

Mayor's Report

9 October 2023 – 22 October 2023

Larry Jacobsen

Greetings, boss! Thanks for reading. The goal of these reports is to keep you informed of what's going on in Nibley governance. These reports are not intended to replace the official public notifications on Nibley's website (www.nibleycity.com) and the Utah Public Notice website (www.utah.gov/pmnl/), but rather to provide advance information about what the city is working on before the official notifications.

I have been thinking about how to more effectively share these reports with you, and I am adding another option for you to get them in addition to looking on the Nibley website. If you would like me to email you a copy of these status reports as I finish them, please let me know with an email (larry@nibleycity.com). I promise that I will never share your email address, and I will not use your email (or these reports) to lobby on behalf of a particular policy or to campaign for election. We are currently struggling to get new reports on the Nibley website as we move it to a new platform (my sincere apologies). Therefore, if you let me know of your interest, I will send you the editions of the status reports that have not yet been published on Nibley's website. We will put a similar invitation to send me your email address on our website and Nibley's Facebook page.

Here are the topics in this status report:

- **Council of Governments (COG) Funding Rankings**
- **Hwy 165 Corridor Study**
- **County Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Discussion**
- **Boundary Adjustment on US 89/91**
- **Animal Land Use Ordinance**

Council of Governments (COG) Funding Application

In my previous report, I discussed a 0.25 percent local-option sales tax that Cache County voters approved in 2007 to fund local road projects to relieve traffic congestion. The Council of Governments (COG), which consists of the mayors and county executive, prioritizes these projects and then makes a funding recommendation to the Cache County Council. Last year, Nibley City applied for the last three phases of 1200 West that will be part of a connection from Hyrum to the Logan-Cache Airport via 1000 West in Logan. Last year's request included funding on phases 3, 4, and 5, and we received \$3.4M for phases 3 and 4. However, we received only half funding on the final phase 5. Several mayors told me after last year's ranking that as a result of limited funding, they were reluctant to give us all three of our proposed phases in one year. That reluctance resulted in the partial funding of phase 5. On the expectation that we would get phase 5 fully funded with a new funding cycle, we released last year's partial funding for phase 5 to other municipalities' projects.

Our request this year was for \$500k to make up for increased construction costs on phases 3 and 4, and we again requested full funding of \$1.8M for phase 5. This year's COG ranking is complete, and we have mixed results.

The COG easily made the recommendation to fund the \$500k shortfall on phases 3 and 4, but we again received only half of the funding necessary to complete phase 5. As Yogi Berra would say, it was deja vu all over again. We are taking a different approach this year on the partial project funding, and we have decided to hold in reserve the partial funds for phase 5 and apply again next year for the second half of phase 5. I have some homework to do with one-on-one conversations with the other mayors to specifically understand why we only received half funding for phase 5 two years in a row. With that information, I hope we can secure the second half of phase 5.

In summary, Nibley received \$3.4M last year, \$1.2M this year, and we will ask for the final \$1.1M to finish the 1200 West project again next year. In the meantime, we can get busy constructing phases 3 and 4. As mentioned, the final word on allocating the transportation funds comes from the Cache County Council after receiving the recommendation of the COG.

Hwy 165 Corridor Study

I am certain that you have noticed a lot of recent activity along Hwy 165. The Millville sewer project's temporary impact notwithstanding, there is a lot of permanent development happening on the northern section of Hwy 165. Staff and I met with personnel from Providence, Millville, and UDOT to discuss the future of this road. As usual, we are all looking to find that difficult balance of mobility and place-making that encourages economic development. For now, I admit that most of the economic development opportunity is north of Nibley, and we must be patient for that opportunity in Nibley. UDOT already has an access management agreement in place for Hwy 165, and at the end of this meeting, we agreed it was worth an official review of that plan to ensure it is still on track. We also talked about the possibility of an economic development plan between the three cities that would give a realistic view of the economic opportunities over the next 25 years. I appreciated the spirit of cooperation between the three cities as we talked about this road that is so important to Nibley citizens.

County Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Discussion

Two important services that local governance provides are fire protection and emergency medical services (EMS). Over the past five years, we have replaced the EMS that was terminated by Logan City with service organized by Cache County. I met with the mayors from Millville and Hyrum and Rod Hammer, Fire Chief for Cache County, to discuss increased needs for fire protection and EMS in our three cities. We focused on the increased response times for these services given the growing number of residents in each of our cities. To keep these response times at an acceptable level, we may need to build an additional fire and ambulance

station somewhere on Hwy 165 between Logan and Hyrum. We agreed to get back together after Chief Hammer collates some costs associated with this possible new station.

Boundary Adjustment on US 89/91

The owner of some property on US 89/91 that is currently located in Logan City has been working with Logan and Nibley to adjust the municipal boundaries so his property would be in Nibley. His motivation for doing this is Logan City cannot provide utilities for him to develop his commercial landscaping business on his property, and Nibley City has utilities in the area. This is a different proposal than the Watermark property north of the Thomas Edison Charter School that I have previously mentioned. Logan indicated that they agree with the boundary adjustment, and I anticipate it will move forward.

Animal Land Use Ordinance

Over the years, I have found that many people are more passionate about the number and type of animals and pets that they are allowed on their property than nearly any other issue. There is no better example of the challenge of finding the line between individual property rights and the rights of the community (or the neighborhood, in this case) than in regulating animals. I have previously mentioned that we are working on a revision to the Animal Land Use Ordinance, and I continue to encourage you to be involved in that process. Here is an update on where we are. A committee of citizens, planning commissioners, and city council members met over the course of several months and sent a proposed draft to the Nibley Planning Commission last week. The Planning Commission held a public hearing and recommended the draft for adoption to the Nibley City Council. The council will hold a second public hearing and consider the changes at their meeting on 26 October. You can find the draft ordinance from the Planning Commission meeting on the Utah Public Notice Website below.

www.utah.gov/pmn/files/1034213.pdf

The information packet for the entire Nibley City Council meeting on 26 October will be available on the Utah Public Notice Website on Tuesday, 24 October.

Please call, text, or write anytime. If you would like me to send you these reports, please let me know with an email.

Thank you,
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My continued thanks to volunteer Leslie Maughan for proofreading and reviewing these reports for clarity before you see them.