

# FEBRUARY UPDATE FROM MAYOR RICHARD HOLCOMB

**It's hard to believe that the second month of my term has now passed, and what a busy month it has been! A few snapshots are below:**

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, I attended the monthly Elephant Butte Volunteer Fire Department's business meeting. Fire Chief Roger Long presented information regarding the new software program that will connect all of Sierra County's emergency agencies together in real time to facilitate more effective emergency responses. Fire Chief Long and Captain Farless are facilitating implementation for the City of EB to ensure all applicable entities are tied in. And continuing with the Fire Department, on February 10<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Fire Department's Award Ceremony, which recognized fire department volunteers for outstanding service and promotions. It was impressive, to say the least, and helped open the eyes of all in attendance to the extensive services conducted by our volunteer fire department.

More than 100 were in attendance at the Mayor's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Valentine's Dance, hosted by First Lady, Janine Sjostrom (Holcomb) and myself. We are deeply appreciative of the many volunteers who helped Janine set up, decorate, and prepare the hors d'oeuvres... Bowen Clark for DJing... and Blair and Randy from Turtleback for serving as bartenders. Most of all, we appreciate all of you who attended and we look forward to seeing you at the 2027 Valentine's dance!

The dance brought up the issue of inter-resident communication. Through this event, we were able to develop a database of roughly 100 emails, which leaves another 1500 or so to go! With a beautiful new community center as well as new bathrooms at the event site, our community has every reason to plan and hold many more community events. Please help us further develop that database by sharing your email with Janine so that we can share upcoming events with you: [janine@cliffdwellerdigital.com](mailto:janine@cliffdwellerdigital.com).

From February 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>, the City Council, City Manager, and I were all involved in a three-day workshop to begin a long-term planning process for our city. Retired Marine Sergeant Major Eugene McPeek facilitated as we identified priorities. Over the next few weeks, we'll finalize objectives and timelines as we move into the budgeting process for our next fiscal year, which begins July 1. We recognize that many exciting opportunities and challenges lie ahead, which means it's critical that we look not just at our immediate needs, but those that are one, five, and even ten years down the road. Many of you have heard me say, "Strap yourself in and be prepared for an exciting few years ahead for us all," and I truly believe that to be true. Change can be a bit scary... possibly unnerving... but it can also be exciting providing we work together for the good of our community, which, I believe, is exactly what our City Manager and Council are doing.

**Please remember that transparency goes both ways. If you have something on your mind, please share. Meanwhile, I'll continue to keep you updated via this website. You can reach out to me with any suggestions or concerns at:**

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