

**COMMON COUNCIL  
CITY OF NOBLESVILLE  
MAY 28, 2024**

The Common Council of the City of Noblesville met in the Council chamber on Tuesday, May 28, 2024. Darren Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. pursuant to public notice with the following members present: Mark Boice, Mike Davis, Evan Elliott, David Johnson, Pete Schwartz, Aaron Smith, Todd Thurston, and Megan Wiles.

Also present were City Clerk Evelyn Lees, Public Safety Director Chad Knecht, City Attorney Jonathan Hughes, staff, interested citizens, and a member of the media.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Schwartz led the chamber in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Lees called the roll. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MEMORANDUM: MAY 14, 2024**

Mr. Thurston moved to approve the minutes, second Mr. Davis, nine aye, motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MAY 14, 2024**

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the minutes, second Mr. Davis, nine aye, motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Wiles moved to approve the agenda, second Mr. Davis, nine aye, motion carried.

**PETITIONS OR COMMENTS BY CITIZENS WHO ARE PRESENT**

There was one request to speak.

Mark Snair of 504 Aspen Court addressed the Council. Mr. Snair stated this traffic is atrocious. He stated it took 30 minutes to get to City Hall from South Harbour. He stated he went to the other side of the City to visit his daughter, and eastbound traffic on State Road 32 was backed up past the bowling alley. He stated he stopped by Buffalo Wild Wings on State Road 37 with his daughter and her husband. He stated he decided to come home by a different route, which was River Road. He stated northbound traffic was backed up from State Road 32 south past Beaver Materials. He stated on his way here tonight, he tried to take an alternate route on Logan Street. He stated there was a red light at 10<sup>th</sup> Street. He stated there is no cross traffic on 10<sup>th</sup> Street because Conner Street is closed. He proposed a suggestion: to get the police out there for traffic control; pretty simple. He stated the other thing is, coming from State Road 32 to River Road, he tried to get to the inner lane on the roundabout, but he couldn't because it is a two-lane roundabout. He stated the planning stinks. He stated it doesn't bother a lot of the Council, because it isn't their gas money, their taxes, or their time. He stated he has lived here 32 years. He stated he has lived in cities with rivers. He stated he has lived in Minneapolis-St. Paul with the Mississippi River, where there are only so many crossings. He stated there is a concert today at the music center. He stated it increases the traffic – where is the foresight and planning for it. He stated he is not asking a lot. He stated he is ready to get a sign that says, “call the Mayor.” He stated this is bad planning. He stated it is 7:00 and broad daylight with great weather, but he saw no construction workers. He stated he has negotiated major contracts. He stated he put a time limit, and if the company wanted the contract, they would work overtime. He stated the citizens elected the City Council. He stated the citizens are the Council's customers. He stated this is frustrating. He asked if the Council had played the game where players build a city. He stated this isn't SimCity – this isn't a game. He stated it is ridiculous, and he is angry at the Council for allowing it to happen. He stated he wished the Mayor were here, because he was embarrassed at what he wore to the Memorial Day service. He stated he should have worn business wear. He stated he has two parents and two brothers buried in military cemeteries, and he is a retired veteran. He stated Representative Spartz and former Mayor Ditslear were dressed appropriately. He stated he is angry, because these problems can be solved. He stated the police force is top

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traffic control, not just security guard work at the school. He stated he was surprised when he sat at 10<sup>th</sup> and Logan Streets with the traffic backed up on an alternate route. He asked where the police officer was. He stated people should drive through the red light. He stated there is a lot of trash and debris on the streets. He stated he told Mike Davis and Chris Jensen at the South Harbour Homeowners Association meeting that he would give eight hours of his time at night to drive the street sweeper truck if someone would teach him. He stated Mr. Davis told him to be careful what he wished for. He stated he didn't wish for anything. He stated he was giving more time to this City than he had given in the past. He stated the debris is terrible. He stated he knows there is a lot of growth, and growth is painful, but there needs to be reason to it. He offered to sweep the curbs at night so traffic is not disrupted, if someone will teach him. He stated this amount of debris is not seen in Carmel or Fishers. He stated it is seen in Baltimore, Maryland, where he was a federal cop. He stated for perspective on the State Road 38/Whitcomb Ridge roundabout, D-Day was June 6, 1944. He stated the Allies went all across Europe and won the war in less than a year, in May 1945, but a roundabout at State Road 38/Whitcomb Ridge can't be built in a year. He thanked the Council for their time.

