

00:00:08:16 - 00:00:25:22

Mayor Nadolski

Welcome, everybody, to the audio podcast. I'm Ogden City Mayor Ben Nadolski, and this is the place where we talk about Ogden in our history, by talking about the people who make Ogden. And today I'm joined by an old friend, Steve Handy, former representative Steve Handy, which is where I first met you, right? Yes.

00:00:25:22 - 00:00:28:18

Steve Handy

We did, yes we did. We had a great run together, mayor.

00:00:28:18 - 00:00:45:07

Mayor Nadolski

We had a good run, so we had a great run. I used to work in legislative affairs in my prior career. Yeah, and got to work with a lot of legislators, including Steve and, so you've you've always been a joy to work with. Thank you. So it's it's fitting now that I get to work with you as the new chair of the Pioneer Days Foundation.

00:00:45:07 - 00:00:46:00

Mayor Nadolski

Yes. Right.

00:00:46:04 - 00:00:47:02

Steve Handy

That's exactly right.

00:00:47:06 - 00:00:50:04

Mayor Nadolski

So you'll be taking over for Allen Hall? Yeah.

00:00:50:04 - 00:01:07:14

Steve Handy

Allen had a great run for a number of years, 7 or 8 years, and, announced his retirement. And, so I, was appointed the vice chair elect last year, and then, he, he, he vacated his cowboy boots on July 24th, 2024. So here we are.

00:01:07:14 - 00:01:13:20

Mayor Nadolski

Yeah. And he'd be pretty. Well, Vicki, that's on the other day. And I joked with him, I'm like, hey, man, if you need a ticket or something. Yeah, let me know. Yeah, I got a guy.

00:01:13:22 - 00:01:15:22

Steve Handy

Yeah I got a guy. I know a guy, I know a guy.

00:01:15:23 - 00:01:18:00

Mayor Nadolski

Only one ticket though. Yeah.

00:01:18:02 - 00:01:34:20

Steve Handy

No, but amazing things that he did because he brought after privatization. There were some in the late 90s. There were some really difficult years, you know, and with the city's support. And Allen brought really business principles to what we really needed.

00:01:34:20 - 00:01:47:08

Mayor Nadolski

Yeah. And when you say privatization, there was a transition period between when the city was kind of owned and ran the show versus when it became a private entity through the foundation with support from the city. And that's been the model that's really worked.

00:01:47:13 - 00:02:09:12

Steve Handy

The best is a marvelous model today because I was involved 35 years ago, mayor and I had risen up to be the chair and the and the vice chair 35 years ago, 40 years ago, maybe. And, it was a marvelous thing with the city, but we our hands were tied. We wanted to do things. And I understand that our hands were tied and, and we we weren't able to grow the way that we thought we could.

00:02:09:12 - 00:02:11:01

Steve Handy

So it's, it's a it's a great day.

00:02:11:01 - 00:02:36:18

Mayor Nadolski

Well, we're actually sitting in a, in a podcast studio called The Other Way. Yeah. And that's not for, for nothing. Yeah. I mean, the Ogden way, it really is about a collaborative model and, setting ourselves up for a framework to where to where the city and our nonprofit partners and private partners and other government entities can collaborate to make sure that we're all aligned in the work that we're doing, and then we're all sort of going in the same direction, working toward the same goals.

00:02:36:20 - 00:02:54:16

Mayor Nadolski

Because this is a perfect example, there are efficiencies to be gained. Yes. For the taxpayers, for the people that enjoy the the rodeo. Right. Just the bottom line, you guys are doing much better in terms of revenue sponsorships are people want to sponsor a foundation much more. They want to sponsor government, am I right?

00:02:54:19 - 00:02:56:00

Steve Handy

That's exactly right.

00:02:56:00 - 00:02:56:14

Mayor Nadolski

Right, right.

00:02:56:15 - 00:02:57:08

Steve Handy

That's exactly.

00:02:57:08 - 00:03:14:03

Mayor Nadolski

Right. So these are the this is the kind of model and the arrangement that works and helps us build community and helps us be our best. So thanks for taking that on. Thank you. Yeah. What are, I mean, for anybody that's listening or has or watching that hasn't been to the rodeo. What. Tell you what what they could expect.

00:03:14:06 - 00:03:35:16

Steve Handy

Well, yeah, this is what they expect. And I think, mayor, we have to go back just a little bit in the time machine to 1934, when one of Ogden's legendary mares harmed Perry in the

depths of the depression. Now we can we kind of appreciate this today. 25% unemployment. Wow. And so he and his colleagues looked for something to bring joy and bring the community together.

00:03:35:16 - 00:04:00:20

Steve Handy

And there was already obviously, in those days, a lot of Western heritage. The 1847 Mormon pioneers, there were still, you know, really direct descendants and people that had known people who actually crossed the plains up to 1869. And there had been these celebrations. But he formalized it and named it Ogden Pioneer Days. And so went out here in the old Lorin Farr Park, where we still are.

00:04:00:20 - 00:04:27:21

Steve Handy

It's the West most spectacular outdoor setting. And so here we are now, all these years later, our 91st year. And I was born and raised in Ogden. I've gone to the rodeo my whole life. I've been around livestock and horses and a little bit of that hobby, hobby kind of stuff. But we were. County certainly is a long way away from the rural from rural kind of things.

00:04:27:23 - 00:04:50:16

Steve Handy

You know, and most people, they, they, you know, but the Western lifestyle it today and I credit really kind of Kevin Costner's Yellowstone series just kicked off this phenomenon of people want to be involved in the Western lifestyle, the clothing, all of this, all of this. And so we're exploiting that or not exploiting. We're kind of riding that wave here in 2025.

00:04:50:16 - 00:05:08:16

Steve Handy

And it's a really exciting. So most of the people who come will get ten, 11,000 people a night out here at our stadium. They don't know. They never ridden a horse, they don't know anything about it, but they just it's tradition. They want to go and have a good time. They want to see some cowboy get kicked in the head.

