

Hyde Park Election Forum

Questions



1. What previous experiences have prepared or qualify you for City Council service?

2. Why are you running for City Council?

3. In regard to planning and zoning matters, how do you want to see your city grow and develop?

4. What do you think is the most pressing concern for your city right now?



Tom Bernhardt

(435) 363-6211
tombarnhardt0@gmail.com

I currently work as a Program Manager at the Space Dynamics Laboratory where I deal with a myriad of issues such as personnel and budgets. I've also served for ~5 months on the Planning & Zoning Board prior to be appointed to finish out a councilmember's term for the remaining of 2015. I ran for a seat on City Council in 2015 and was elected to my first term starting in January 2016.

I've enjoyed serving the citizens of Nibley for the last 4+ years. With the help from citizens, city staff, and our P&Z Board, we've been able to accomplish a great number of items. This includes updating various Master Plans, creating ordinances that align with the Master Plans, enhancing our Parks & Recreation programs and working with UDOT to upgrade problematic intersections. I want to continue to be a part of the process.

In 2016 Nibley, using input from the citizens, updated its General Plan which specifically outlines the overall vision for growth and development. As a result, Nibley City has updated or created ordinances to deal with this vision. This doesn't mean that if the ordinances that have been enacted can't be modified to better align with the citizens view of proper growth but as a councilmember I support the efforts that have been made based on the vision in the General Plan. I believe that we'll continue to see growth but growth should be within the bounds of the General Plan.

One of the most pressing concerns I see is long term sustainability of current infrastructure. A large portion of Nibley's infrastructure is relatively new. The city and the council must have the foresight to deal with the immediate needs and wants of the city. We also must be able to plan for the future to minimize the direct impact to citizens via tax dollars. It also doesn't mean that as a city that we must immediately spend every dollar of revenue that it receives. With well thought out planning the city can deal with the present and the future needs.



Larry Jacobsen

(435) 512-7495
ljacobsen.nibley@gmail.com

I moved from Idaho 41 years ago to go school and fell in love with Cache Valley. Becky and I have lived in Nibley for 24 years and we raised a family here. I served on Nibley's Planning Commission for five years and the City Council for the past 14 years. I am still working on getting it right.

I am fascinated with the process that preserves Nibley's unique heritage, while at the same time, cautiously embraces change in new and innovative directions. When I started on the Planning Commission twenty years ago, I understood the irony of maintaining the unique place that Nibley is, while appreciating the process of change that allowed Becky and me to move here in the first place. I would like to keep working on that process.

Utah and Cache Valley are victims of our own economic success. It's a great thing that people want to live here, but it comes with challenges. I am pleased with Nibley's forward thinking that encourages the preservation of open space and the maintenance of our rural heritage - ordinances like our Rural Preservation Subdivision process. First, we need to continue with that innovative thinking. Second, although Cache Valley has experienced commercial success, Nibley's success has been mostly limited to residential applications. We need zoning ordinances and policies that welcome businesses to Nibley, without selling our souls to commercial pressures.

City governments exist for three reasons. First, to provide services to citizens that they cannot easily provide for themselves. Thanks to a great staff and the Council's support, I believe we have that covered. Second, to make people proud of their community. Heritage Days and our new Firefly Park are examples of our community successes. The third - and most pressing - reason for city governments is local control: zoning laws, subdivision processes, etc. How do we preserve our unique heritage and still make housing affordable so our kids, grandkids, and other people are welcome in our community?



Nathan Laursen

(435) 512-2612
skippyN8@gmail.com

I was born and raised in Nibley, and have been a resident of the city for 26 years. I have served as an elected officer, non-profit board member and volunteer for numerous school, community and national organizations where I manage budgets, create legislation, and work closely with other individuals and organizations. I earned a dual-bachelor's degree in Political Science and Journalism from Utah State University in 2009 and just completed a master's degree this year.

