# Mayor Hart's recommended amended General Plan language

**(Introduction)**

Ivins City is located in southwestern Utah not far from Zion National Park. Situated beneath its iconic Big Red Mountain and adjacent to Snow Canyon State Park it is home to the Tuacahn Center for the Arts, Red Mountain Resort and Spa, Movara Fitness Resort and Spa and Kayenta's Crescent Moon Inn and Coyote Gulch Art Village with other resort properties underway including Encanto and the luxury resort complex Sentierre. Emerging as a resort destination Ivins City is first and foremost a peaceful family and retirement friendly bedroom community with just over 7,500 residents in 2014. It is estimated that it will attain a build out population of approximately 20,000.

The purpose of the Ivins City General Plan is to steer development toward a well conceived future preserving the city's magnificent natural assets and desirable lifestyle by avoiding the pitfalls of reckless growth. With nearly two thirds of its area as yet undeveloped Ivins City has the enviable opportunity of becoming precisely what it foresees by taking charge of its own destiny through this General Plan and accompanying Land Use, Zoning and Development Maps and Ordinances.

**(Chapter 2 – The Economic Future for Ivins City)**

Ivins City was settled by thirteen hardy farmers and their families who moved to the arid Santa Clara bench between 1922 and 1926 after manually carving an irrigation canal that originated three miles upstream on the Santa Clara River in exchange for an acre of ground. They built their own homes, scratched the parched earth to plant gardens, dug ditches, built roads and eked out a meager existence raising a variety of crops many of which did not grow well here. The original Ivins town site now known as the historic township remained a small farming community for decades. It was granted a post office in 1924 that was located in a room attached to Ed & Lula Tobler's home and doubled as the school. The residents built a one room church in 1926. In 1930 electricity was brought to the town with the residents providing the poles and labor. In 1933 the Civilian Conservation Corps completed the Windsor Diversion Dam at the head of the irrigation canal to control flooding and ice damage. In 1935 Ivins was incorporated and the Town of Ivins named after Anthony W. Ivins, a prominent early civic and religious leader in the area, was created. By 1950 the residents had together constructed a pipeline across the lava beds from the Johnson's Arch spring bringing culinary water to the town and had oiled the gravel road connecting the town to Highway 91. The completion of Snow Canyon Parkway in 1998 provided a critical second convenient access to Ivins City, Snow Canyon State Park, Red Mountain Resort and Tuacahn. Significant development in east Ivins has followed. Ivins achieved "city" status in 1998 and became a Class 5 City (from 1,000 to 10,000 residents) in 2003 as defined by the new State statute. It is now the fourth largest city in Washington County.

Ivins City grew very slowly until the early 1980s when the Kayenta subdivision, a unique desert community focused on preserving the natural landscape with large lots and low profile southwestern style homes was created bringing a new image and interest to Ivins City. Retirement communities began to locate here a few years later establishing yet another trend that remains to this day. The National Institute of Fitness later renamed Red Mountain Resort and Spa was built near the entrance to Snow Canyon in 1978 followed by the Tuacahn Center for the Arts located in Padre Canyon in 1995 and the development of Coyote Gulch Art Villiage in Kayenta. These attractions along with Fitness

Ridge now Movara Fitness Resort and the Crescent Moon Inn in Kayenta that came later have over time brought national and international recognition to our city.

Steady growth and our developing image as a resort destination and arts community has lured additional businesses, restaurants, galleries and shops to locate here along with Tuacahn High School for the Performing Arts, Vista Charter School focused on the arts and technology and the Southern Utah Veterans Home. The Encanto resort complex is now under construction as is the Kayenta Center for the Arts due to be completed in 2016 and Sentierre, a world class luxury resort, is in the final planning stages with construction scheduled to begin in the spring of 2016. It is likely that these enterprises will attract additional resort related businesses with other more conventional ones expected to come as our population continues to grow.

The vision and work ethic of our early settlers combined with the careful planning of new generations of residents has established a beautiful and thriving city with a wonderful heritage and a bright future.

**(Conclusion)**

The quality of life currently enjoyed in Ivins City coupled with the potential magnitude and pace of growth demands the attention of all its residents. The City Council, Planning Commission, appointed boards and committees, City Staff, developers and residents will do their greatest work in defining and promoting Ivins City as an ideal place to live for old and young alike and as a world class resort destination. This will not occur without consistent efforts to protect our scenic views and preserve our unique character that have made Ivins City great.