

Mayor's Report

5 December 2022 – 10 December 2022

Larry Jacobsen

Greetings, boss. Here is an update on some Nibley work from last week.

Thomas Edison Charter School, Continued

I previously mentioned a proposal on the Watermark property north of the Thomas Edison Charter School in last week's Status Report (nibleycity.com/images/2022/Mayors_Journal/2022_12_03.pdf). This property is in Logan, and the Logan City Council last week denied a proposed rezone from Commercial to MR-30 (mixed residential, thirty units per acre). After speaking with Principal Kirk from the charter school, I spent time researching Logan's Development Code. Unfortunately, I don't believe that either of these zones will necessarily alleviate the concerns that Principal Kirk has expressed – in part because either zone allows residential housing at thirty units per acre. That opinion was confirmed by a Logan City Council Member in their meeting.

On a different angle, Mayor Daines indicated in the Logan Council meeting that Logan has offered to move the Watermark property into Nibley's jurisdiction. As a result, several Nibley residents have asked me and other Nibley Councilmembers about that possibility. The potential confusion with Mayor Daines' statement is that Logan's offer is not a clean exchange on this one property. Instead, it is a package deal that includes many properties, one of which is an already-developed commercial property in Nibley that adds in a meaningful way to our rather modest economic base. I have consulted with individual Nibley Councilmembers, and we don't see a fair trade with the package deal suggested by Logan. To ensure that I understood Logan's position correctly, I called Mayor Daines after the Logan Council meeting, and she confirmed that Logan is not interested in moving the municipal boundary on only the Watermark property.

I mentioned in the last report that if the landowner desires it, there still might be the possibility of moving this single property from Logan to Nibley. Despite this being a long shot, we are working to discuss that possibility with the landowner in a Nibley City Council meeting in January.

Here is the Cache Valley Daily article on the rezone request in Logan.

www.cachevalleydaily.com/news/archive/2022/12/12/logan-city-council-bows-to-public-concerns-by-nixing-watermark-rezone/?fbclid=IwAR3CmFKwvzrj_kSz-jqFIZTZB-piFqKhiuCemRs0NnkM8PfkUplvyAgafP0#.Y5fcX3bMLre

Cache Waste Consortium (CWC)

Another item continued from a previous report is the collective effort of thirteen municipalities and the unincorporated county to provide trash collection. This is the result of Logan informing us in February that they would no longer be collecting trash outside of Logan boundaries. Here is the link to my previous report.

www.nibleycity.com/images/2022/Mayors_Journal/2022_11_23a.pdf

Last week the Cache Waste Consortium put out an official Request for Proposals and received official bids from four different third-party trash haulers. The good news is the haulers remained true to their unofficial bids that we received before forming the CWC, and I am optimistic that we can replace the service from Logan with competitive costs – perhaps even less. This week we will meet with the four haulers, one at a time, to discuss their bids. It will be nice to find a resolution to this issue, as many mayors and staff have spent lots of time on this effort.

Budget Award

It was a pleasure to learn that Nibley City received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for our current fiscal year. Congratulations and proud appreciation to Amy Johnson (Nibley City Treasurer), Justin Maughan, and staff department heads – along with the City Council – for their work on Nibley’s budget. According to the GFOA letter of notification, “This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting.” The panel of independent reviewers give the award based on our budget’s “excellence as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communications tool.” If you believe municipal budgets are dry and boring, then I encourage you to have a look at Nibley City’s budget to see if we can change your mind.

www.nibleycity.com/index.php/departments/finance/budgets

Mayor’s Monarch Pledge

Perhaps you know Becky Yeager (I’m Becky’s husband) and her enthusiastic efforts to provide pollinator habitat – especially for Monarch butterflies – in Nibley City and northern Utah. Last year Becky helped Nibley fulfill our Mayor’s Monarch Pledge with the National Wildlife Federation, and we have made a new pledge for this year. If you are interested in what we are committed to in 2023, then here is a link. Thank you, Becky.

nwf.org/mayorsmonarchportal/Community?CommunityId=375&ProgramYearId=4

Miscellaneous

The economic success of Cache Valley brings incredible pressure for growth in Nibley, as you are certainly aware. That pressure means lots of land-use activity with rezone requests and development projects. I hope you will visit our website (www.nibleycity.com, the Government Tab) to keep up with the goings on of the Planning Commission and City Council as we work on these issues.

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

Larry
435-512-7495
larry@nibleycity.com

Many thanks to Leslie Maughan for proofreading and giving feedback on this report.