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Peterson stated the Public Safety Committee met on May 15. He stated the committee discussed preparations for the Indiana Peony Festival, which was held without incident. He stated Mr. Knecht provided an update on traffic enforcement. He stated the police stopped over 350 drivers between Clinton and Hannibal Streets and 8<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets. He stated there is zero tolerance for trucks. He stated there was a brief update on the trench rescue at 146<sup>th</sup> Street and River Road. He stated the City recently received its fifth ambulance, which provides more coverage than ever before in the City. He stated a new ladder truck has been added to Fire Station 72. He stated the Farmers Market is active, and the Federal Hill parking garage is open. He stated the committee was introduced to Myechia Hudson, the new NobleAct Crisis Intervention Specialist.

Mr. Davis stated the Finance Committee met on May 23. He stated Chief Financial Officer and Controller Jeff Spalding presented the 2025 preliminary revenue forecast. He stated the committee recommended approval of the claims.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

Ms. Wiles moved to approve the claims, second Mr. Davis, nine aye, motion carried.

**PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED ORDINANCE**

#20-05-24 COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ORDINANCE #20-05-24, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A FORGIVABLE LOAN FOR JUSTUS AT PROMENADE TRAILS PROJECT (AMY SMITH)

Economic Development Manager Amy Smith stated this ordinance provides funds for a forgivable loan not to exceed \$370,000.00 for Justus Construction, LLC. She stated after the Justus at Promenade Trails was approved, it became apparent that Mill Creek Road had to be widened to City standards. She stated Justus agreed to do the work. She stated the City has agreed that since the work was unanticipated, it will pay for the improvements. She stated there have been no changes to the ordinance since the last meeting. Ms. Wiles moved to approve Ordinance #20-05-24, second Mr. Thurston. The following roll call vote was taken for Ordinance #20-05-24:

AYE: Mark Boice, Mike Davis, Evan Elliott, David Johnson, Pete Schwartz, Aaron Smith, Todd Thurston, Megan Wiles, and Darren Peterson.

Nine aye, motion carried.

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**MISCELLANEOUS**

**#1 COUNCIL TO HEAR REPORT FROM SERVE NOBLESVILLE  
(PATRICK PROBST)**

Serve Noblesville Executive Director Patrick Probst displayed a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Probst stated SERVE Noblesville began as a group of youth pastors who worked with Faith, Hope, and Love to complete community service projects in 2010. He stated SERVE Noblesville started in 2012 and became a 501(c)3 asset-based nonprofit organization in 2018 with the motto, "Connecting Compassionate Neighbors".

Mr. Probst stated on April 12, they hosted the FUN Fest – Cultural and Heritage Festival. He stated FUN stands for Food, Unity, and Neighbors. He stated SERVE Noblesville partnered with the Mayor's Youth Council Celebration for FUN Fest. He stated there were 34 booths and over 400 attendees.

Mr. Probst stated Come Together Week is May 22 through 29. He stated the week is intentionally scheduled to include Memorial Day weekend. He stated the event came about after the school shooting at Noblesville West Middle School in 2018 as a way to alleviate isolation and build social connections. He stated they encourage the community to gather with family and friends. He stated the week begins with the Longest Table event, which gathers the leadership of various non-profit organizations to eat lunch together at one long table in Seminary Park. He stated this year there were 30 organizations and 82 attendees at a 108-foot-long table.

