

Mayor's Report

12 September 2023 – 24 September 2023

Larry Jacobsen

Greetings, boss! Thanks for reading. Here are the topics in this status report.

- **Nibley Amateur Radio Network**
- **Community Development Block Grant State Policy Committee**
- **Communities That Care Kickoff Meeting**
- **Nibley Elementary Active Transportation**
- **Street Lights**
- **Trash Collection**

Nibley Amateur Radio

Although I am not an amateur radio operator, I attended the inaugural meeting of the Nibley City Emergency Communications Network that is being organized by volunteer ham radio operators. The meeting was initiated by Nibley resident Dr. Kim Oppenshaw, and the attendees consisted of ham radio operators, including Nibley's Emergency Manager Chris Searle. I am excited about this group's plan to set up, exercise, and maintain a Nibley network for emergency communications to augment the licensed radios that Nibley City employees use to communicate with one another. I've learned from attending municipal conferences that talk about emergency preparedness that one of the first breakdowns during an emergency is communications. The amateur radio network will be especially useful for sharing information with Nibley citizens if the cellular, internet, and broadcast services are disabled during an emergency. Many thanks to this group for starting this network.

Community Development Block Grant State Policy Committee

I am learning that a mayor's job is like gas in a bottle. It expands until it finds a limit. I feel like I'm getting close to that limit but haven't found it yet. As a result of being on the Board of Directors for the Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG), I agreed to be BRAG's representative on the State Policy Committee for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. I attended my first Policy Committee meeting in Salt Lake City earlier this week. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development gives Utah \$5.5M annually through the CDBG program, and the State Policy Committee sets and oversees the process to distribute those funds to the seven Associations of Government in Utah. BRAG is one of those associations and receives \$780k annually for critical community needs to benefit low- and moderate-income households. The committee discussed the specific methods that include audited income surveys to ensure that the CDBG funds are awarded to households in need.

Communities That Care Kickoff Meeting

The Bear River Health Department asked me to be part of a Communities That Care program, and last week Nibley City hosted the first meeting of this group at our City Hall. This program was developed by the University of Washington, and it will create a south-Cache multidisciplinary coalition of youth leaders, educators, recreation organizers, elected officials, cultural representatives, and others with the goal of identifying and mitigating risk factors that lead to undesired outcomes for youth in our community. It's a bit early for me to know exactly how we will do that, but I will keep you posted.

Nibley Elementary Active Transportation

Nibley City Planner Levi Roberts, Nibley City Manager Justin Maughan, and I met with Principal King of Nibley Elementary to talk about a plan to increase the number of students that get to school with active transportation (walking or riding bikes or scooters). I mentioned in the August Newsletter (link below) training provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). One of the goals we established during that training was to increase active transportation for Nibley Elementary students by 20 percent during the next year. At our meeting at the school, we discussed ways of measuring the number of students who currently walk or roll to school versus being driven in cars, identifying barriers to student active transportation, and ways we might remove those barriers. We learned some great methods from the CDC training to increase active transportation, and I am eager to discuss with parents and students if any of them would help us toward our goal. Of course, participation is optional for any of the methods we put in place. Hopefully we can make walking and rolling safe and more attractive to parents and students than driving the kids to school.

www.nibleycity.com/images/citizens/newsletters/2023/NibleyNewsAugust2023Extended.pdf

Street Lights

You may have noticed contractors for Rocky Mountain Power replacing the incandescent light fixtures on Nibley's street lights with LED fixtures. While it may seem wasteful to replace functional lights, the break-even date for the cost of changing to LED fixtures is less than five years from now. After that, we save money. The Nibley City Council included this changeover in this year's budget.

Trash Collection

I will keep mentioning the change in collecting trash until we complete the transition from Logan City to Waste Management (WM, a private contractor) for this service. I realize some of the information provided during the transition has been confusing or incorrect. For example, WM

sent a first batch of postcards to residents that gave an incorrect pickup schedule. Please look for another notification via US Mail from WM during the last week of September that will tell you your pickup day. There are other changes, including WM requiring trash to be bagged and tied inside the curbside carts to avoid spilling loose garbage as the cart is dumped. There was some early confusion about what is recyclable. The brochure (not the schedule notice) mailed by WM correctly explains those recycling details. The recyclable items with Logan City are still recyclable with WM, nothing more and nothing less. The optional curbside green waste collection will continue to the first of November, despite the original information and the negotiated contract that would have stopped mid-October. For the remainder of this year, green waste will be collected on the same day as your trash pickup. The green waste rates currently negotiated with WM that will be in effect next year are for every other week, and we will revisit that schedule and possible rate change before next spring. Speaking of rate changes, there is an increase for the 94-gallon can and recycling from \$19.65 per month to \$20.99 per month. Service for the 64-gallon can and recycling goes from \$17.40 per month to \$20.00 per month. These and other FAQs are on Nibley's website (link below).

www.nibleycity.com/images/2023/01/FAQs.pdf

Please check Nibley's website and Facebook page, along with the October Newsletter for updates, and call me or the Nibley Office if you have questions. Please know that continuing trash collection with Logan City was not an option, and we have been working on replacing that service for more than eighteen months. Despite some bumps along the way, I know that we can make this transition. Thanks for working with us.

Please call, text, or write anytime.

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