00:05:08:16 - 00:05:36:19

Steve Handy

Unfortunately, by a bull, they want to see someone get thrown off. They and then we're going to give that to them for a really, really reasonable price of about the average price, about \$20 a ticket. You can't get that kind of entertainment anywhere else. And so but the other thing I want to say, real quickly, mare, and your other questions, is that Ogden Pioneer Days has grown up to be there are 765, sanctioned professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

00:05:36:21 - 00:05:55:19

Steve Handy

Ogden is number 14. That's because of the money that we pay out and I've talked to people now in the industry and just held in high esteem. And I think people need to understand what we have here, even though even if you don't have never ridden a horse or anything like that, it's just really a fun time.

00:05:55:19 - 00:06:19:13

Mayor Nadolski

It is. So as you know, the mayor gets to go to the rodeo every night. But I think it's important that I do because I'm an ambassador for the city, and this is an important event for the city. Yes it is. It's an important week of events, right? Yes. And, I was there last year, and, of course, you know, through the week sometimes I'm in the program a little bit for in between events, shaking hands, shaking hands or giving awards.

00:06:19:13 - 00:06:20:12

Steve Handy

Or whatever, giving awards.

00:06:20:16 - 00:06:26:19

Mayor Nadolski

And so someone I was out in the crowd, there was a couple that were here from Florida on their way to Wyoming for the.

00:06:26:19 - 00:06:28:00

Steve Handy

Giant frontier days, probably.

00:06:28:00 - 00:06:28:22

Mayor Nadolski

Yeah. Yep. And they.

00:06:28:22 - 00:06:29:06

Steve Handy

Stopped in.

00:06:29:06 - 00:06:45:06

Mayor Nadolski

Ogden. Yep. And they had the rodeo in their own city in Florida. Stop the night on the way because they'd heard about the reputation and they said, mayor, you just have to know how amazing this event is. And I'm like, absolutely, I know. Right? Yeah. But they're like, but we just wanted to tell you that we're from Florida and this is incredible.

00:06:45:09 - 00:06:47:05

Steve Handy

An exciting testimonial there.

00:06:47:05 - 00:07:03:17

Mayor Nadolski

It is. And it's easy for those of us that live here and, and take local things for granted. Take it for granted. Right? Right. Yeah. And there's like, you know, there's a lot of people out there that just maybe they don't think much of Ogden right outside of Ogden. Right. But yeah, we think a lot of ourselves and we do good things.

00:07:03:17 - 00:07:10:01

Mayor Nadolski

We do great things. We do world class things. Even world class people that come out of Ogden. We do, we do. This is a world class.

00:07:10:06 - 00:07:29:02

Steve Handy

I've talked to people in the rodeo industry and and I they saw I was wearing my shirt with my stuff. Oh, you're from Ogden. Let me tell you about Ogden. This guy from the PRCA board said last year at the convention in Las Vegas. He said Ogden is held in high esteem. You treat the contestants extremely well. It's a great place to come.

00:07:29:05 - 00:07:36:10

Steve Handy

The rodeo was well-run and organized. The crowd, the fans are rendus and the setting is like none other.

00:07:36:10 - 00:07:36:20

Mayor Nadolski

It's true.

00:07:36:20 - 00:07:41:12

Steve Handy

And when your horses get tired, you take them down and that Ogden River and cool them off, he said. It's just it's.

00:07:41:16 - 00:07:42:11

Mayor Nadolski

That's that's.

00:07:42:13 - 00:07:43:03

Steve Handy

Unbelievable.

00:07:43:03 - 00:07:43:19

Mayor Nadolski

That's even better.

00:07:43:19 - 00:07:44:22

Steve Handy

Yeah, it's even better.

00:07:45:00 - 00:07:46:01

Mayor Nadolski

It's like, oh, it's so.

00:07:46:03 - 00:07:55:01

Steve Handy

We have really something really great going for us, okay, that people really ought to really understand and remember. We kind of take it for granted, but understand, you know.

00:07:55:03 - 00:08:15:07

Mayor Nadolski

Let's talk about that for a second, because it's more than just the rodeo. We we hear this a lot in this office. People come to Ogden. For example, I had a guest here who was a guest speaker at Weber State talking about, sustainability. And he had a completely different take on sustainability is totally nonpartisan. And I loved the where he was coming from.

00:08:15:07 - 00:08:34:23

Mayor Nadolski

So we brought him into the, in the studio. And on the way here, just driving from there to here, it's like, this place just welcomes you. Yeah. He was like, and we hear that same testimonial all the time. When people come to Ogden, they feel welcomed. Yes. Right. And it is right. And within a day or two they're like, I just feel so at ease.

00:08:34:23 - 00:08:57:15

Mayor Nadolski

And at home here. And I love that about us. Right. And that's talking to one of our officers everyday. And he talked. It's like sometimes it feels like it's Ogden against the world. But at the same time it's us, it's Ogden, and we're in that same unity. You know, I think that's something that we take for granted here, but it's something that people that come from outside, they notice it, they feel it, they.

00:08:57:15 - 00:09:17:04

Steve Handy

Know it, and they recognize it and they embrace it. And they and they spread the word. And I think that's really, really great. I mean, like I say, I'm an Ogden boy. And so I know all about Ogden and I, I've worked here for ten years for the, for the newspaper and, and in the advertising business. And so I, I know Ogden and I know organs resurgence.

00:09:17:06 - 00:09:34:22

Steve Handy

I know I was here on 25th street last Friday night for the car show, 40,000 people or whatever that was. It's just it's just a blast. It's amazing. And just. And the things you have in the amphitheater and, and then we have this 24th of July multiple day celebration, the rodeo, the parade, all kinds of other activities.

00:09:34:22 - 00:09:40:20

Steve Handy

And I think it's part of the the fabric and the flavor that makes Ogden so unique and so special.

00:09:40:21 - 00:09:51:02

Mayor Nadolski

Right. It's a whole week of celebration. Yeah. And we've seen make it better every year by adding something or doing something new. Something unique. Like like the flag flying over 25th Street. It's like one of my favorite.

00:09:51:02 - 00:09:53:11

Steve Handy

That is so great. And we're going to do that again.

