

Mayor's Report

20 March 2023 – 2 April 2023

Larry Jacobsen

Greetings, Nibley! You are my boss, and here are some things Nibley City has been working on.

Status Report Readership

These reports help me organize my thoughts and let the City Council stay current with what city staff and I are working on. However, the real reason for writing these reports is to help Nibley citizens (my boss) know what is going on in our city. Certainly, there are additional ways to keep up with city governance. Posting Planning Commission and City Council Agendas, Public Information Packets, and Minutes from public meetings are the official methods to distribute public information, and they have tons of important details. I hope you are following those channels. I try not to duplicate the information in those official channels, in part because these reports are not a platform for my personal political views on specific actions. I have other opportunities for that.

Thank you for reading these reports, and thank you for giving me feedback on them. As a way to measure the report readership, I asked Wendy Lindberg, a member of Nibley's office staff, for the number of webpage visits on the Mayor's Journal. Wendy gave me some encouraging numbers. In 2022, there were about 3000 hits, and for the first three months of 2023, we had an additional 2000 visits. I am calling those numbers a success. I realized that one of ways I could improve readership is to have a more regular cadence putting status reports on Nibley's website. Lately I have been putting a new report up on the Monday or Tuesday before the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Those Thursdays correspond to City Council meetings. Whether you want it or not, you get an extra report this month because March 2023 had five Thursdays.

There is one person who I know reads each of these reports. Leslie Maughan, Nibley resident, contacted me a few months ago to offer her help proofreading and reviewing these reports before they go on the Nibley City website. Leslie's volunteer efforts are a great help. Thank you, Leslie!

Free Trees!

Continuing the tradition we started last year, and to honor Nibley as a member of Tree City USA, Becky (I am Becky's husband) and I are giving away 100 bare-root trees and shrubs to Nibley citizens. We will hand them out on a first-come, first-served basis starting at **6:00 pm on 25 April at City Hall**. We will start with one tree per person until everyone has a chance, and if we have trees left after the first round, we will give out additional trees until they are gone. We will

have full descriptions of the types of trees available during distribution, and if you want to look up that information in advance, then here they are:

Little Leaf Linden	qty 50 (New this year, it's a great shade tree!)
Golden Currant	qty 20
Nanking Cherry	qty 20
Elderberry	qty 10

We hope to see you on April 25th!

Firefly Park Reimbursement

Nibley City received a \$1.4M check last week from Cache County for reimbursement on our original \$450k purchase of the Firefly Park property dating back to 2016. That reimbursement was possible because the county owned land in North Logan that had a recreational easement on it, and that easement was compromised by the construction of Green Canyon High School. Rather than transfer that recreational easement to other county-owned land, the county decided to sell their land in North Logan and offer to each of the cities in Cache County reimbursement for newly purchased land that would be devoted to recreational uses. Nibley, North Logan, and Hyde Park participated in this offer from Cache County. We received a reimbursement for more than the original purchase cost because it took more than seven years to complete the sale of all of the original county land, and during that time, the land appreciated in value. In addition, only the three aforementioned cities decided to participate, and the proceeds were divided between only those cities. In addition to the original reimbursement, the county also committed a fifty-percent match on development costs from the RAPZ tax (www.cachecounty.org/rapz/) for eight years, and we have been receiving those funds each year. All of this is not to claim that we made money on the purchase and development of Firefly Park because we had to put our own money into its development. However, the net cost to Nibley City for Firefly Park was roughly break-even and we ended up with an incredible asset for our city. Yippee skippy!