Nibley City and I have grown up together. The people and programs of Nibley made me who I am today and I want to ensure they continue to build our community. Over the last three decades, I've witnessed Nibley City grow stronger and overcome issues because of the strength and involvement of the people who call it home. Decisions about the infrastructure, safety, and future development needs to be informed and made responsibly.

The rapid growth of Nibley City and the surrounding municipalities requires a plan that allows the city to:

1. maintain a rural heritage by requiring developments to provide meaningful open space and recreation areas, while abiding by state laws to increase moderate income housing and incentivize commercial growth.
2. work with neighboring communities to annex land for future growth and provide the necessary increase in public safety and infrastructure (sewer, water, etc.) without increasing the financial burden on residents
3. write legislation for flexible, innovative and strategic design, while respecting private property rights, and considering the input of residents, businesses and developers.

Nibley City has grown by 473% since 1990, with 61% of residential structures being built in the last 20 years. Nibley and its surrounding communities will continue to grow, and with that growth increase concerns of public safety, demands on infrastructure and public services, and loss of rural beauty, open space and natural resources. Unrestricted, irresponsible, and unplanned growth threatens Nibley's history and heritage of being a great place to live. The population will continue to grow, and I want to help by increasing citizen awareness and engagement, improve relationships with surrounding communities, and create legislation that fuels responsible development.



Tim Ramirez

(435) 994-4803
tramirez7875@gmail.com

I have 15 years of experience working in law enforcement at the Cache County Sheriff's Office. I have served as a corrections deputy, patrol deputy, detective, and patrol supervisor. I am currently the Investigation Sergeant supervising the detectives. I am the Cache County SWAT commander and am responsible for all high-risk tactical operations in the county. I am running for re-election and am finishing up my first term on the Nibley City Council.

Over the past few years, the Nibley City Council has made great progress moving forward. I contribute that to our current staff and council. The current council is very diverse with each of us coming from varying backgrounds. I am running for reelection because I want to keep that momentum going.

The biggest issues our city is going to face concerning planning and zoning matters, is going to be the proper implementation of our new PUD ordinance and higher-density subdivisions. We must approve future development in such a way that it does not affect our current residents adversely. I do believe it's possible to plan for future growth while maintaining our rural atmosphere and we have been working to put the tools in place to do so.

Trying to find a way to implement affordable housing while maintaining what we love about our city.



Kay Sweeten

(435) 755-3409
tksweeten@gmail.com

I have 15 years experience volunteering for various Nibley city programs and activities overseeing budgets, resources, volunteers, and working closely with city staff. I was elected to serve on two School Community Councils for Ridgeline High school (2016-2018) and Nibley Elementary (2012-2018.) I have also served my local Republican precinct as President (6 years), Vice President (2 years), Treasurer (2 years) and county and state delegate. In 2010, I successfully lobbied the Utah State Legislature.

I am running for Nibley city council because I love serving and being involved in the community. City Council holds the important responsibility of balancing city and resident needs and wants and being accountable for decisions made addressing those issues. This is a responsibility I take seriously. I value residents sharing their concerns and respond by researching issues including water rights, property rights, road development, taxes, housing, and growth.

Nibley is a small city made up of amazing people. These people want a safe, cared for community that allows freedom to enjoy their homes and neighborhoods. As property owners choose to develop their property, it is important that the development be a good fit for what is already happening in the city. I support the city master plan and ordinances which give clear guidance on how that may happen. There is room for more commercial growth that works well with the community. I support business and residential growth that interacts with and supports one another.

Balancing the needs and desires of the residents while guiding growth is one of Nibley's most pressing challenges. Nibley is a rapidly growing city. Rapid growth brings unique challenges and opportunities. As the city grows, city government must respond by addressing road development and maintenance, emergency services, utilities, and public services. At the same time, Nibley is still a rural community by many definitions, and many residents want to hold on to the small, close-knit, rural community feeling. Accomplishing this requires Nibley residents to communicate their interests and concerns with city council.

Note: Candidate C.J. Pink has withdrawn his name from the Nibley City Council election.