

Mayor's Report

14 November 2022 – 23 November 2022

Larry Jacobsen

Greetings, boss. Here is my status report showing some recent Nibley activity.

Solid Waste

The City Council held a special meeting on 17 November to decide that Nibley City will join with thirteen municipalities and the unincorporated part of Cache County to form the Cache Waste Consortium (CWC). As usual, I appreciate our Council's thoughtful, thorough, and respectful discussion and consideration on this decision. The purpose of this consortium is to collect and landfill trash. The need to form this Consortium results from Logan City's decision to stop providing this service after 50 years of doing so. Mayors from around Cache County, along with County representatives, have been working on this issue for more than eight months, starting when Logan notified us that they would stop collecting trash outside of Logan. The intent of working with other cities and the county is to achieve an economy of scale with participating entities to keep costs down.

There has been lots of effort (and a bit of drama) to get to this point of forming the CWC. Prior work involved requesting and receiving unofficial bids from private companies to collect, haul, and dump trash. The bids were unofficial because there was no governmental organization with the authority to collect fees and award a contract to a private company. The unofficial bids from four different companies did, however, show us that we can do this without Logan, and likely do it at a cost that will compete with Logan. With the new interlocal entity formed, the CWC can now re-request and re-receive bids to issue a bona fide contract to a private company.

One of the issues the mayors worked to resolve was whether Logan would give areas outside of Logan a fair deal for dumping trash in their landfill. It's a bit ironic that Logan built a new landfill with fees collected from all over Cache County, but Logan is the owner of that landfill. Perhaps in part due to legislation sponsored by our State Representative, Casey Snider, Logan has proposed reasonable terms for landfilling county-wide trash. Another issue was how entities might leave the CWC after joining if they believe they can do a better job than the CWC – especially after the CWC awards a private hauling contract. This is complicated by the possibility of the CWC accruing debt to develop assets. As the mayors worked through these issues, we decided the CWC would not be allowed to accrue debt for the first five years. In addition, to maintain the economy of scale to achieve reasonable rates like those quoted, participating entities must remain in the CWC during the term of a contract with a private company. I am in favor of a public entity eventually providing this service and developing assets, but for now, I believe we should work with a private company before making long-term commitments. The CWC makes that possible.

While Logan's decision to stop collecting and landfilling trash seemed rather sudden after 50 years of doing so, I don't blame Logan for "pulling the plug". We have certainly scrambled to find an alternative. I believe Logan grew tired of providing county-wide services for people outside their jurisdiction. The people outside of Logan are not the boss of Logan City. This is equivalent to the idea that you, the people inside of Nibley, are the boss of me. Because we are all residents of Cache County, and I see a future opportunity for Cache County to play a bigger role in providing county-wide services, including solid waste services, rather than leaving them to Logan.

Ordinance Rework

It seems increasingly difficult for Nibley City to enforce our ordinances. The Council has been clear, and I believe our citizens expect, that we enforce the rules on traffic control, land-use, business activity, and animal control. We contract with Cache County for law enforcement and animal control, and they tell us that a reorganization of some of the ordinance would make enforcement easier. City staff and I got started on that ordinance rework. After we have a new draft, we will work with law enforcement and animal control officers – along with our hired city prosecutor – to ensure that we have a more enforceable ordinance. After that, I look forward to taking that new ordinance to Council.

Miscellaneous

Other meetings last week included representatives from around the county and the Cache Valley Transit District to plan for future transit corridors. In addition, Justin, Tom, and I met with UDOT officials to talk about access along US 89-91 for future commercial development in Nibley.

City Hall Break-In

You may have heard that we had a break-in at Nibley City Hall last week. This was very disappointing, and it could have been worse. I feel we had reasonable security in place, but obviously, we can do better. We will take lessons learned from this event and improve our protection of Nibley Citizen's property.

Thanks for reading, boss. Please call, text, or write anytime.

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