

Mayor's Report

7 August 2023 – 20 August 2023

Larry Jacobsen

Greetings, boss! Thanks for reading this status report.

My goal for writing these reports is to keep you up-to-date on what Nibley City is working on, particularly the items that I am involved with. I avoid lobbying for a particular outcome on policy issues that will be decided with the appropriate process by the Nibley Planning Commission and the Nibley City Council. Certainly, I have my opinions, and I voice them (appropriately, I hope) during city council meetings when many viewpoints are heard and explored. In these reports, I note upcoming decisions and your opportunity to be involved in those decisions. My report on 8 August (link below) lists the ways you can be informed of the goings on in Nibley City.

https://nibleycity.com/images/2022/Mayors_Journal/2023_08_06.pdf

Here are the items in this report:

- **State Incentives to Remove Turf Grass**
- **Grant Application to Continue 1200 West Development**
- **Update on 3200 South Realignment**

State Incentives to Remove Turf Grass

The passing of SB 118 during the 2023 Utah legislative session provided incentives for Utah residents to install and maintain water-wise landscaping. The bill included a turf grass buy-back program that is administered by the Utah Division of Water Resources, giving individuals an opportunity to receive a \$1.50/ft² rebate for removing turf grass from their yards. For Nibley residents to be eligible for this rebate, the city had to modify its ordinance to promote city-wide water conservation by placing some limitations on turf grass. The city council adopted the required ordinance that prohibits turf grass in park strips (the area between the curb and the sidewalk), and prohibits strips of turf grass that are less than eight feet wide in other areas. Please note that these prohibitions on turf grass are in place whether or not a resident is participating in the buy-back program, but they apply only to new development. Residents with existing landscapes do not need to modify their yards.

If you are interested in participating in the buy-back program, here is a link with more information.

<https://conservewater.utah.gov/landscape-rebates/>

Grant Application to Continue 1200 West Development

In 2007, the residents of Cache County approved a local-option sales tax of 0.25 percent for transportation projects to mitigate congestion, preserve transportation corridors, and expand capacity of regional facilities. The revenue from this voter-approved sales tax is awarded

annually on a competitive basis, and last year, Nibley City received a grant for \$3.4M towards developing 1200 West. This award was the result of years of effort by Nibley City staff and elected officials, and when completed, 1200 West will be an important link in a transportation corridor that runs from Hyrum to the Logan-Cache Airport. Nibley City's design for 1200 West includes separated bike lanes and generous sidewalks to encourage active transportation in our city. Last year's award includes a roundabout at 2600 South and 1200 West, and we have been actively working on purchasing the additional land required for this roundabout. Tom Dickenson, Nibley City Engineer, has received construction bids on the sections of 1200 West that were funded last year, and we are eager to get started with construction.

This year, Nibley City will ask for additional funding to complete the remaining parts of 1200 West, including the transition to 1000 West. Grants are awarded by an organization called the Council of Governments (GoG) that consists of all nineteen mayors in Cache County, plus the County Executive. This political process is augmented by recommendations from a Technical Advisory Committee, and this year, the CoG hired an independent consultant for additional recommendations. Our 1200 West project fared well with both technical advisory groups. Nevertheless, it is a political process. We will keep our fingers crossed.

Update on 3200 South Realignment

Work continues on UDOT's realignment of 3200 South and US-89/91. When complete, this new alignment, along with the accompanying traffic light, will be a welcome improvement on safety and convenience for Nibley residents. Please note that UDOT will close the part of 3200 South that is west of 1200 West for about a week in mid-September to make the new highway connection. It is anticipated that the new traffic light on US-89/91 will likely create opportunities for economic development in Nibley. We have been approached by a couple of individuals interested in working with Nibley on those possibilities. I will keep you informed as they move closer to reality.

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

Larry
435-512-7495
larry@nibleycity.com

My continued thanks to volunteer Leslie Maughan for proofreading and giving me feedback on these reports.