

Mayor's Report

10 July 2023 – 23 July 2023

Larry Jacobsen

Greetings, boss! Thank you for being involved in Nibley City governance and especially for reading this status report.

Here are the topics in this report:

- **Nibley City Public Notifications**
- **Protective Asphalt Coating Efforts**
- **CMPO Transportation Plan and Air Quality**
- **Morgan Farm Update**
- **Safety in Nibley Public Spaces**

Nibley City Public Notifications

An important goal for me during twenty years of involvement in Nibley City governance has been to help Nibley citizens keep up to date with what is going on in local governance. Armed with that information, Nibley's citizens can take part in the governing process that affects their daily lives. These status reports are part of the effort to keep you up to date. Although these reports are not required by any statute, the state does require procedures that help local municipalities keep their citizens informed. One of the best pieces of Utah Code (in my opinion) is the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act (Utah Code 52-4). This code requires that municipalities do the citizens' work in front of its citizens. It stipulates that whenever a majority of the Nibley City Council is discussing city business, then that is an official meeting of the council, and Nibley's citizens must be notified of the meeting's time, location, and—most importantly—the business that will be discussed. There are several ways for the city to provide notification of its meetings to its citizens. The first is the Nibley City website (www.nibleycity.com) under the Government tab. Agendas for upcoming meetings, along with all the information provided to the council (the public information packet), are referenced at this location. This notification precedes the associated council meeting by at least 24 hours. The Nibley website links to the Utah Public Notice website (www.utah.gov/pmnl/) where the agenda and public information packet are provided. In today's cyber-connected world, we are accustomed to information being "pushed" to us rather than having to go "pull" it from a website. Good news! The Utah Public Notice Website allows individuals to sign up for an email notification of any meeting of the Nibley City Council.

Contained within public meetings are special agenda items called public hearings. These are times when the public is specifically invited to address the council by sharing their opinions with the council. As with public meetings, the Nibley City website and the Utah Public Notice website also provide notification of public hearings. If you sign up for email notifications for public meetings, then you will also receive email notifications of public hearings. These special public hearings require special notification preceding the public hearing by at least ten days. There are additional notification efforts for public hearings. For instance, Nibley must ensure that any landowner within 300 feet of a proposed land-use decision be mailed notification of the

upcoming public hearing. In most cases, the proponent of the land-use change must cover the costs of this mailed notification rather than the citizens of Nibley. Utah Code gives a pass to city councils for many public hearings by requiring the planning commission, rather than the council, to hold public hearings related to land use. Nibley, however, makes an extra effort for citizen input on public hearings. As mayor, I get to set the council agenda, and I often schedule public hearings for the council that are not required by Utah Code. For example, the council will hold two public hearings at its upcoming meeting on July 27 that already had public hearings at the Nibley Planning Commission. I'm not the only one that supports these extra opportunities for citizen input, as the rest of the council continues to show support for these extra public hearings. Rather than tell you in this report about those public hearings at the council's next meeting, I encourage you to go have a look through the official notification channels. Please, I urge you to be informed and be involved in the governance of Nibley City.

Protective Asphalt Coating Efforts

I realize that many citizens have been inconvenienced by the protective asphalt coating efforts on Nibley streets during the past couple of weeks. The impact to you is lack of access to roads (sometimes the road that goes past your house) for a day. I appreciate your patience on these efforts, as they have a huge positive impact on the long-term costs of maintaining Nibley City roads. Roads fail and must be replaced when they lose their surface seal and water infiltration causes damage, especially during freeze-thaw cycles in northern Utah. If not maintained with a periodic application of a protective coating, the expected lifetime of a new road is about twenty years. Replacing failed roads is very expensive. However, if we apply a new seal on about a seven-year interval, then roads can last indefinitely. Ironically, the best time to apply this protective seal is soon after the road was first constructed. City staff have put together a rotating schedule to recoat all of Nibley's roads at the appropriate interval. I hope you, as a citizen that pays Nibley City property tax, understand the need for this inconvenience, and I again thank you for your patience.

CMPO Transportation Plan and Air Quality

I mentioned in the last report the Transportation Plan that the Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO) has been working on. Many thanks to the Nibley citizens who commented on the plan, and I encourage you to have a look at the responses to your comments. Last week, the CMPO met to consider and adopt that transportation plan. Part of that adoption required air-quality modeling based on the plan's projections. Those projections are required to conform with EPA-allowed levels of air pollutants, especially PM 2.5 (particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter). You might recall that Cache County has been out of compliance with this requirement in the past, but we are currently in compliance. As an instrumentation engineer during my day job, I tend to trust measurements more than models, but I admit we have to have models to predict the future. I am happy to report that the models required to adopt the transportation plan show that Cache County should be able to stay in compliance for the next 25 years. As the CMPO Governing Board discussed the inputs to the model, the CMPO Staff talked about key factors that include Tier 3 gasoline that burns cleaner now being sold in northern Utah during the winter and newer-model vehicles that are more air-quality friendly. I admit that my

family hasn't helped much with newer vehicles, as we tend to get as many miles out of our cars as we can before I call them used up.

Morgan Farm

I hope you have noticed some exciting new activity at the Nibley City Morgan Farm. Roxie and Mike Christensen are the new volunteer managers of the farm, and I appreciate their passion and efforts. Among other things, they have brought a new community garden, an emphasis on 4H education, general clean-up efforts, and more access to Nibley citizens. The Nibley Council will hear at its next meeting on July 27 from Roxie and Mike on their vision for the farm moving forward.

Safety in Nibley Public Spaces

I have been working with several Nibley citizens about their concern for safety in Nibley public spaces, especially our parks. The city staff, the city council, the Cache County Sheriff, and myself are all committed to our citizens not only being safe in our parks, but also feeling safe. You can help. If you see suspicious activity on Nibley city property, please promptly call the Sheriff (911 for emergencies, 435-755-1000 for non-emergencies). Another way you can help is to discourage criminal activity on your own property. Please take precautions to secure your belongings, including tools, vehicles, and buildings. When I talk to our kids who live outside of Cache Valley, I realize how blessed we are to live in such a safe place. It takes all of us to keep it that way.

Thanks for reading, boss. Please call, text, or write any time.

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As always, my appreciation to Leslie Maughan for proofreading and giving me feedback on these reports.