Mr. Probst stated SERVE week is June 26 through 29. He stated it is the single largest volunteer service event in Hamilton County, with 1,000 volunteers completing approximately 100 projects. He stated SERVE Noblesville partners with more than 50 businesses and organizations. He stated \$118,000.00 is invested back into the community.

Mr. Probst stated during the COVID pandemic, they listened to neighbors and the community, and found there were unmet needs. He stated as a result, SERVE Noblesville has launched an initiative called Charming Noblesville: three new programs that reflect and preserve what makes Noblesville unique. He stated the first program is IMPACT Noblesville, which is a website that went live in January to help volunteers find service opportunities. He stated the website is free to the community. He stated the second project is Neighborhood Activation. He stated there are 12 historic neighborhoods in the City, and this initiative will help re-activate and preserve their history and improve the quality of life for those living and working there. He stated the third program is Neighborhood Beautification. He stated the project includes alley murals, planting flowering trees on residential properties, creating pocket parks in alley setbacks, adding historic streetlights, creating neighborhood gateways, and installing decorative crosswalks.

Mr. Probst stated SERVE Noblesville does not drive the programs, but they listen to the community. He stated as an asset-based organization, everyone has something to contribute. He thanked the Council for their time. Mr. Peterson expressed appreciation for the work of SERVE Noblesville.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Peterson called Mr. Knecht forward. He stated Mr. Knecht is leaving the City. He thanked Mr. Knecht for helping lead the City through the COVID pandemic and leaving the public safety departments on a solid footing. Mr. Johnson stated it has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Knecht.

Mr. Knecht thanked the Council for their support of Public Safety. He stated nearly five years ago, Mayor Jensen gave him the opportunity to retire from the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and make an impact where his grandchildren are growing up. He stated he saw the support the Council gives the Police and Fire Departments from the very first meeting. He stated the Council has supported Public Safety. He stated it is very rare to have everyone pulling in the same direction. He stated the dysfunction in many parts of the country is not present here, largely

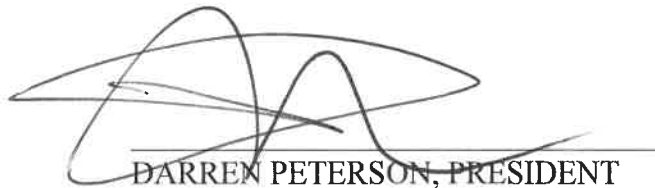
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due to the leadership of the Mayor and the Council. He stated he has been very blessed to serve in this capacity. He thanked the Council for every opportunity they have given him. The Chamber applauded. Mr. Boice stated in his time serving on the Council, he has served with many police and fire chiefs, and there are always complaints from police officers or firefighters. He stated now he does not hear any complaints, which is amazing. He stated Mr. Knecht was awarded the Stake in the Ground award a few years ago for his leadership during the COVID pandemic. Mr. Knecht replied the police and fire chiefs are outstanding leaders. He stated the goal of any leader is that the organization will continue to function well if something should happen to them. He stated he is confident the departments will continue to work well because of the Council's support.

Ms. Wiles stated the Indiana Peony Festival was very successful. Mr. Johnson stated many Downtown businesses were very successful that day as a result of the Peony Festival's popularity. He stated many Downtown businesses would not exist without such events. He stated the business owners also appreciated the Hard Hat Resiliency grants.

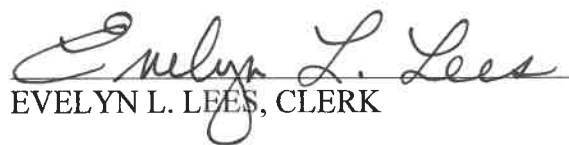
**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Common Council this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024, Mr. Peterson adjourned the meeting.



DARREN PETERSON, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:



EVELYN L. LEES, CLERK