

**COMMON COUNCIL – SPECIAL SESSION  
CITY OF NOBLESVILLE  
JULY 9, 2019**

The Common Council of the City of Noblesville met in special session pursuant to public notice on Tuesday, July 9, 2019. Brian Ayer called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m. with the following members present: Mark Boice, Wil Hampton, Christopher Jensen, Roy Johnson, Darren Peterson, Greg O'Connor, Rick Taylor, and Megan Wiles.

Also present were State Senator Victoria Spartz, Mayor John Ditslear, City Clerk Evelyn Lees, Deputy Clerk Charlene Cummings, City Attorney Michael Howard, Controller Jeffrey Spalding, and interested citizens.

Senator Spartz thanked the Council for meeting with her. She stated as someone who comes from a fiscal background, she believes meeting with the local councils is a good thing to do. She stated most of the 2019 General Assembly did not focus on local issues, but there were bills concerning Local Income Tax (LIT) distribution and controlled projects that were of local importance. Neither bill was adopted. She stated both issues will be studied this summer, and she hopes enough progress will be made to avoid any last minute negotiations next year.

Senator Spartz mentioned there is a need for an east-west corridor in northern Hamilton County. She stated Westfield's Mayor Cook suggested 191<sup>st</sup> Street. Mayor Ditslear stated State Road 32 cannot be widened between State Road 37 and River Road; there are too many historic homes and businesses. He stated that is why the Pleasant Street corridor is so important. He stated once completed, Pleasant Street could relieve 30 percent of the traffic on Conner Street, yet the State will not help. There was a discussion about S.R. 37. Mr. Jensen thanked Senator Spartz for coming. He stated infrastructure is Noblesville's biggest issue, but the State needs to get out of the way. He stated the last piece to financing our infrastructure projects is to remove roads and infrastructure from controlled projects. He stated the City can build its own projects, but it needs support. Mr. Howard noted the bill as it was drafted indexed controlled projects so that small towns could not overspend. He stated the structure was still paternalistic, but it would have worked. He stated the current law will make the Pleasant Street project very difficult to complete. Mr. Boice stated his perception is that other communities receive more support from the State and County, while Noblesville receives very little. Senator Spartz recommended speaking to the County Commissioners, who seem to do much in the northern and southern parts of the County, but not much in the center. Mr. Johnson observed that logically speaking, it does not make sense to ignore the County seat.

She stated she has asked the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) to research Regional Development Authorities. She asked for the Council's perspective. She stated the DLGF has much data that can be used for comparison to other communities and could aid in planning and forecasting. Mayor Ditslear stated former Indianapolis Mayor Ballard started the Central Indiana Elected Officials Council, which current Indianapolis Mayor Hogsett attends. Mayor Ditslear stated the Council includes mayors from Indianapolis and the donut counties to meet and discuss regional issues. He noted Fishers Mayor Fadness has been a leader within the group. He stated the purpose of a Regional Development Authority is for regional municipalities to join together with the ability to levy a tax to address a common issue. Senator Spartz stated the concept is being studied this summer. She stated it is a very challenging idea. Mr. Jensen stated the concept was initiated by Accelerating Indiana Municipalities (AIM) to give regions tools to address social issues such as poverty. Senator Spartz encouraged the Council to email or text her with input concerning these issues. Mr. Jensen stated it is important for the City to be more engaged during the legislative session next year. He stressed the City's need to correct LIT distribution. Senator Spartz expressed confidence that an answer will be found.

Senator Spartz observed that Carmel is a cultural center; Westfield concentrates on sports; Fishers focuses on Information Technology; and with Ivy Tech and now Purdue, she stated she would like to see Noblesville be the intellectual, educational hub of the county. Mr. O'Connor thanked Senator Spartz for coming. He asked what the Council could do to help her during the legislative session. She replied they should keep her informed of big issues as far ahead of time as possible. She stated she can speak to the sponsor of the bill with their concerns, but it is very difficult to accomplish anything at the last minute.

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Mr. Hampton asked what is being done about the opioid crisis. Senator Spartz stated the opioid crisis is a complex issue that is being studied this summer. She stated addiction treatment needs to be available long term. Mr. Hampton stated the State has provided funding, but it seems to stop at the county level. He asked how local government could tap in to resources. Senator Spartz stated she is asking for details. She noted that the General Assembly can pass legislation, but they need to receive a report from the executive branch to see if the legislation has been implemented. She stated she is working toward better reporting.


Mr. Ayer adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.



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BRIAN AYER, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:



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EVELYN L. LEES, CLERK