00:09:53:13 - 00:10:02:03

Mayor Nadolski

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Absolutely. Great. I love the flag, so I'm always I'll always support that. Yeah. But what are some of the things or some of the new things that we can expect for the rodeo.

00:10:02:03 - 00:10:26:11

Steve Handy

Yeah. This this year we're, we're doing something, you know, this is typically a five night performance of the rodeo with this year, we would start on July 19th. We always skip a Sunday. Other activities on a Sunday. And then you go the 21st, 22nd, 23rd ending on the 24th, which is kind of our be our Statehood Day, de facto Statehood Day in Utah, as we know, celebrations all up and down the state.

00:10:26:13 - 00:10:55:14

Steve Handy

But we're going to start on the 18th of Friday. And we've called this bulls, broncs and bands. So this is a an additional night of the rodeo. We're bringing in an up and coming, country music star named Chancey Williams. He's going to be the night before in, Dickinson, North Dakota bus here. Do do the concert here with us in the stadium the next night in big Sky, Montana, and then on to Cheyenne Frontier days, boom, boom, boom, boom boom.

00:10:55:14 - 00:10:57:08

Steve Handy

So, so this is going to be.

00:10:57:08 - 00:11:01:14

Mayor Nadolski

So I got the order a little bit. Yeah. Then you know. Yeah. There you go.

00:11:01:20 - 00:11:24:15

Steve Handy

So anyway, so this is a little bit the ticket prices are a little bit more 48. You know dollars or so and up a little bit but still very very affordable. But it'll be a mini rodeo. We'll have we'll have a local band. Charlie Jenkins band will be on starting at 530. And then we'll have, we'll do some rough stock and bulls and some rocks and some other things.

00:11:24:20 - 00:11:44:13

Steve Handy

And then we have this really neat guy. He's a he's a bull jumper. He brings these little bulls and they charge him and he jumps over them. I've seen the video and you're just going how does this guy do this? And then we'll have our John Harrison clown who's you know we're so fortunate to have him. He's famous third rated I mean for three years in a row.

00:11:44:13 - 00:11:48:15

Steve Handy

The entertainer of the year in the rodeo world. And then Roger Mooney, who's been here 20 years with.

00:11:48:15 - 00:11:49:14

Mayor Nadolski

Us, is also world.

00:11:49:14 - 00:12:13:12

Steve Handy

Famous. We're premiere announcer and announcers at the National Finals Rodeo. And then we'll have at, at about, 930. Chancey Williams will go on. And so we've figured out how to divide the old the stadium. And it's it's going to be spectacular. So people can buy tickets

and they should buy them not through a reseller, but be careful to buy them through Ogden Pioneer days.com through our website.

00:12:13:15 - 00:12:28:19

Steve Handy

Okay. It's very, very easy. And, that's the way it ought to go. But we we are so hopeful that people will embrace this and it'll be a it's a Friday night and going into a nice weekend. And why not why not. Right. Why not. What's going to be a great time.

00:12:28:19 - 00:12:32:13

Mayor Nadolski

Is there a better place to be that time of year than at the rodeo?

00:12:32:15 - 00:12:42:23

Steve Handy

There's no better place. You see that that, that that sun began to sit and and reflecting off of our mountains. Here it is. It is like none other.

00:12:42:23 - 00:12:50:07

Mayor Nadolski

But there is a time there, like you start showing up like, oh, it's really hot, you know, really, really hot. And then but it just suddenly it just, it just as the show starts.

00:12:50:07 - 00:12:51:08

Steve Handy

Suddenly as the show.

00:12:51:10 - 00:12:54:08

Mayor Nadolski

It just settles down. Right? Yes.

00:12:54:10 - 00:13:10:01

Steve Handy

And we're going to be doing that. We started last year with Lou at the on the rodeo nights. Mayor will be will doing this this incredible drone show. You saw the drone show last year. It is just unbelievable. You know, we had for lots of years those, those they would jump the motorcycles out there. And that was amazing.

00:13:10:05 - 00:13:19:12

Steve Handy

But we've now gone to a drone show and it was so successful last year. We're going to do it again. And they just upgrade in the eastern sky. It's just amazing that.

00:13:19:12 - 00:13:24:11

Mayor Nadolski

It's cool that the fun thing about the drones is you guys get to customize the show. You hit on Ogden themes.

00:13:24:12 - 00:13:24:23

Steve Handy

The show.

00:13:24:23 - 00:13:35:12

Mayor Nadolski

And we did it. We did it, for the Union Station as well. And to see Ogden themes in the sky like that is really fun. Yeah, makes for great imagery, great memories. Right?

00:13:35:13 - 00:13:55:12

Steve Handy

Yeah. It's just a spectacular night. I can't think, you know, and again, again, the 91 years of tradition that Ogden Pioneer Days have and even though we're a long way away from a real rural, a rural county and a rural city, those roots are there. People want to honor their heritage, whatever that heritage is. It's just so many fun activities.

00:13:55:12 - 00:14:21:02

Steve Handy

And they're affordable, they're accessible, they're safe. And thanks to your incredible staff, your parks department, your your first responders, your the Ogden City Police Department, the Ogden City Fire Department, they were there present, present last night in our committee meeting, fully engaged, fully assisting, just embracing everything that we're doing. It's just a an amazing, partnership.

00:14:21:05 - 00:14:24:05

Mayor Nadolski

Yeah. That is I appreciate you bringing the staff into it because it's such.

00:14:24:08 - 00:14:25:10

Steve Handy

So appreciate it's an.

00:14:25:10 - 00:14:44:11

Mayor Nadolski

Important testament to, you know, when you working in public. Yeah. Public works. Right. When we, when we work for government, people are there's an inherent mistrust that I get that all. And, but they have a tendency to be taken for granted. They are. People often get overlooked in the effort that they put into things to make things work.

00:14:44:13 - 00:14:56:12

Mayor Nadolski

It's just so overlooked from the the parade to, you know, to the rodeo and everything in between and every single event, every logistic in detail, like when the like when the like.

00:14:56:14 - 00:14:57:22

Steve Handy

Last year when the generator went out.

