



## September City Council Updates

A newsletter updating you on what's happening in Noblesville



### City Council Update & Recap

Since the last update, the Council has met once and is set to meet twice in September. On the agenda, we'll begin considering the budget (summary below) and start looking through an economic development project proposed for downtown Noblesville.

Want to attend the next Council meeting? [Here's the full schedule.](#)

**Let's dive in. The budget.** From a high level, the proposed budget will see:

- No increase in the overall city budget compared to the revised 2020 city budget

- No citywide yearly salary increase
- No health insurance premium increases for employees
- And, no new city positions – except the four positions previously created to continue the implementation of the public safety priority, Noble Act.

#### Timeline (Approximate)

- **August:** City Council budget preview
- **Beginning of Sept.:** Budget submitted to Finance Committee
- **Mid to Late-Sept.:** Budget introduced to Council
- **End of Sept./Early Oct.:** Council votes on final budget

If you're interested in individual departments, here is a *very* short summary of a few that I found notable. **It's important to note that all of the departments came prepared with thorough explanations of their budgets for next year, but I have abbreviated for length!**

#### **City Court | Presented by: Judge Matt Cook**

I was most impressed by the creative funding mechanism that Judge Cook instituted to help cover the shortfall from COVID. Since Court was shutdown for an extended time earlier this year, he asked his staff to research all those who failed to appear in the last ten years. A collection agency has been hired to recoup fines from those who failed to appear in court, most of whom are from out of town or out of state. He hoped to generate revenue that was lost during the shutdown.

#### **Police Department | Presented by: Chief Mann & Asst. Chief Arnold**

Of note, the Police Department's budget requested additional funding for NobleAct, an initiative to support the mental, physical, and financial health of the officers.

#### **Planning & Economic Development | Presented by:**

- **Sarah Reed (Director of Community & Economic Dev.)**
- **Andrew Murray (Economic Dev. Assistant Director)**
- **Caleb Gutshall (Planning Assistant Director)**

Mr. Murray shared that \$75,000 in the Downtown Development Fund will be budgeted to Economic Development for small projects to enhance aesthetics in Downtown. This will help improve government

efficiency and ensure downtown looks great!

**Fire Department | Presented by: Fire Chief Matt Mitchell**

He stated three new positions are requested to backfill the paramedics who now work in the NobleAct community paramedicine program (launched during the pandemic on April 9, 2020). The Fire Department also applied for a SAFER grant from the federal government that would fund nine firefighter positions for three years at a savings to the City of approximately \$130,000.00. The status of this grant is still pending.

**Engineering | Presented by: Alison Krupski**

Ms. Krupski laid out the separate proposed budgets for (1) operations and administration of the department, and (2) street improvement and rehabilitation. The separate budgets allow for better tracking of major capital projects.

**Streets | Presented by: Street Commissioner Patty Johnson**

While Engineering takes on new road projects, the Street Department maintains that important infrastructure. This department also handles small sections of sidewalk and curb replacement, assisting the utility with concrete work and asphalt work within the right of way, brush collection, leaf collection (my personal favorite!), maintenance of all street trees (including removal and pruning), maintenance of the central business district, snow removal both on streets and central business district sidewalks, and mosquito control.

**Parks and Recreation | Presented by: Director Brandon Bennett**

Presented in separate budgets, Mr. Bennett shared his plans for Parks, Recreation and Golf. Recreation and Golf is not supported by taxes, but by fees.

**Maintenance | Presented by: David Dale**

Mr. Dale stated that the planned work on the sidewalks around City Hall would be postponed to be concurrent with Downtown Streetscape implementation. He also shared more of the department's effort to

ensure the City's buildings remained clean during the COVID-19 crisis.

### **Other Departments**

Clerk (Evelyn Lees), Human Resources (Holly Ramon), Information Technology (James Yost), Legal (Lindsey Bennett), Office of Finance and Accounting (Jeff Spalding), Board of Works (Jeff Spalding), Common Council (Jeff Spalding) also shared updates from their departments. These budget proposals all fell within the overall constraints laid out by the Mayor's Office above.

**Have questions on these budgets? [Let me know!](#)**

---

## **Proposed Marsh Redevelopment Project**

As many downtown residents know, the former Marsh property by River Road and SR 32 has been vacant for three years when the company went out of business. In that span of time, there have been multiple proposed uses for redevelopment of the site that were rejected by the council and the administration.

This proposal by Cityscape Residential would bring a high-quality residential investment to the downtown area west of the White River.

### **The Details:**

- The public-private partnership is projected to be a \$47.9 million investment.
- Zoning for a potential office building will also be presented to the council as part of this project.
- The project includes luxury apartment amenities like co-working areas, a bike room with maintenance and repair, outdoor living spaces and downtown connectivity with convenient trail access to the White River Greenway, Forest Park and Morse Reservoir.

