

Nibley City Mayor's Report

19 February 2024 – 3 March 2024

Larry Jacobsen

Thank you for reading this report. My goal is to keep you, my boss, up to date with what I am working on and to give you advance notice on what's happening in Nibley governance. Please be sure to check the official public notifications on Nibley's website (www.nibleycity.com) and the Utah Public Notice website (www.utah.gov/pmnl/) for more information.

Here are the highlights from the past two weeks and topics in this report:

- **Indoor Recreation Space Feasibility Study**
- **Selecting a New City Attorney**
- **Meeting with Cache County Sheriff**
- **Commercial Development Concept Plan**
- **BRAG Human Services Meeting**

Indoor Recreation Space Feasibility Study

Previous reports discussed the pent-up demand for indoor recreation space in Nibley and around the valley. During the last two weeks, Nibley City continued to work towards meeting that demand. Our biggest effort went into selecting a consulting company to conduct a feasibility study to quantify the opportunities and obstacles to build indoor recreation space in Nibley. The selection committee, which included city staff, citizens, and elected officials, evaluated proposals from eight different companies and conducted interviews with three finalists. The committee will recommend one company to the Nibley City Council, who has the authority to award a contract for the study. Selecting the consulting company has been a lot of work, and it's worth the effort because we have to get this right. It's easy to say we want an indoor recreation facility; it's much harder to determine the size and scale of the facility, along with the reality of what the citizens of Nibley are willing to pay for. The final decision to build this facility will almost certainly include a ballot referendum to bond for construction.

One of our biggest challenges is to decide the scale of the potential indoor recreation facility. While Nibley is leading out with our own feasibility study, the result of our study will include the potential to team up with other neighboring municipalities. Forming such a coalition could increase the size and number of amenities of the facility. Although we could scale the cooperative effort all the way up to Cache County, the Cache County Council has so far passed on opportunities to be involved. Nevertheless, there is a collaborative effort among municipalities taking shape that is bigger than Nibley's effort and smaller than the entire county. Several communities have met on a couple of occasions to discuss regional facilities. That collaborative effort includes submitting an application for Recreation, Arts, Parks, and Zoo (RAPZ) tax funding to perform a feasibility study on a regional scale. The inter-community group submitted that application last week. This parallel approach—doing our own study, along with

pursuing the possibility of a regional study—means Nibley City is “betting on two horses.” The Nibley City Council and Nibley Parks and Recreation Committee both endorse this approach.

I felt what might have been a bit of frustration at the Nibley Parks and Recreation Committee meeting last week from the apparent slow pace of this project. However, the committee agreed that it should be a careful, transparent, and deliberate effort to spend other people’s money. We will keep working to do the right thing.

Selecting a New City Attorney

Nibley City contracts with an outside attorney to ensure that we are following proper procedure and to deal with legal issues associated with local governance. While we have had great service from our current legal counsel, he has decided to become an in-house attorney for a different (and much larger) city. That move means he will not be available to Nibley. City staff and I met with several attorneys who applied to fill the vacancy. I was pleased with the experience and quality of the candidates, and I know we will be in good hands with our choice of the next city attorney. The next step is to make a final selection and offer a contract to that candidate.

Meeting with Cache County Sheriff

Several mayors from around the valley met last week with Chad Jensen, the Cache County Sheriff. Nibley City contracts with the Cache County Sheriff for law and animal enforcement. I enjoyed hearing Sheriff Jensen discuss current issues faced by his department, as well as hearing his opinion on legislation being considered by the Utah House and Senate. I will give an update at the end of the legislative session describing the impacts to Nibley City.

Commercial Development Concept Plan

Yup, we are still working on the concept plan for a potential commercial development on the west side of Nibley. We had several meetings during the last two weeks involving the landowner, the developer, neighboring landowners, and city staff. Although it takes time to get everyone on the same page, I feel we are still making progress. I appreciate each party’s commitment to addressing issues as soon as they are identified rather than pushing them to the future. I am confident we will get there.

BRAG Human Services Meeting

I will close by living up to a promise to give the results of the Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG) Point-in-Time Count held at the end of January. I talked in a previous report (link below) about this nationwide effort to count unsheltered people in each of our

communities. In a BRAG Human Services meeting last week, we learned that the Cache, Box Elder, and Rich Counties' total count was 91 individuals. I appreciate the volunteers and staff who help people in need in our community. About two-thirds of those counted were aided by the William A. Burnard Warming Center, BRAG hotel vouchers, the New Hope Crisis Center in Box Elder County, and by CAPSA.

https://nibleycity.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024_02_04.pdf

If you are not receiving these reports via email, and if you would like to do so, please let me know and I will add you to the list. Whether it's with good news or to express a concern, please call, text, or write anytime.

Larry
435-512-7495
larry@nibleycity.com

As always, my appreciation to volunteer Leslie Maughan for proofreading and reviewing these reports for clarity before you see them.