

## **Mayor's Report**

**23 October 2023 – 5 November 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](http://www.nibleycity.com)) and the Utah Public Notice website ([www.utah.gov/pmn/](http://www.utah.gov/pmn/)), but rather to provide advance information about what the city is working on before the official notifications.

Here are the topics in this status report:

- **Green Waste and Trash Collection with Waste Management**
- **Bear River Association of Governments Human Services Board**
- **2023 Cache Summit**

### **Green Waste and Trash Collection with Waste Management**

Many thanks to the Nibley residents that responded to the on-line survey regarding curb-side green waste. The responses from that survey helped me and the Cache Waste Consortium begin discussions with Waste Management (WM) for green waste collection for next year. Although WM agreed to continue Logan City's green-waste pick up this year, those services are not currently included in the existing contract between WM and the consortium. It pleases me to say that, thanks to city staff putting up the survey and thanks to residents responding to that survey, Nibley City has a better understanding of the desired service and acceptable costs for green-waste than any other jurisdiction in the consortium.

We had about 150 responses to the survey, and of those responses, about two-thirds supported optional curb-side green-waste pickup for an additional fee. Of those that want curb-side service, about two-thirds want once-a-week pickup rather than every other week, while acknowledging the extra fee for the more frequent pick up. The survey comments showed that the once-a-week group is very committed to the weekly service. The mayors in the consortium relayed their green-waste information from each of their cities, and WM will prepare a draft contract for this service for next year. As with Logan City, the service will be optional to each resident in Nibley City. I look forward to sharing with you that option as soon as it is available. The consortium will meet again with WM in about a month.

The green-waste survey gave respondents an opportunity for open-ended comments, and I appreciate the points made in that part of the survey. I will try to respond to a few of those points.

- Many residents desire centralized roll-off (large dumpsters) green waste service like we had with Logan City at 1200 West, and we are working to make that available with WM. There are some challenges to overcome. For example, this previous service was not

free, as it was funded from Nibley's General Fund. As we move forward, we must find a roll-off service that is accompanied by a reasonable cost. It is difficult to monitor and regulate the roll-off site to keep commercial companies from filling it up and to keep the green-waste dumpsters from being contaminated with normal trash. To make this service effective, Nibley City must periodically compact the green-waste with a backhoe before calling for it to be emptied. Otherwise, a couple of trees from a single user completely fill the roll-off container. We haven't given up on this service, and I am not making promises that I cannot keep. We will keep working on roll-off green-waste service. Please let me know if you have suggestions.

- WM acknowledged that many green-waste curbside carts were emptied into the regular trash trucks this fall. This is a temporary shortcoming that will be remedied next year.
- WM acknowledged that some curbside carts (trash, recycling, and green waste) have been damaged or even lost in the truck. WM will remedy this as they adjust the pick-up mechanisms and train new drivers. WM said they are owning the responsibility for replacing those damaged and lost cans.
- I asked for an improved customer-service process when residents have a problem to report. Currently, residents must call Nibley City, and Nibley City then relays the problem to WM's customer-service system. However, city staff receive no follow-up on whether the problem was corrected. WM said they would work on providing Nibley City with follow-up information.
- Continuing the Logan City trash service was not an option. In 2022, Logan notified all municipalities and the unincorporated part of Cache County that they would no longer pick up trash starting in 2024. Nibley City, along with 13 other municipalities and the unincorporated part of the county formed a special-service district called the Cache Waste Consortium and, through a competitive bid process, chose WM to replace the Logan service.
- Please understand that WM employees are not Nibley City employees. I was a part of the decision to choose WM as a third-party vendor to replace the Logan service, and I will own that decision. However, I would ask you to please not blame Nibley City employees for any difficulties that we encounter during, and after, the transition. Nibley City employees are doing a great job of helping us make the transition, and a perceived lack of performance by WM is not a lack of performance by Nibley City employees. Please call me if you want to talk more about this.

### **Bear River Association of Governments Human Services Board Meeting**

I am a member of the Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG) Human Services Board, and we met last week. At the meeting, we learned from the BRAG staff about new funding available for emergency house repairs. Over \$750k is available at up to \$18k per household. To

be eligible, homeowners must earn less than the Cache County median income. If you know someone who could benefit from this emergency home repair funding, please ask them to contact BRAG, or let me know and I will help them work with BRAG. We also learned about additional funding for winter emergency shelter. Of the \$750k available for Utah, excluding the Salt Lake region, BRAG will receive \$230k for emergency winter shelter, CAPSA will receive about \$40k, and the William A. Burnard Warming Center located at St. John's Episcopal Church will receive \$54k. Most of the BRAG funds go for temporary hotel vouchers for those in need. Winter is a difficult time for unsheltered people in Cache Valley, and they spend winter here because they have a connection to family, friends, or employment in our community. Please let me know if you are aware of anyone who is unsheltered and contending with the upcoming Cache Valley winter.

### **2023 Cache Summit**

Last week was the ninth annual Cache Summit, and several Nibley City Council members, Planning Commissioners, and staff attended. We participated in discussions on housing, the upcoming legislative session, county-wide planning, and the Cache Open Space Advisory Committee. This committee is developing the process that will recommend to the Cache County Council how to spend the \$20M generated by the open-space bond approved by voters during the last election. I especially enjoyed a breakout session on how Cache County and UDOT Region 1 (that includes us) hope to receive some of the \$50M appropriated by the legislature for trails in Utah. I also had a chance to ask Casey Snyder, Nibley's House Representative, about wetland protection in light of the US Supreme Court decision that limits federal protection. While I hope the State of Utah will want to pick up some of the protection previously provided by the federal government, it's too soon to tell how that will shake out.

Please call, text, or write anytime. If you would like me to send you these reports, please let me know with an email. I promise I will not share your email address or use it to campaign during an election.

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