

Nibley City Mayor's Report

1 April 2024 – 14 April 2024

Larry Jacobsen

Greetings, boss! Thank you for reading this report. 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/pmn/) for more information. As you might guess, sometimes activity comes in waves. The past two weeks haven't been as busy with Nibley City as have other weeks. Nevertheless, there was plenty of activity on the non-Nibley front with my wind-down from regular employment. While this is a report on my Nibley City job, I will throw in some of that personal information as it relates to being your mayor. First, the regular Nibley activity.

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

- **Broadband Fiber Vendor**
- **Cache Council of Governments**
- **Safety in Nibley Parks**
- **Personal: Retirement from Regular Employment**

Broadband Fiber Vendor

Justin Maughan, Nibley City Manager, and I met with a well-known fiber-optic vendor to discuss the possibility of that vendor installing a fiber network in our city and delivering gigabit/second internet speeds to Nibley residents. This is not a proposal for Nibley City to own that infrastructure, but instead, to allow the vendor to install infrastructure in Nibley City's rights of way and offer the option of broadband fiber to Nibley residents. This is the second vendor with which we have discussed this possibility, and neither of the two vendors are asking for an exclusive agreement within Nibley. Several years ago, the Nibley City Council opted out of an opportunity for the city to own its own fiber network, and although I wasn't the mayor at that time, I think the council made the right decision. To me, that decision fits the proper role of local government: to provide services to residents that residents themselves (or a suitable vendor) cannot provide. The potential vendor gave Justin and me specifics of the installation process, and it didn't seem too bad. The next step is to wait for the vendor to complete some market research and then propose a right-of-way agreement to Nibley City.

Cache Council of Governments

Tom Dickenson, Nibley City Engineer, and I attended a Cache Council of Governments (CCoG) meeting to discuss the process that awards a local-option sales tax to transportation projects in Cache Valley. In 2007, the Cache County voters approved a 0.25 percent local sales tax to alleviate traffic congestion. Each year the CCoG recommends to the Cache County Council the project priority for spending that money, roughly \$3M to \$4M. Nibley's 1200 West project has been funded by this process, and we are hoping this year for the final funding on the last phase.

The CCoG consists of the mayors from the 19 municipalities in Cache County and the Cache County Executive. The process changes being considered by the CCoG are twofold: re-balancing the technical and political parts of the process that ranks projects, and designing a better process to cash-flow funds once projects are awarded. Staff and I need to challenge any proposed change that could delay the last phase of our 1200 West project.

Safety in Nibley Parks

Justin Maughan and I met with our Sheriff's Town and Area Assigned Representative (STAR) Deputy and a resident who lives near one of our city parks to discuss safety in and around Nibley parks. Together, we reviewed dispatch reports that showed the number and disposition of calls. As summarized by our STAR Deputy, each of Nibley's parks are very safe, and I ask each of you to help keep them safe. If you see what you believe to be criminal activity or someone in danger, please call 911 immediately. In addition, please secure your property when it is unattended. Many thefts are the result of an opportunity made available by unsecured property.

Personal: Retirement from Regular Employment

One of the objectives behind my decision to run for mayor a few years ago was to help me transition from regular full-time employment to retirement. The objective was not a financial goal related to compensation (quite the opposite), but a plan to give me things other than my regular job to think about and spend time on. I have achieved that objective, and I will be retiring from my electrical engineering job mid-April. I do not anticipate that retirement from engineering will change the amount of time I spend being mayor. I do hope that retirement will give me fewer calendar conflicts to sort through. On a side note, even after 42 years of electrical engineering, I still have some cool stuff to work on, and I plan to do that in a consulting mode. I am telling you, my mayor boss, this personal information to thank you for helping me move to the next phase of my career. I truly appreciate the opportunity you have given me to be your mayor.

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.

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