Ordinance Rewrite and Code Enforcement

Much of our last City Council meeting was devoted to ordinance revisions that will help make our Nibley City Code easier to enforce and prosecute. We aren't done working on this, and we had a meeting last week with the Cache County Sheriff's Department and our new Justice Court Prosecutor to help us along. This code revision is necessary because Utah State Code has changed, leaving our code noncompliant in some areas. In addition, we are cleaning up inconsistencies that have cropped up over the years by doing a complete review of the relevant sections. This noncompliance and these inconsistencies, regardless of how small, increase the chance that the Justice Court Judge will dismiss the case, which makes law enforcement officers hesitant to write citations, and makes the citations that are written difficult to prosecute. The newly organized code will improve the process on a number of issues, including unlicensed

business activity, excessive noise, animal land-use violations, and other nuisances. In addition, the new code will let Nibley City handle many code violations in an administrative process rather than a criminal process. We can handle administrative actions in house, thereby improving efficiency and keeping citations off peoples' criminal records. Although we won't handle traffic infractions administratively, you may have noticed extra patrols and traffic stops made by the Sheriff's Office in Nibley City. We have been pressing for this extra activity because issues with traffic safety seem to be ever increasing in our city. The Sheriff recognizes this is a county-wide issue, and additional efforts—like in Nibley—are also happening throughout Cache County. Nibley City is not interested in generating revenue with additional citations for traffic or code violations, but we are trying to change behavior to make Nibley City a healthier and safer place to live. I admit that for me, this is not the fun part of being the Mayor. However, I feel it is important, and many of our citizens have asked for improvements in these areas.

Justin's Performance Evaluation

Justin Maughan, Nibley City Manager, and I recently conducted his annual performance evaluation. Our written comments are part of the Public Information Packet for the City Council meeting on 23 March 2023, and the City Council reviewed and commented on that evaluation in that meeting. It's all good. Actually, no—it's all excellent. I mention this evaluation for the opportunity to show appreciation for Justin and all of the Nibley City Staff. During the past year, I have had the opportunity to be closely involved with other cities' staff as well as our own, and without a doubt, ours is the best. Our staff is professional, efficient, interested in continual improvement, and most importantly, driven by a citizen-centric attitude. Many thanks to our excellent city employees.

BRAG

I attended a Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG) meeting last week. We discussed flooding concerns in our three-county area. Despite the groundwater issues in Cache County, Box Elder County is struggling more than we are. In addition, we heard about economic development in Box Elder County and listened to a report on BRAG's Home Weatherization Program that provides important home improvements to those who need financial help achieving them. I found myself volunteering to be part of the State's Community Development Block Grant committee that channels federal financial assistance to deserving community projects. More on that in a future report.

Cache Waste Consortium

I have covered in many previous reports Nibey's involvement with other communities and the unincorporated county to provide trash collection when Logan stops providing that service. We

have formed the Cache Waste Consortium (CWC) and entered into a contract with Waste Management, a private company, to collect, haul, and landfill our trash. The transition date from Logan will likely be this fall. The costs with Waste Management are going to be within a dollar or two per month per household when compared to the costs with Logan. We will provide additional detail about those costs and additional information about the transition as we approach the start of the new service. Although I wish that there would be no cost increase, Logan has had more than fifty years to develop assets (trucks, transfer stations, and landfills) on the fees we have paid (no, legally we don't own any of those assets), and we have some startup costs to cover with the private contractor.

Route 238, Mill Road

I met with David Zook, Cache County Executive, to talk about a county proposal to turn ownership of a road that used to be a UDOT Route (SR 238), and is now owned by the county, over to the appropriate cities. The cities involved are Logan, River Heights, Providence, Millville, and Nibley. The Nibley portion is what many of us call the Mill Road that runs on the south side of the Maverik store. Although we want this road to continue to serve Nibley and Cache Valley citizens, we are wary about the costs to Nibley residents to achieve that. Details to come as the discussion progresses.

Upcoming Events

The mid-year conference for the Utah League of Cities and Towns will convene in the middle of April, and several Councilmembers and I will attend. This is a great opportunity to learn details of new state legislation that will affect Nibley. In addition, I am one of the speakers at the upcoming Greater Cache Valley Economic Development Summit (I guess, if I have to). I hope to have something to say about these upcoming events in a future report.

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

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As mentioned above, my continued appreciation to Leslie Maughan for proofreading and giving feedback on this report before you see it.