00:14:57:22 - 00:15:00:02

Mayor Nadolski

Like, holy cow was that.

00:15:00:04 - 00:15:09:11

Steve Handy

And it was this moment scrambled and made that happen. It was. And everything. You know, it's the best laid plans. And sometimes things go wrong, particularly when you're dealing with technology.

00:15:09:14 - 00:15:13:06

Mayor Nadolski

Well, it was a brand new stadium upgrade.

00:15:13:08 - 00:15:24:05

Steve Handy

You know, the first time \$1 million stadium upgrade, everything had been done. Renamed at the Spencer Fox Eccles, Pioneer Stadium. We're we're ready to go. Getting going to help our our field.

00:15:24:06 - 00:15:28:09

Mayor Nadolski

Everything had been tested. Everything was good to go. Yes. And then things.

00:15:28:09 - 00:15:29:08

Steve Handy

Happened. Things happen.

00:15:29:09 - 00:15:41:20

Mayor Nadolski

And it was it was just it was our staff I remember. Yes. The whole stadium froze. Yeah. And our staff, everybody froze and I looked around and I remember seeing our staff were the ones running. Yeah.

00:15:41:20 - 00:15:42:23

Steve Handy

They were running. Scrambling.

00:15:42:23 - 00:15:49:00

Mayor Nadolski

Yeah. And in that moment, of course the mayor's not going to do anything in the moment to fix it. Right. Like. Yeah, yeah. What do I know.

00:15:49:02 - 00:15:49:19

Steve Handy

What do you know. But.

00:15:49:23 - 00:16:09:04

Mayor Nadolski

Right. And I'm and I'm looking at my people and I was my heart stopped for them because there was so much pressure on them in that moment. And, one of our guys, our facilities crew, was the one that had the idea to to in the moment, for the time being, to use the, the generator on the welder that we had.

00:16:09:06 - 00:16:26:03

Mayor Nadolski

Yeah. Right. To get the, to get the stadium going back up again. And then, while they were doing that, our public works director, who was there for the show, he was all in, in the moment. So he got out of his seat, ran down with his team, and he's calling Udot or or a contractor or whatever. Yeah.

00:16:26:04 - 00:16:41:09

Mayor Nadolski

They got the the more stable replacement on the way. The show continued on. No one ever knew, right? No. But there were public employees behind there. Ogden City employees under the stands, sweating bullets to make sure it didn't stop. Right?

00:16:41:11 - 00:16:58:14

Steve Handy

Right. And, mayor, this is the kind of I mean, this is just a gift from heaven. I'm going to call it almost this kind of a partnership where those 20, 25 years ago, the city said, look, we love this. This is our thing. We're going to continue to do this, but we need help. Let's reach out to the citizenry.

00:16:58:14 - 00:17:13:06

Steve Handy

Let's set up this foundation. And, and but we're the this is the city facility. We're going to still be involved in a big way. And I just saw enthusiasm last night from your people at the committee meeting. Just absolutely all in all.

00:17:13:06 - 00:17:15:12

Mayor Nadolski

In their weight together, incredible people.

00:17:15:19 - 00:17:17:00

Steve Handy

Just incredible.

00:17:17:06 - 00:17:25:10

Mayor Nadolski

Well, most people just don't get to enjoy that though with them. So thank you for oh, just thanks for highlighting it but recognizing it and then highlighting it. Yes.

00:17:25:12 - 00:17:41:21

Steve Handy

So critical. Couldn't couldn't do it. I mean we, we we couldn't do it. It would it would it. You'd have to have that ticket price out there, you know, at \$100 or so if you had to have, if

you had to hire staff that had that kind of expertise coming from, you know, from the outside world.

00:17:42:00 - 00:17:56:09

Mayor Nadolski

Well, and we have to do it. And we've had staff that have been doing this time and time and time here for years. And they understand, they know it. They know the infrastructure inside it, out there on the program, inside and out. They know the logistics in and out and man, we are so lucky to have them so lucky.

00:17:56:09 - 00:18:15:13

Mayor Nadolski

One of the things that we see in our staff here in the city is they feel very purpose driven there. They feel like they're connected and working within the like really consistent with their purpose in their why. Right, right. It's it's all about art. And they love this town. And so working here is more than just working at Ogden City Corporation.

00:18:15:15 - 00:18:32:02

Steve Handy

Well, that's a credit to look, look, mayor, that's a credit. And I've been an elected official. But that's a credit to you, the council, the stability that we have seen. And I always looking at Ogden following Ogden, you know, the stability and the and the guidance and the leadership that, that we see here in Ogden City, it's important.

00:18:32:02 - 00:18:32:20

Steve Handy

It's paying.

00:18:32:20 - 00:18:35:10

Mayor Nadolski

Off. This isn't Washington, D.C., this is Ogden, USA.

00:18:35:10 - 00:18:43:04

Steve Handy

Ogden, USA. Right? We get things done. We listen to our our constituency. We're going to fix that pothole or whatever it is.

00:18:43:05 - 00:18:44:01

Mayor Nadolski

We just work.

00:18:44:03 - 00:18:45:07

Steve Handy

We do the work, just work.

00:18:45:08 - 00:18:45:18

Mayor Nadolski

Well, and.

00:18:45:20 - 00:18:48:07

Steve Handy

We get joy from that and satisfaction from that.

00:18:48:07 - 00:19:07:15

Mayor Nadolski

That's correct. It feels like we're serving our life purpose. Right. But it's more than just doing the work. It's making sure like washing dishes. And I get a whole lot done at the moment. Know there's a history of that. But, here in Ogden, if we I really pride myself in that, that we don't take things like the traditional partizanship.

00:19:07:17 - 00:19:22:06

Mayor Nadolski

I mean, we don't lob bombs at each other in order to to get what we want. We work in a collaborative way, a communicative and a transparent way to work toward what we believe is best for Ogden, regardless of Partizanship. Right. It's not the point. It's not about party. It's about people.

00:19:22:06 - 00:19:23:11

Steve Handy

That's it's about people.

