

## **Mayor's Report**

**19 June 2023 – 9 July 2023**

Larry Jacobsen

Greetings, boss! I have mentioned previously that throughout my career as an electrical engineer, I have written periodic status reports to my supervisor. Those reports not only keep my boss up-to-date with my work, they help me organize my own thoughts. With this job as Nibley Mayor, you are my boss. I find similar benefits for me, and hopefully for you, in these reports. I appreciate you reading them, and I welcome your feedback.

I have synced the schedule for writing status reports with the schedule for Nibley City Council meetings. Because July had five Thursdays, there have been three weeks since our last council meeting and, therefore, three weeks since the last status report. I enjoyed the extra week between reports, and I hope you weren't looking for a status report last week.

Here are the topics in this report.

- **2600 South west of 1200 West is Open for Public Use**
- **Off-Highway Vehicles on Nibley Streets**
- **Nibley Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Survey**
- **Guiding our Growth State Survey**
- **CMPO Transportation Plan**
- **Code Enforcement**
- **Animal Land Use Ordinance**
- **Miscellaneous**

### **2600 South west of 1200 West is Open for Public Use**

We have discussed several times that the section of 2600 South that is west of 1200 West was built by a private landowner. Despite its appearance, that section of the road is not completely finished (it lacks curb, gutter, sidewalks, and landscaping), and accepting ownership of a road before it is complete runs the risk of the city footing the bill to finish it. So the plan was for Nibley City to accept ownership of the road upon completion; however, last week, the landowner decided to open the road under their ownership. They made this decision to increase the activeness of their property for commercial development and to encourage UDOT to authorize a stoplight on US-89/91. A recent review from UDOT on the stoplight shows a good chance for a signal at the intersection with 2600 South and US-89/91.

Opening the road, adding a potential stoplight, and the eventual commercial development in the area are all consistent with Nibley plans, and I see these items as exciting, positive steps for our community. .

### **Off-Highway Vehicles on Nibley Streets**

Several residents have contacted me with concerns about the safety of Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) operated on Nibley streets. As discussed in the city's July newsletter, the requirements for OHVs in Nibley City are the same as the State of Utah for use on public land, roads, or trails. Those requirements are that the vehicle be titled and registered with the state, and that the operator must complete an online education course. There are two separate courses: one for youth younger than 18 years old and one for those 18 years and older. For the safety of our residents, I encourage you to operate, and ensure that your children operate, OHVs legally and responsibly. Here are a couple of links to the state requirements.

<https://dmv.utah.gov/vehicles/street-legal-atvs>

<https://recreation.utah.gov/off-highway-vehicles/ohv-education-course/>

### **Nibley Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Survey**

I am going to mention several surveys in this report, and despite the possibility of "survey fatigue," I hope you will consider completing them. The most important survey is the one that is the closest to home. We are currently revising our Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, and your input is incredibly important to this process. Residents often ask me, "When and how are decisions made in local governance?" Planning is the first, and likely the most important, step in making decisions about what we want for Nibley. Taking this survey is the first opportunity for public input, and there will be others, including open houses and public hearings. The easiest way to participate in planning Nibley's future is to complete this survey. Here are links, one in English and one in Spanish, to the online survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/nibleyparks>

<https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/parquesennibley>

### **Guiding our Growth State Survey**

The second survey that I hope you will consider completing deals with growth in the State of Utah. I have mentioned in several reports that the unprecedented growth in Utah, Cache Valley, and Nibley City is the result of economic and reproductive success. We have jobs to offer (The unemployment rate in Cache County varies between 1.5 and 2.0 percent.), and we have children who want to live close-by (86 percent of Cache County's population increase between 2010 and 2020 was from us having kids that remained in the area.). This success had prompted me to ask at various venues, "Are we tired of winning yet?" I believe that the path that provides citizen input at the state level is longer and more tortuous than the path that provides input to local municipalities. In addition, I have been frustrated in the past by my perception that our Utah elected officials push growth but don't seem to be aware of the unintended consequences of that growth. I see this survey as a positive step by the State of Utah to gather citizen input, and I encourage you to let our state officials know your thoughts.

<https://guidingourgrowth.utah.gov/beheard/>

## **Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO) Transportation Plan**

The final survey that I want to tell you about is an opportunity to comment on the draft CMPO Transportation Plan. The CMPO staff and elected officials have spent considerable time on this plan, and your comments can help ensure that we haven't missed important issues. The link below gives you an opportunity to give your thoughts on transportation issues by placing comments directly on a map.

<https://cachempo.org/vision-plans/cmipo-regional-transportation-plan/>

I know that all these surveys are coming at the same time. Sorry about that timing.

## **Code Enforcement**

I have mentioned previously that I believe Nibley City should enforce its ordinances. If they are the wrong ordinances, then we should change them. However, we should enforce enacted ordinances, and the Nibley City Council has supported that conviction. Towards that goal, the council adopted new ordinances at our last meeting that allow an administrative enforcement process in addition to criminal enforcement. This administrative process promises to be more efficient and allows a gentler approach to achieve code compliance, as the new administrative process allows a certain amount of discretion in the enforcement process. For example, if a landowner shows progress moving towards code compliance, issuance of a citation can be delayed while that progress continues.

## **Animal Land-Use Ordinance**

One of the ordinances dating back to 1977 that has not been enforced well relates to animal land uses, specifically regarding how much property is required for large animals such as horses. Recent enforcement of this code has raised the question of whether it is too restrictive. The Nibley City Council and the Planning Commission held a workshop at the council's last meeting to investigate this question, and council members Nathan Laursen and Erin Mann are organizing the ordinance review process. I don't have a strong opinion as to whether we have the correct ordinance or not (Even if I did, I would wait to offer it.), but I am committed to the process that might lead to an ordinance change. That process must include public input from those that feel aggrieved by the existing ordinance as well as those that don't. Please let the council (including me) know your thoughts, and please stay tuned for upcoming opportunities to be heard. Ha! Are you ready for another survey? We have already talked about doing one.

## **Miscellaneous**

To finish this report, I will mention a couple of recent meetings. The first was a Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG) Human Services meeting where we heard a great report about the Head Start Program in northern Utah. This is an inspirational program dating back to the early 1970s that provides no-cost preschool (ages 0 through 5 years) to income-eligible families, focusing especially on kids with disabilities. The second meeting had nothing to do with being mayor: the Cache Valley Historical Society (CVHS). The CVHS hosted Joshua Camp,

Superintendent of the Fort Bridger State Historic Site, who spoke on Jim Bridger's influence on the history of Cache Valley. The CVHS Board is bringing back the Historic Home Tour after taking a break during COVID. If you are into those sorts of things, the tour will be on September 9, 2023. More information to come.

Thanks for reading, boss. Please call, text, or write any time.  
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Thank you, Leslie Maughan, for proofreading and giving me feedback on these reports.