would be a hard case to not allow property rights, said Hatfield. If the Davies do what the city has instructed, then there should be no problem. He said they were asked to bring the fence out and turn it toward Main Street. If that was done, then there would be no problem with access to the walkway.

Molli Graham, council member, said that she had a difficult time going against property rights. In planning commission, however, the commission and the Davies had agreed on some specifics. One of those was that access would be maintained to the walkway.



SENIOR BALL 2016 • Juab High School will be holding their annual Senior Ball on Saturday, December 3 at the Juab High School Gymnasium. This year's theme is "Footloose". Doors will open at 7:00 p.m. Floor show will start at 8:00 p.m. Cost is \$7.00 single, \$10.00 couples, and \$20.00 for immediate family. This year's royalty, left to right, is King Andrew Kool, Queen Sarah Harmon, 1st Court, Brendan Krogh and Tonisha Kelley, 2nd Court, Hunter Steele and Eliza Black, 3rd Court, Eric Baird and Taylor McCallistar.



96 South Main

Nephi, UT 84648

Deadlines: Monday 12 noon

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(435) 623-0525

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