### **My view:**

In my opinion, there's no doubt that the vacant Marsh property is not

the highest and best use for the site and I believe increasing the population base near downtown will help support our local economy. This project seems to accomplish those goals.

When this comes before the Council, I will be asking about connectivity to downtown. I'm grateful that the Mayor and developer both included this as a part of the project's announcement and I look forward to hearing more at its introduction!

**The Mayor's viewpoint:**

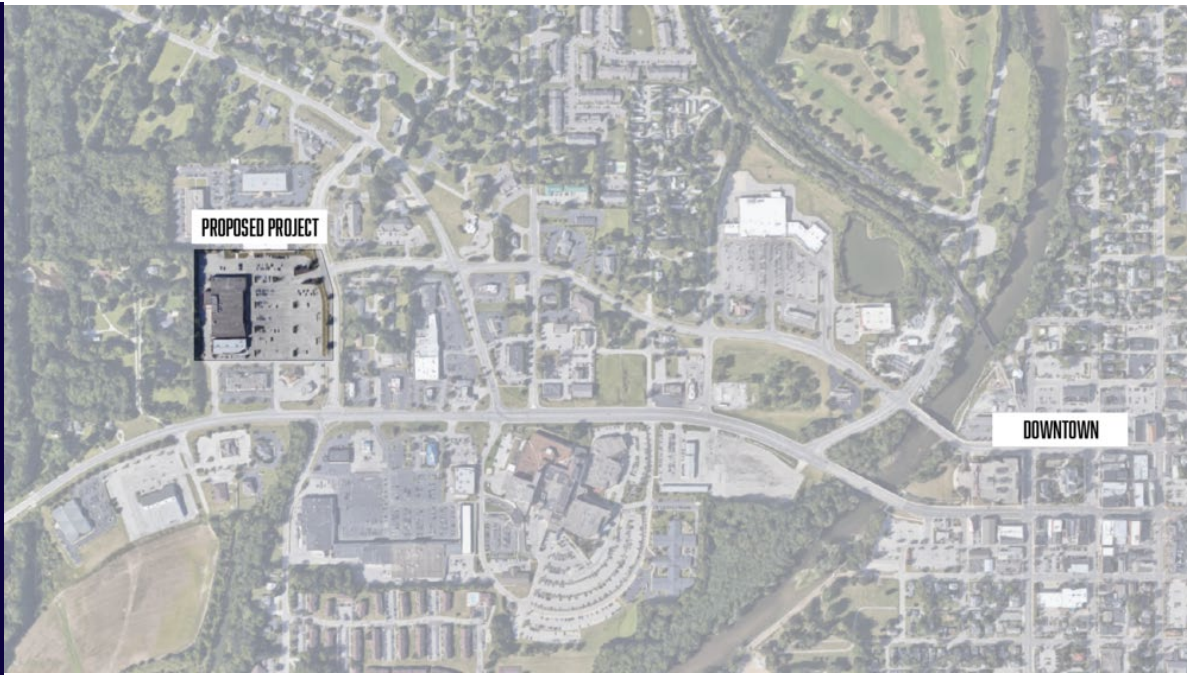
- "Our goal with this project is to drive economic development to our western anchor of the downtown area and bring vibrancy to a currently blighted location"
- "It's a shame to have an underutilized space so close to the heart of our downtown and we would like to turn that around by investing in quality of life and sense of place. Adding residential development to the west side of the river will attract a diverse workforce while adding density and energy to that area."

**Next Steps:**

- The economic development agreement will be presented at the September 15th council meeting.
- If approved by council, construction is expected to start in spring 2021 with plans for construction to be completed in 2022.

Interested in learning more? Here's a look from [WishTV/Inside Indiana Business](#).

