

**COMMON COUNCIL – BUDGET MEETING
CITY OF NOBLESVILLE
AUGUST 20, 2024**

The Common Council of the City of Noblesville met in special session on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 in rooms A213 and A214 at City Hall. Darren Peterson called the meeting to order pursuant to public notice at 4:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mark Boice, Mike Davis, Evan Elliott, David Johnson, Aaron Smith, Todd Thurston and Megan Wiles. Pete Schwartz arrived at 4:07 p.m.

Also present were City Judge S. Matthew Cook, City Clerk Evelyn Lees, Deputy Mayor Matt Light, Community Development Director Sarah Reed, Chief Financial Officer and Controller Jeffrey Spalding, department directors, and staff.

Mr. Spalding introduced Deputy Financial Officer Tom MacDonald, who joined the City on August 19.

Judge Cook thanked the Mayor, the Office of Finance and Accounting, the Clerk, and the IT Department for their support of the Court. He stated the Court budget would remain static in 2025, with the exception of cost of living wage increases and an increase to the public purpose grant for the Noblesville Youth Assistance program due to inflation. He attributed the drop in juvenile incarceration in Noblesville to the program. Mr. Peterson stated Noblesville Youth Assistance will make a presentation to the Council and the Public Safety Council Committee. He stated Judge Cook also would be invited to the Public Safety Committee Meeting in November. Mr. Thurston stated in the interest of transparency, he is a board member and past president of Noblesville Youth Assistance.

Mr. Boice asked if the traffic court deferral program could be used more. Judge Cook replied the deferral program is used as often as possible for both Westfield and Noblesville violations.

Mr. Schwartz joined the meeting.

Judge Cook stated a City court with a local judge is more specific to Noblesville interests and more accountable to the citizens of Noblesville, especially in matters concerning Noblesville ordinance violations. He stated because the court brings in revenue, the cost of the court is a very efficient use of taxpayer dollars. He welcomed the Council to visit and tour the court.

Judge Cook left the meeting.

Ms. Lees presented the budgets for the Clerk, the Cemetery, and the Council.

Ms. Wiles left the meeting.

Planning Director Caleb Gutshall presented the budget for the Planning and Development Department. Principal Planner Denise Aschleman presented data on growth and development in 2024 compared to 2023. Mr. Gutshall stated the last update to the Comprehensive Master Plan was in 2018, and that update omitted Downtown because the Pleasant Street project was still being planned. He stated since 2018, several new large projects have been added to the City. He requested funding for a consultant to compile a new Comprehensive Master Plan and an update to the Unified Development Ordinance. There was a discussion concerning the request.

Economic Development Director Andrew Murray and Economic Development Manager Amy Smith presented the Economic Development Department Operations budget. Ms. Smith presented the Economic Development Programs budget. She stated a portion of that budget is managed by Community Engagement Manager Aaron Head in the Mayor's Office. She stated Mr. Head will present his portion when the Mayor's budget is presented.

Mr. Peterson paused the meeting at 4:55 p.m.
The meeting resumed at 5:03 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Director Savannah Wines stated she has been with the City for three months, so the budget is focused on rightsizing. She stated there are no new staff requests, but there was a reorganization to two assistant directors, one over operations and one over recreation.

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Parks and Recreation Administrative Manager Wendy Stremlaw presented the Parks Maintenance and Administration budget.

Ms. Stremlaw presented the Golf budget. She stated she has attempted to more accurately track expenses. She stated as revenue increases, expenses also increase. There was a discussion concerning operating costs. Mr. Spalding stated because the golf program is structured as a business, the presentation is somewhat different than for departments that serve a purely governmental function. Ms. Stremlaw stated golf revenue was strong enough last year that no subsidy was needed. She stated the funding set aside for a subsidy was used for golf course renovations.

Ms. Stremlaw presented the Recreation budget.

Mr. Boice stated he hears more complaints now on trail upkeep than requests for more trails. Ms. Wines replied she is aware of the need. She stated priorities have been identified, and the issue will be addressed. She stated the department is working to become proactive rather than reactive.

Ms. Stremlaw presented the Parks Capital Improvement and Rehabilitation budget. Mr. Thurston stated when the Conner Courts basketball courts were removed, the Parks Department discussed saving the concrete goal posts to use elsewhere. He asked if anyone knew where the posts might be. No one did. He stated he would look into it.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

DARREN PETERSON, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

EVELYN L. LEES, CLERK