

As a prior member of the Clearfield City Council and a longtime member of the Clearfield Parks and Recreation Commission, I am enthusiastically in support of renewing the PARAT tax and strongly encourage all voters to support it.

Although this sales tax is indeed a tax, and like residents I am against unnecessary and excessive taxes, I support this sales tax renewal because:

- The tax is a very small part of any sale but provides substantial funds in aggregate: One cent for every \$10 spent on non-food items.
- This tax is already in place and so there is no increase in anyone's budget.
- Since a substantial amount of sales in the City are made by non-residents, the tax is largely paid by non-residents but substantially benefits City residents.
- Around \$2.5M has been spent over the last 10 years on valuable and important items which could not have been paid for in any other way because of the numerous demands on the City budget. This money does not go to any expenses except parks, arts, recreation, aquatics and trails.

Here is a list of what has been constructed with that \$2.5M from the existing tax:

1. Pickleball courts at Steed Park
2. Seven new playgrounds where the parks did not have one
3. Renovation of the Clearfield Community Arts Center, allowing it to be fully used for performances and arts
4. New facilities at the Aquatic & Fitness Center to replace aging structures
5. Mountain biking trail along the Rail Trail

Most, if not all, of these projects would not have been possible without the PARAT tax funds. It should be obvious how much these mean to the residents and others.

If this renewal passes, the City will have continued sales tax revenue available for other parks, recreation, aquatics and trails projects that simply won't be funded through general funds. City elected officials will prioritize from a long list of project while welcoming input regarding how and where those funds will be spent. Since expenses in Clearfield will probably increase, I feel that we would exceed the \$2.5M over the next ten years.

If this renewal does not pass, then the residents will see substantially less improvement in parks, arts, recreation, aquatics and trails because the general fund cannot support them to the desired (and necessary) level, which will be a detriment to every resident.

Feel free to contact me if you want to talk more about this!

Vern Phipps

Clearfield Resident