

Nibley City Mayor's Report

29 April 2024 – 12 May 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 always, my sincere appreciation to volunteer Leslie Maughan for proofreading and reviewing these reports for clarity before you see them.

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

- **Council of Governments (CoG) Process to Award Transportation Grants**
- **Regional Recreation Center Feasibility Study**
- **More on Nibley's Yeates Spring and the Upper Hyrum Blacksmith Fork Canal**
- **Nibley Royalty Pageant**

Council of Governments (CoG) Process to Award Transportation Grants

I have previously mentioned a 0.25 percent voter-approved, local-option sales tax that funds local road projects to decrease congestion in the Cache County metropolitan area. This funding has paid nearly all of the development costs on 1200 West from 3200 South to 2200 South. Nibley City has been successful at securing four of the five phases on this 1200 West project, and we are ready to request funding for Phase 5. The process for awarding this money is a combination of a data-driven analysis by technical personnel (engineers, planners, etc.) and a political process where Cache County's 19 mayors and the county executive vote on project priority. Some specifics about the award process are being changed, and for a while, it looked like the grant awards would be suspended for one year while the changes are implemented. This was not welcome news for Nibley City because we are ready to apply for Phase 5 and get 1200 West finished. After discussion, the group of mayors decided not to delay funding for a year after all. Hmmm ... maybe a long story to say that much of what we worry about (and work to circumvent) never happens. We believe we have a good chance of getting this last phase of 1200 West funded this year. Fingers crossed.

Regional Recreation Center Feasibility Study

In another ongoing process, we have talked about the need for indoor recreation space in Cache County as well as Nibley City. To better understand the desires of Nibley's citizens and the costs to satisfy those desires, Nibley City authorized a feasibility study to be completed by experts in this field. One of the biggest questions to address is the scale of the indoor recreation space. Do we just work on Nibley's needs and Nibley's ability to pay for the rec center, do we bring in other neighboring cities, or do we involve all of Cache County? Nibley supported a Restaurant, Arts, Parks, and Zoo (RAPZ) grant application for a similar feasibility study to our own, but to do it at a county scale. The RAPZ selection committee recommended to the Cache County Council to spend \$200k of county RAPZ funding on that feasibility study, and the council

will make a final decision in a couple of weeks. Nibley City has not yet awarded the contract for the Nibley feasibility study, and the possibility of a more comprehensive regional facility is attractive. On the other hand, we could certainly move more quickly with our own rec center, albeit at a smaller scale than a regional rec center. We will know more after the Cache County Council decides on RAPZ funding. One thing is certain: the residents on the south half of Cache County will not be satisfied with a single facility that is located north of Logan. We will keep working on this.

More on Nibley's Yeates Spring and the Upper Hyrum Blacksmith Fork Canal

I mentioned in the last report that the Hyrum Blacksmith Fork Canal Company (HBSF Company) will be piping additional sections of their upper canal that runs through the Nibley Hollow. Much of this canal is already piped. Nibley City has been discharging our Yeates spring into a section of the canal that is not piped since 2015 when our spring was contaminated with a diesel spill. The amount of water produced by the spring, along with the difficulty of protecting the spring head from future contamination, have not made it worth the effort to put the spring back into culinary production. With the new canal piping, Nibley City must coordinate with the HBSF Company to decide what to do with the Yeates spring water. We met last week to discuss a short-term plan that would continue to put the spring water into the to-be-piped section of the canal but reserve the city's right to do something different with that water in the future. This is good news because it would be a large and unexpected expense for the city if we could not continue to discharge the spring into the canal in the short term. There are some exciting possibilities about the long-term plan that I'm going to wait to talk about until we get closer to reality.

Nibley Royalty Pageant

I had nearly nothing to do with this, but I did attend this pageant that accompanied the revamped Nibley Royalty Academy. This new program not only cultivates personal development, it places a very large emphasis on community service by its participants. Many thanks to adult volunteers that organized the pageant and the youth participants.

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.

Thanks for being part of our Nibley community and thanks for reading this report.

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