

Mayor's Report
26 September 2022 – 1 October 2022
Larry Jacobsen



Greetings, Boss. Here is my status report describing some of the things I worked on this week.

Our new Nibley City Engineer, Tom Dickinson, started this week. Tom is going to be a great asset to Nibley. Several Logan City employees have told me how lucky we are to have him in Nibley, and how much they will miss him.

Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO)

The CMPO started the process of choosing next year's transportation projects to fund with the voter-approved local sales tax. There is around \$7M available this year and Nibley submitted three projects totaling \$4.6M that would continue to develop 1200 West. Forty percent of the competitive award is from scoring by a technical committee relating to congestion mitigation and safety. Our three projects scored the top three rankings by the technical committee. The other sixty percent of the decision is from the 19 mayors and the County Executive. With Justin Maughan's help, I gave a sales pitch for our projects to the other mayors on Monday, 3 October.

There are total of 18 project applications. This number of applications is much higher than last year because early this year the mayors eliminated the requirement that projects of more than \$300k have completed a 90 percent engineering design. Ours were the only large projects that met the now-eliminated engineering requirement. The only detractor that I see from getting our three projects funded by the CMPO is the feeling from some mayors that Nibley would receive a disproportionate amount of this year's money. We have great arguments for why we deserve it. However, it's a political process, and you know how that goes. I confess that even if we only get one or two projects funded this year, it will still be a success. In that case, we will wait for the other project(s) to get money in the next year or two. We will know the results for this year by the end of October.

2600 South

More work here this week. We have started talking to a third party (in addition to Nibley City and the landowner) about a solution that could allow Nibley City to accept ownership of 2600 South and open the road without putting Nibley citizens at risk of having to pay to finish it. I am hopeful and will say more when I can.

Ridgeline Park Engineering Design

A group of us met a couple of times to decide on a recommendation to the City Council for the contract to do the engineering design of the city-owned park in the Ridgeline Park development. They were productive meetings, with Tom Dickinson, our new City Engineer, playing a key role. There are pickleball courts and a pavilion planned for this first phase, along with lots of area to be left as natural wetlands.

Those wetlands in Ridgeline Park, along with the Firefly Nature Park, along with other city-owned open spaces – particularly along 1200 West, makes me realize that while these areas are less costly to manage than manicured parks, they still require management. In addition, these natural spaces require a different management style than watering and mowing sports fields. One of the findings from a recent Wellness Survey by the USU Extension Office presented to the Parks and Rec Committee (more on the survey in a future report) shows that these areas are highly important to Nibley citizens. Sports fields are important too. It's just that I was pleased to see our citizen's connection to nature well represented by the survey. Justin and I started talking about Nibley's management approach on the city's nature-oriented properties. I am enthusiastic. These natural areas are one of the things that make us proud to live in Nibley, and we will do a good job of managing them for our citizens.

Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG)

I am on the Governing Board for BRAG, and we met last week. We mostly talk about economic development, and last week's meeting was centered on that as well. The good news from our recent discussions is that economic development is about more than creating jobs. Economic development is also about filling those jobs, and about the quality of life for the people that fill those jobs. Case in point, the recent \$1.9M grant made to the Stokes Nature Center to develop an outdoor classroom in Nibley came from the Federal Economic Development Agency (EDA). The Nature Center estimated (high, I think) that ten jobs will be created from the \$1.9M award. That's a lot of money to create ten jobs. However, the potential to improve the quality of life for the residents of Cache Valley with the outdoor classroom is the point – even if the money comes from the EDA.

Thanks for your interest, boss. Please call, text, or write anytime.

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