00:19:23:11 - 00:19:43:03

Mayor Nadolski

And so when you have that kind of governance of that kind of focus, like we have had for a long time, we've actually been hearing recently that people are upset that we're not mad at each other enough. And it's like, look, we got disagreements. We just don't treat each other that way here. You know, like if something if push came to shove and things got bad, but you would, you'd hear us get chirpy, there's no doubt we would.

00:19:43:03 - 00:19:52:12

Mayor Nadolski

Yeah. But there's a, there's alignment and there's consistency. And stability and, and sense of purpose that I think is really important for community I.

00:19:52:12 - 00:20:09:16

Steve Handy

Shouldn't be we can agree to disagree. But let's let's keep in mind what the real focus is. It's serving the citizens of this community and making Ogden better and better each day, each week, each month, each year. And, big, big challenges, big challenges out there today. Oh, but big.

00:20:09:16 - 00:20:10:04

Mayor Nadolski

Time.

00:20:10:04 - 00:20:31:20

Steve Handy

Big time challenges, but just addressing them. And so just now and so now we come to a famous and it really is a famous Ogden celebration. And it's a time to, you know, be it be a cowboy for a week. Well and and and just do your thing and enjoy and and just and just be so grateful that we have these opportunities here for us.

00:20:31:20 - 00:20:33:20

Mayor Nadolski

It is nice that I don't have to wear a suit every day.

00:20:34:01 - 00:20:34:16

Steve Handy

For a week, guys.

00:20:34:17 - 00:20:39:05

Mayor Nadolski

Yes, but blue jeans and boots, it's a lot more like what I came from actually.

00:20:39:08 - 00:20:39:17

Steve Handy

Actually.

00:20:39:17 - 00:20:50:12

Mayor Nadolski

Yeah, yeah, that's why I've never been a cowboy myself, but I've. I have been a blue jeans and work boots guy. Yes. For a lot of my life. So it's really nice to go back go back to that sense for a week.

00:20:50:12 - 00:20:52:21

Steve Handy

That's terrific. Mayor. Yeah. Well right.

00:20:53:03 - 00:20:58:17

Mayor Nadolski

Well is there anything else new we can look forward to this year or,

00:20:58:19 - 00:21:20:22

Steve Handy

You know, I think that, in that stadium, refurbishment was the was the sound system is a very expensive sound system, but long overdue and much and much needed. And, you know, I can't complain. It's too loud. And so we've heard those things and got it got to turn it down and but the stadium, the stadiums in of course, it's in an older part of the city.

00:21:21:00 - 00:21:41:16

Steve Handy

And, you know, the parking is funky on the grass out there. I've done that my whole life. I think it's very fun. We do have a terrific parking option where North of the LDS temple. That open space there belongs to the LDS church. We have a we've got a partnership there with the Ogden School, district and their vendor to bus people.

00:21:41:16 - 00:21:58:17

Steve Handy

I mean, it is A34 minute in and out of there. It's so easy to get in and out of the stadium. Don't hassle about the parking. Even as fun as it is on the grass. Yeah, on the east and west sides, it's pretty limited and you want to be very respectful of the neighborhoods around there, and they've been putting up with it for.

00:21:58:19 - 00:21:59:08

Mayor Nadolski

I know the.

00:21:59:09 - 00:22:03:05

Steve Handy

Years, 90 years, but I hope that I, I hope there are very few.

00:22:03:05 - 00:22:04:13

Mayor Nadolski

There's a lot but is a lot.

00:22:04:13 - 00:22:25:15

Steve Handy

It's a lot of impact on them for. Yeah, it is. You think about you think about what happens there dragging in all those, you know, the, the wild, the, the bucking horses and the bucking bulls and the steers and the, you know, and, and I should say too, if people just want to, you know, just want to the real rodeo fans every morning there's what's called slack.

00:22:25:17 - 00:22:47:06

Steve Handy

It's free of charge, starts about 9:00. You can go out there and just sit in the hot sun, bring your umbrella and get a get a cold drink, whatever. Nothing. There's concessions aren't open. But just enjoy for free these same competitors that are working their way up because we don't have enough room in the five six nights of the rodeo this year or any year to put all these competitors in.

00:22:47:06 - 00:23:15:23

Steve Handy

And we bring in a thousand competitors. Mayor, these are the top rodeo contestants. A lot of people don't know who they are. It doesn't matter. They are the best of the district. And they, you know, the 26 different countries represented. But this is a time in, in late July where, these contestants, they can run from Ogden to, to, to the Salt Lake Rodeo to Spanish Fork and rodeo down there.

00:23:16:02 - 00:23:32:02

Steve Handy

And they they can just clean up on their prize money and they just love it. You don't have to get on a plane. You don't have to drive 12 hours to a rodeo in California. You know, you can just stay right here in this corridor. And it is it is really something special that's just happened and growing up.

00:23:32:02 - 00:23:33:16

Steve Handy

And so we're all benefiting.

00:23:33:16 - 00:23:49:09

Mayor Nadolski

But you said something that I think one of the things we take for granted. Yeah, you said first of all these these are athletes we're talking about. Yes. That they're professionals. You said 26 countries represented. Yes. That's this is an international sporting event.

00:23:49:09 - 00:23:50:06

Steve Handy

It is becoming not.

00:23:50:06 - 00:24:09:05

Mayor Nadolski

Just an entertainment event. This is an international sporting event which is important to remember because we're we will be hosting an international sporting event in 2034. The Olympics is coming to Utah. Ogden being one of the host cities for for the Olympics. Yes. And this is a this is part of our culture. It's part of our DNA. Yes.

00:24:09:08 - 00:24:19:04

Mayor Nadolski

We take for granted that we often forget that we lose sight of that connection. Right. But this this is a world class of it, literally, with world class athletes from all over the world.

00:24:19:06 - 00:24:19:22

Steve Handy

From right.

00:24:19:22 - 00:24:20:22

Mayor Nadolski

Here in our own backyard.

00:24:20:22 - 00:24:22:09

Steve Handy

Right here to good old Ogden, Utah.

00:24:22:10 - 00:24:33:11

Mayor Nadolski

That's right. And those kinds of things come with enormous impacts for this community. Tremendous benefits. Right? Right. So what are some of those I see you got your your booklet out. Yeah.