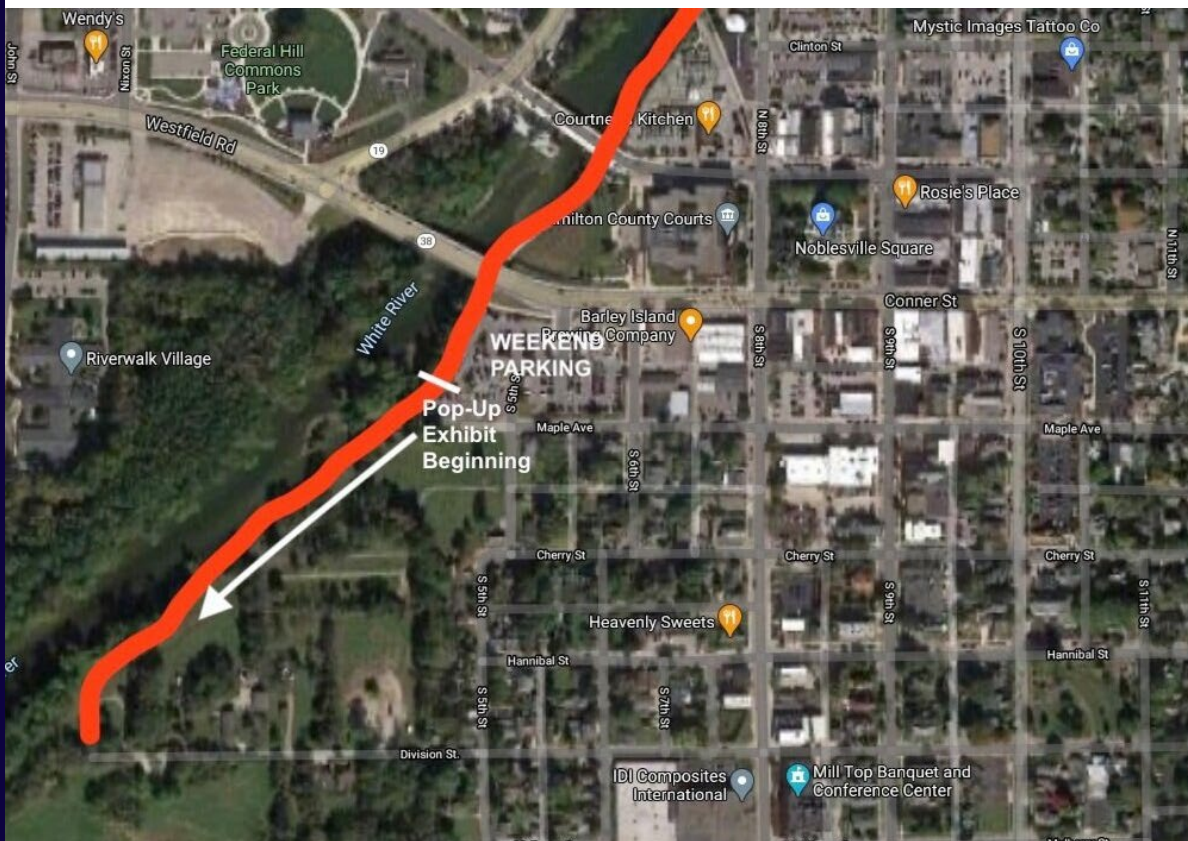
Want to share your opinion? [Send me an email](#).



---

## Pop-Up Art: Reflections on the Riverwalk

Make sure to check out the temporary “Reflections on the Riverwalk” art exhibit near downtown on the riverwalk trail (see map below). This pop-up art exhibit features 20+ excerpts from Midwest authors about nature and is available to view dawn to dusk through end of November.



## Virtual Open House: SR37 & 186th St. Project

INDOT intends to proceed with an intersection improvement project at

the intersection of SR 37 and 186th Street.

- **Why:** This project is up for discussion due to the high frequency of vehicle collisions and the existing level of service for both 186th Street approaches. This is also set to improve the safety and efficiency of the intersection.
- **Who:** This project is a safety upgrade by INDOT
- **When:** Construction will begin in 2022

**How to learn more and share your feedback:**

A virtual open house is available for anyone and can be accessed through the project website at: <https://www.sr37and186thstreet.com/>.

**Questions?** I'm happy to help direct you. [Sarah Everhart](#) is also able to help direct your questions.



---

## North Alley Officially Open!

A project years in the making, the City of Noblesville and Nickel Plate Arts opened the North Alley for use on Labor Day weekend. Hats off to all who worked so hard to get this project off the ground, especially the artists on the project, Kevin Huff (archway) and Andrea Haydon (mural)!





---

## Now Open: Finch Creek Park

Finch Creek Park, located directly south of Finch Creek Fieldhouse, opened last month. This is Noblesville's sixth public park and is located off Boden Road. It includes playgrounds, a splash pad, lighted basketball court, and four lighted pickleball courts. This is a must see for families on the east side of Noblesville!



---

## **Business Spotlight: Noblesville Antiques on the Square**

Formally known as The Noblesville Antique Mall, Noblesville Antiques on the Square has three floors of uniquely selected antiques and vintage collectibles.

### **What you need to know:**

- They are open 10am-5pm Monday through Friday, 10am-7pm on Saturdays, and Noon-5pm on Sundays.
- The owner, Jill Janusiewicz, used to manage the shop under its previous ownership.
- Before opening, the building owners (Old Town residents!) repainted and renovated the interior. Make sure to stop by to take a look!



---

## Noblesville ÒIn the NewsÓ

Over the past month Noblesville has been in the news! Here are a few stories that you may have missed along the way:

- Current: [Janus Developmental Services cuts ribbon to new trail in Noblesville](#)
- Current: [Noblesville eligible for \\$2M in CARES ACT funds](#)
- The Times: [North alley is welcome gathering place downtown](#)
- WISHTV: [Noblesville offers ideas to help Books & Brews stay open during pandemic](#)
- IndyStar: [Wage freeze but no layoffs in Noblesville's](#)

[proposed 2021 budget](#)



Aaron Smith for Noblesville, 522 North 9th Street, Noblesville, IN,  
United States



Powered by [Squarespace](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)