

Mayor's Report

22 January 2023 – 4 February 2023

Larry Jacobsen

Greetings, boss. Here are some highlights from the past two weeks.

2600 South

Yes, we are still working on it. I reported previously (link below) on progress with the owner of 2600 South on an agreement that would allow Nibley City to accept ownership of the road, despite it being incomplete. The key to enabling this acceptance is the owner providing financial assurance that the road would be completed in the future at the owner's expense. The usual method for this is the owner purchasing a bond (or insurance policy) on behalf of Nibley City. At this point, the owner is unwilling or unable to provide that assurance. City staff, including our attorney, and I are not accepting that explanation and standing firm on the agreement already adopted by the City Council.

https://nibleycity.com/images/2022/Mayors_Journal/2022_11_12_1.pdf

Logan's Approval of the Altitude Project

The Logan Planning Commission recently approved the Altitude multi-family attached housing project on Nibley's northern boundary. On completion, this 38-acre project will equal one-third of the households in Nibley. The project location is north of Clear Creek and east of 800 West. Nibley City protested Logan's annexation of this property when it occurred a couple of years ago but lost the protest. The Logan City Planner reported in the Logan Planning Commission's meeting that Nibley City submitted comments and concerns, but they were submitted after the deadline. That statement was made in error, and later corrected (link below). Even after the correction, the Logan Planner told me the Planning Commission couldn't do much with our comments because the Logan Land Development Code does not require the project to consider the impacts of surrounding neighborhoods if they are outside of Logan. The specific project plan that was approved on Nibley's border would not have been allowed if it were surrounded by Logan City. Logan Code would have required building-height terracing and additional setbacks if this project had been adjacent to specific, named single-family zones within Logan. Despite Nibley having adjacent, similar zones, they are not named the same as the Logan zones, so the Logan Planning Commission did not (could not?) consider those impacts to the Nibley neighborhood. To be clear, had Logan applied their code as if the adjacent neighborhood were in Logan, this project would likely have been approved. However, there would have been additional requirements to mitigate the impact to adjacent neighborhoods.

I see the process that led to this approval as another symptom of the lack of regional planning in Cache Valley. Although the border between Nibley and Logan is not likely to change, I believe our respective ordinances should not let developers ignore their impacts to adjacent neighborhoods simply because they are in a different municipality. It's too late for the Altitude project, but for whatever it's worth, I look forward to addressing this issue with Logan elected officials and looking through Nibley's own Ordinances to encourage regional planning and land-use cooperation.

<https://www.cachevalleydaily.com/news/archive/2023/01/25/750-unit-planned-development-approved-for-south-logan/#.Y9gJ-HbMLrc>

New Americans Task Force

I attended a New Americans Task Force seminar that presented the importance and contribution of New Americans in Cache County. New Americans are legal immigrants and refugees. I look forward to helping Nibley play a role in the process to welcome this group to our community.

<https://cachevalleydaily.com/news/archive/2023/01/25/nearly-50-local-stakeholders-attend-new-americans-task-force-meeting/#.Y9gLtHbMLrc>

Parks and Recreation Committee

I attended a Parks and Rec Committee meeting. Nibley City will be updating our Parks and Recreation Plan this year. Levi Roberts, Nibley City Planner, has drafted a Request for Proposal (RFP) to find an outside firm to help us with the process. Please be on the lookout. There will be lots of opportunities for public involvement as we update this plan.

The Parks and Recreation Committee also discussed with Chad Wright, Nibley Recreation Director, an RFP to hire a consultant to help us with a feasibility study on an indoor recreation facility. The study will determine the demand within Nibley and surrounding communities, construction costs, operating costs, possible participation with neighboring communities, and—most importantly—how we might pay for the facility.

Mobile Home Park Application

I mentioned previously our Planning Commission's denial of a Conditional-Use Permit for a mobile home park on 800 West. The period that would allow an appeal of that denial has expired, and the applicant did not make an appeal. In addition, the Planning Commission passed to the Council a recommendation to remove Mobile Home Parks from the land-use chart. If that change is adopted by the Council, then new Mobile Home Parks will not be allowed in Nibley. .

Ridgeline High School Panel Discussion

I spent a few hours at Ridgeline High School participating in a panel discussion held by the Senior Government Class. Kay Sweeten and Nathan Laursen from our City Council also participated during different class periods than the ones I was involved with. This was a lot of fun, and a great opportunity for me to talk about the importance of citizens being involved in local government. Think about it. Is there a level of government that is more involved in your daily lives—more “in your face”—than local government? Local government tells you where you can build your house, the required size of your lot, how tall your house can be, and even how many dogs you can have. In addition, local government provides culinary water, sewer service, trash collection, roads (including snow plowing), parks, and recreation programs. While national politics may have more drama and get more attention, I maintain

the importance of being actively involved in local government where it affects your daily life and it's easier to make a difference.

BRAG Point-In-Time Count

Becky and I spent the wee hours of last Saturday morning helping with the Point-In-Time Count of unsheltered people in Cache Valley. This count is conducted annually by the Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG) and is an important event to document these members of our community. The count enables BRAG to receive federal funding that provides important human services. Becky and I were assigned territory to search for people who do not have access to electricity and heat. It was a meaningful and sobering experience for me that helped me see beyond myself. These individuals have a connection to Cache Valley, and they are part of our community. If you know of someone who is unsheltered, please let them know about the newly established Warming Center (link below) where they can find safety and relief from the cold winter nights of Cache Valley.

<https://www.wabwarmingcenter.org/>

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

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