00:24:33:13 - 00:24:57:20

Steve Handy

Yeah. I mean, you know, we will give out \$600,000 in prize money. And so the contestants pay money in the committee adds money to and it comes up to this huge number. And that's where Ogden gets ranked. And in the top 14, because of our of our payouts. I mean, 500 Volun volunteers, the top bareback rider last year won almost \$12,000.

00:24:57:22 - 00:25:19:01

Steve Handy

You know, eight seconds of work. It's it's based upon the draw the animal that they're going to that they're going to ride and and these and these these these horses and these bulls. I've seen these auctions a little bit of these auctions. I saw a bull that I've seen here at Ogden before, sell for \$100,000. This is big.

00:25:19:03 - 00:25:44:04

Steve Handy

This is big tennis. Oh, yeah. Big business. And, and you know, it's not it's not the NBA. It's not the NFL. No, but this is big business, for for this for this segment. And like I say, the Western lifestyle is just exploding in the United States right now. And it's very fun to be on that wave here in Ogden and to celebrate, to go into the 91st edition of Ogden Pioneer Days.

00:25:44:06 - 00:25:45:03

Mayor Nadolski

Well, we're excited about.

00:25:45:03 - 00:26:02:15

Steve Handy

Thank you. Thank you, mayor, your staff, you're all of the people for your assistance, your help, your support, your enthusiasm and and being present and being present as the head of the city here at all of these, events, as you as your as your time allows.

00:26:02:21 - 00:26:14:11

Mayor Nadolski

Oh, it's an honor to do it, actually. And all the credit goes to the staff. The the work is being done in the trenches. The. I'm telling you, I mean, the Monti stewards of Ogden.

00:26:14:13 - 00:26:15:09

Steve Handy

Body stewards of.

00:26:15:09 - 00:26:38:03

Mayor Nadolski

Ogden, like the the rich kings that have been doing it for years. The, the the police staff that put in the overtime shifts the and same with fire first responders. The public works facilities. I mean they they just put in so much energy and effort. It's more than just putting in the hours. Right? They're putting in everything they have.

00:26:38:03 - 00:26:59:14

Mayor Nadolski

I mean, they're taking time from their families. Part of why that neighborhood is so impacted is because we're working on that rodeo almost 24 hours a day for that, for the lead up during and the tear down, you know, exactly. And so and it's those are people Ogden City employees, public employees that people think one thing about a public employee and it's not what we have here.

00:26:59:16 - 00:27:03:17

Mayor Nadolski

We got people that absolutely grind for us. Right?

00:27:03:20 - 00:27:36:21

Steve Handy

Right. That's exactly right. I know exactly right. And, and, and I can just see the joy in, in their faces. They love what they're doing. I mean it is it's 5 or 6 nights of just in intensity, but they really love what they're doing and that and that pays off and that pays off. And I think the, the folks who come to, you know, we will have in that neighborhood of 50,000 people to Ogden Pioneer Days and more with our additional night on the 18th, our Bulls broncs and bands on the 18th, we'll have even more.

00:27:36:23 - 00:28:02:06

Steve Handy

And so it's, it's it takes a lot to manage that. But it's not our first rodeo. There you go. Hunting and improve. You go every year. But this is just, you know, we know what we're doing. We have an incredibly dedicated committee. No one is paid. We have one 1099 employee who's part time duty. You know, who keeps us all running and together, but everyone else involved.

00:28:02:08 - 00:28:02:17

Mayor Nadolski

That's pretty.

00:28:02:17 - 00:28:05:03

Steve Handy

Impressive. The foundation is very impressive.

00:28:05:03 - 00:28:05:21

Mayor Nadolski

So if you're what?

00:28:05:21 - 00:28:06:15

Steve Handy

Very impressive.

00:28:06:17 - 00:28:13:21

Mayor Nadolski

Back to how we began that structure. In that framework, there's the efficiencies. Those are the those that cost savings to have that foundation structure.

00:28:13:21 - 00:28:39:10

Steve Handy

And so that same passion and and, and, and desire to succeed and serve the people comes from the foundation. It's multiple committees down. And then and then in this collaborative partnership with the professional Ogden City staff, who also exhibit at the same level of dedication and passion and, and after it's over on the night of the 24th, there's a lot of cleanup and all that kind of stuff.

00:28:39:12 - 00:28:59:16

Steve Handy

But I think people have to go away with a smile on their faces. Those who've been involved in it just so deeply, wow, we did it. We did it again. Everyone had a great time. This improves our community. This this enhances, this this this city's reputation. It's one of those elements, one of those items.

00:28:59:16 - 00:29:06:17

Mayor Nadolski

It's just one of those things that continues to keep things. Keep Ogden on the stage. Yeah. Keeps us relevant. Pushes us. Moving us forward.

00:29:06:17 - 00:29:07:17

Steve Handy

Is relevant moving.

00:29:07:17 - 00:29:26:11

Mayor Nadolski

Forward. The economic impact of an event like this is so big. Yeah. Right. Yeah. And, and I should say that we don't it's we don't have that, sense of purpose only at Ogden City and

our employees. Right. It's an Ogden thing, right? That's why the foundation is replete with it. And it's bigger than just Ogden City proper.

00:29:26:11 - 00:29:29:06

Mayor Nadolski

This is an Ogden community. The greater Ogden community is.

00:29:29:07 - 00:29:29:14

Steve Handy

Yeah.

00:29:29:14 - 00:29:54:18

Mayor Nadolski

Right. So if you're from West Haven, you still be still associated with Ogden is home to us, right? Right. That's right. And there's a sense of pride. You see, the greater Ogden community really come in and contribute to this thing here in Ogden City, right. As we welcome the world and and I do think that there is still certainly we're a long ways from the rural frontier here, here in the Wasatch Front and then the city from where we're sitting.

00:29:54:18 - 00:30:01:18

Mayor Nadolski

But there are still elements of the western frontier and the heritage throughout our county, throughout the western Weber County. Exactly. Right.

