

## **Nibley City Mayor's Report**

**27 May 2024 – 16 June 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](http://www.nibleycity.com)) and the Utah Public Notice website ([www.utah.gov/pmn/](http://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 three weeks and the topics in this report:

- **Bear River Regional Summit**
- **2024-2025 Budget, Truth in Taxation**
- **Bike and Walk Audit**
- **Coordination with Millville City**
- **Upcoming Street Safety Meeting**

### **Bear River Regional Summit**

Several council members, planning commissioners, and city staff attended an evening conference to learn about local governance issues in Cache, Box Elder, and Rich Counties. Several of us attended a presentation by the Cache County Emergency Manager and a session on the municipal budgeting process. I appreciate the role that the counties play in helping us prepare for emergencies. From the budget session I learned more about the process that could put a referendum on a future ballot where the citizens of Nibley decide whether to commit future tax revenues to a bond for a major capital expense such as indoor recreation space.

### **2024-2025 Budget, Truth in Taxation**

The Nibley City Council and staff have been working on closing out this year's budget and adopting next year's. One of the biggest questions each year is what to do with property taxes. If the value of existing property in Nibley goes up during the year, then the default process established by Utah Code will make the property tax **rate** go down. Specifically, if existing property values increase by a given percentage, then the property tax **rate** will decrease by the same percentage. This default approach means that cities will not collect additional tax dollars from existing properties from one year to the next. As you can imagine, inflation that drives property values up and increases the cost of providing municipal services can erode property tax "buying power." City councils can choose to collect additional property tax dollars from one year to the next in a step towards maintaining a property tax **rate**, but to do so, they must go through a Truth in Taxation process with special notifications and public hearings. To me, there is a certain irony in this, because there is no Truth in Taxation process required to maintain the

same Utah income tax rate or sales tax rate. The default for those processes is to maintain the same rate from year to year and automatically buffer the effects of inflation on state government.

All of this discussion on property tax is my attempt to provide general knowledge rather than specific information about Nibley's property tax for next year. The city council decided to accept the lower property tax **rate** rather than go through Truth in Taxation this year. I agree with that decision. However, in a future year, we may have to catch up with inflation as property values increase.

### **Bike and Walk Audit**

As part of writing our Active Transportation Plan, Levi Roberts led a group of citizens on a bike and walk audit where we saw first-hand good things and not-so-good things about getting around Nibley on a bike or as a pedestrian. Comments and observations from that audit will help us write the new plan.

### **Coordination with Millville City**

Justin Maughan, Nibley City Manager, and I met with our equivalents from Millville to talk about coordination on the Blacksmith Fork River Trail that I mentioned in the last report and a Millville-sponsored project that would convert the intersection at 3200 South and Hwy 165 into a complete, four-way intersection. More on those topics in a future report.

### **Upcoming Street Safety Meeting**

I am often contacted by citizens with concerns about Nibley City street safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. This concern for our children and youth has special urgency. City staff have helped organize a special meeting to share these concerns and ideas for improvement. The meeting is open to all citizens, and representatives from law enforcement and our school communities will be at the meeting on 24 June 2024 at 4:00 pm at the Nibley City Offices. Please join us if you are interested and able to do so.

I hope to see you this week at some of the Nibley City Heritage Days events! Thanks for being part of our Nibley community and thanks for reading this report. Please call, text, or write anytime.

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