00:30:01:18 - 00:30:24:05

Steve Handy

Right. And those and those multiple generations, those deep roots. Right, are there. And and individuals want to, you know, honor their where however many generations you go

back and there are all kinds of there are all kinds of definitions of what a pioneer is. It's not just the 1847 to 1869 pioneers, you know, I mean, there are pioneers today.

00:30:24:05 - 00:30:37:02

Steve Handy

And so Mayor Ogden City in with this Ogden way, you you are pioneering in your own way, a vision, a direction. Success for the city of Detroit. And it's it's what what a great thing.

00:30:37:02 - 00:30:59:02

Mayor Nadolski

Well, actually, we've been talking about the rodeo. We really should be talking about the pioneers. We really should be. What this all stands for and what? Why we're doing it and celebrating. Right. Why? Because it's significant. I didn't come up with the odd in a way out of nothing. Yeah. In fact, getting back to what, you know, when I was working in legislative affairs, I was working with the, Governor Herbert's administration at that time.

00:30:59:02 - 00:31:15:08

Mayor Nadolski

Yes. Right. Yes. You were and worked with a lot of different, cabinet members and appointees. And I remember him the most. That was one of the biggest impressions he made on me is he talked about the Utah way a lot and me being a kid from Phoenix, you know.

00:31:15:10 - 00:31:16:10

Steve Handy

Like, what is that?

00:31:16:12 - 00:31:46:00

Mayor Nadolski

Yeah. Like when he says that, what does it mean? Yes, it and it's not like it's not like it's in the dictionary. You know, it's just the thing that we talk about, it's really a cultural thing. And, and I started I asked him and I asked others and that's really where this came from, is I never forgot what it was to be in Utah and what it means to work here, because you see that sense of pioneer heritage and that spirit, it's a spirit of independence, but it's also a spirit of togetherness.

00:31:46:01 - 00:32:13:02

Mayor Nadolski

Right? Because our pioneers face so many challenges, you know, escaping persecution, for starters, that where do we come with that independent streak? But then you don't you don't escape persecution, come across the the plains in the country through all of those challenging those struggles without some sense of togetherness and community. Right? Right. And it's amazing to me, and this is what I love most about Utah, is that that's still in us.

00:32:13:04 - 00:32:29:23

Mayor Nadolski

I mean, it's it is so deep within our bones and within our blood that when the governor at the time just says that little thing, I'm like, what does that mean? What does that mean? And I'm like, oh, right. Because those are the things that brought me here. Those are the things I felt. How you feel welcome to when you come to Ogden.

00:32:30:01 - 00:32:41:00

Mayor Nadolski

The people embrace you. I came on a football recruiting visit and felt different here for something different here for some reason, couldn't tell. I told my parents when I had the to the to the finalists for which scholarship to sign that your.

00:32:41:00 - 00:32:41:18

Steve Handy

Offers you had.

00:32:41:18 - 00:32:54:17

Mayor Nadolski

Yeah I'm like, I don't know why, but this one just feels right. Yeah, it just felt right when I was there. I can't explain it to them. A major they didn't have the winning tradition at the time, you know. I mean, but it felt right. Yeah. And that's what it means to be a utahn.

00:32:54:17 - 00:32:55:21

Steve Handy

Look at you today, mayor.

00:32:55:22 - 00:32:57:05

Mayor Nadolski

Look at you know who to thank, right?

00:32:57:05 - 00:33:02:05

Steve Handy

Who was the look at you. You don't know the twists and turns of the day. It's going to.

00:33:02:07 - 00:33:14:01

Mayor Nadolski

So when I saw that scholarship, I had no idea that one day I'd be the mayor of the city that I'm coming to. But that's the Utah way. And it's still the Ogden way. Yeah. Other ways, a little bit different. We do it with a chip on our shoulder. We got a lot of people that don't believe in us.

00:33:14:01 - 00:33:36:14

Mayor Nadolski

We believe in ourselves. Right? Yeah. And we've got a spirit of drive and grit and compassion for each other and collaboration that others just don't have. And that's why we develop a framework for ourselves, a vision for our city. Great. A mission and a vision and shared values and a framework for all of us to work together, not just here at the city for all as as, nonprofit partners.

00:33:36:14 - 00:33:39:10

Mayor Nadolski

Yeah, yeah, that's the Arden way. That's the Oregon way. Right?

00:33:39:10 - 00:34:02:19

Steve Handy

And, you know, we can we can look at some old books around here, have some scripture, and that is that, you know, where there is no vision, the people perish. And so you have to have people have to have a vision, and they have to know where they're going, and they'll they'll embrace it. And, you know, you, you, you could you could even talk about that, about, you know, the 1847 and 1869 pioneers.

00:34:02:21 - 00:34:33:19

Steve Handy

They didn't know where they were going initially. They were going to they came here and they carved it out. And you look at the heritage here of the Fort Wayne Ventura, you know, the the Goodyear cabin, the mountain and all this stuff. They, they, they come the Brigham Young companies come and they carve this out and, and I've got these old that my, my dad was a lawyer here in Ogden and, and I have this old map of Ogden laid out the way it was, you know, and and then in the days they, they change the streets, the street names to the to honor the presidents.

00:34:33:19 - 00:34:37:00

Steve Handy

And that's fine, you know. Yeah. And it's just it's just a color.

00:34:37:00 - 00:34:38:20

Mayor Nadolski

And that was like an act of resistance, wasn't it?

00:34:38:21 - 00:34:58:23

Steve Handy

That was an act of resistance. But I think in my own pioneer, my, my own heritage, I mean, my father was born in 1921, and he spent most of his time here in Ogden. And he he sold newspapers as a young kid over here on 24th. And Washington. And his grandfather had been an actual pioneer who came in 1863.

00:34:59:03 - 00:35:17:13

Steve Handy

So that in my family and lots of these families, and it doesn't have to be those kinds of pioneers. It has to be pioneers today. And pioneering the way we're talking about the Ogden way and moving this, this incredible city forward to, you know, to, to be what it can be better and better and better every day, every year.

00:35:17:13 - 00:35:19:04

Mayor Nadolski

Always building, always.

00:35:19:06 - 00:35:20:02

Steve Handy

Always improving.

00:35:20:02 - 00:35:27:03

Mayor Nadolski

Which is actually one of our shared values in the opposite way, is a continual mindset of personal, professional and and collaborative community.

00:35:27:03 - 00:35:29:07

Steve Handy

Growth. Isn't that so great that.

00:35:29:09 - 00:35:53:11

Mayor Nadolski

Well, and you don't have to be bashful when you mention the scriptures because it's all part parcel to our culture here. It's a, it's a it's our heritage, whether you believe in it or not or you or you ascribe to a spiritual or faith heritage here, whatever it is you believe or don't believe. I do believe in our culture and what we come from, what we what we stand for, right?

00:35:53:13 - 00:36:26:16

Mayor Nadolski

And this pioneer heritage and culture is a blessing for everybody. Because imagine the strength in the sense of faith, in the enduring faith. You have the kind of struggle, the stories that you hear when when we kick off the week at the Tabernacle and they share the stories of pioneers losing nine children along the way, yet still having the faith and the vision for what they're doing and why and where they're going, the.

00:36:26:16 - 00:36:30:09

Steve Handy

Fortitude and the grit. You mentioned grit that is.

00:36:30:14 - 00:36:35:03

Mayor Nadolski

Yeah, absolutely inspiring, regardless of your faith, right?

00:36:35:03 - 00:36:36:22

Steve Handy

Yes. It has to be inspiring.

00:36:37:02 - 00:36:57:07

Mayor Nadolski

That's all is part of why Ogden is such an incredible place. That's why people come here and they feel something different. That's why when they come to work, they feel different. That's why when they volunteer and serve on the foundation, it's different. Yeah. It's different. So when you come and you enjoy our rodeo, it's different put on by people for people, right?

00:36:57:10 - 00:36:59:23

Mayor Nadolski

Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Not just corporate. Yeah.

00:36:59:23 - 00:37:21:04

Steve Handy

The only, the only, the only thing the we the volunteers, the foundation we get out of it is just the joy of making it in improving it every year and making it better and better. And how to see how Ogden Pioneers has grown from this, this little local thing to this international, internationally, a nationally recognized event within this, this space.

00:37:21:04 - 00:37:33:13

Steve Handy

Most people don't know about it. They don't embrace it, but they just have to know. And that's why thank you for this opportunity to kind of express some of these things, Mayor, and, and just reinforce and educate maybe a little bit.

00:37:33:15 - 00:37:57:15

Mayor Nadolski

Always looking for that. But it's that same exact thing that you mentioned, the car show that's put on by Ogden people. That's right. With support from Ogden City staff. Right, right. Those are Ogden people and and other people that come from all over regulars, year after year after year to show off their vehicle in their car, to spend time in Ogden in the places they love to be, along with our people, people that they love to be around.

00:37:57:20 - 00:38:02:13

Mayor Nadolski

Right? Same with our marathon. We just had a marathon. We got people from all over the world.

00:38:02:13 - 00:38:03:05

Steve Handy

Ogden Marathon.

00:38:03:05 - 00:38:24:09

Mayor Nadolski

Boston qualifier. It's a it's it's one of the best marathons in the world. Unbelievable. As evidenced by the runners. By the runners, I mean surveys by Runner's World magazine

route. Because runners not only enjoy the course and the run, it's a gorgeous run. They love the people. They feel different when they come here. That's the spirit of Ogden, right?

00:38:24:11 - 00:38:26:05

Mayor Nadolski

Like, how blessed are we? Yeah, yeah.

00:38:26:08 - 00:38:32:18

Steve Handy

We are really blessed. And let's let's not take it for granted. Let's remember it. Let's embrace it. Let's let's hold it dear.

00:38:32:20 - 00:38:57:17

Mayor Nadolski

That's exactly right. So and I think that is a good point to end on is you let's not take it for granted, but let's do hold it dear. Let's remember that we have a, an important role of stewardship in the spirit of the pioneer days, right? That's right. Let's remember who we are, where we come from. Remember the gifts that our pioneers of in us when we celebrate that week.

00:38:57:19 - 00:39:05:06

Mayor Nadolski

And let's make sure for our call to action, that if you don't have your rodeo tickets yet, what was the website again?

00:39:05:09 - 00:39:33:04

Steve Handy

Well, it's Ogden Pioneer. Ogden Pioneer days.com starts on the 18th with an added event. This year brought bulls, broncs and bands up, up and coming Chancey Williams. And it's going to be a little mini rodeo. And then we'll start the actual five nights on this on the 19th. Saturday's skip Sunday 1 to 20 first, 22nd, 23rd, 24th Miss Rodeo, Utah coronation, all kinds of great things.

00:39:33:04 - 00:39:40:14

Steve Handy

Just a great, great time and, look forward to seeing you, mayor there and the council and your guests and your families.

00:39:40:14 - 00:39:41:03

Mayor Nadolski

Absolutely.

00:39:41:03 - 00:39:46:00

Steve Handy

And we're all going to just kick up our heels and play cowboy cowgirl for about a week.

00:39:46:00 - 00:39:59:16

Mayor Nadolski

That's right. So thank you to Steve Handy. Thank you to the for the foundation. Thank you to the city staff. Thank you to the City Council. Thank you to the people of Ogden, the volunteers who make it all possible. Gosh, I wish it was this next week, right?

00:39:59:16 - 00:40:00:19

Steve Handy

Yeah, yeah, we got the.

00:40:00:19 - 00:40:05:05

Mayor Nadolski

Excited, but I'm glad we have time to give our people thank you. An opportunity to get involved.

00:40:05:05 - 00:40:06:08

Steve Handy

Story today, mayor. Thank you.

00:40:06:10 - 00:40:24:11

Mayor Nadolski

Thank you. Steve Handy, an old friend, but also, an old contributor to Ogden Ogden High graduate, chair of the foundation. Everybody, thanks for being with us. Until our next episode of the Ogden Way. Make sure you get out there, get involved, give back to our people, and live the spirit of the Ogden Way.