

**Monday, June 6, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m.**

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Presiding Officer: Mayor Fred Paris

Members Present: Dr. William T. Murphy, President  
Mr. Joseph Abban  
Mr. Joseph Ault  
Mr. Kenneth W. Austin  
Mr. Stephen D. Barnett  
Mrs. Ann Gordon  
Mr. Stephen D. Houglund

Members Absent:

Also Present: City Attorney Robert H. Schafstall, Clerk Treasurer's Assistant Kathy Cragen

Mayor Paris opened the meeting and asked the Clerk-Treasurer's Assistant to call the roll. The invocation was given by Dr. Murphy. Visiting Boy Scout Troop #2228 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Paris asked the Boy Scouts in the audience to come forward, and introduce themselves.

### **Consent Agenda**

Mayor Paris presented the consent agenda for approval.

- o Approval of the May 16, 2011 Common Council Minutes

Dr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Barnett, made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried and the consent agenda was approved.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

#### **Resolution No.: 11-02 – A Resolution Establishing an Economic Revitalization Area and Designating a Tax Abatement for GROK Enterprises/Nitrex**

Dr. Murphy made a motion to read by title only, seconded by Mr. Abban. The motion carried and Mayor Paris read the title aloud. Planning Director Krista Linke came forward and explained that this resolution proposes tax abatements for both real and personal property. Ms. Linke stated that the abatement is recommended by the Economic Development Commission (EDC). A discussion was held. Mr. Chuck Thomas of Nitrex came forward and stated that they plan to double the size of their facility and to invest as much as three million in personal property. Further he stated that there is the potential that they will invest another two to three million in the future. Mr. Todd Bemis also spoke to the Board, stating that his company is building the new building for Grok Enterprises which will be occupied by Nitrex. Mr. Austin made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Abban. The motion carried.

## **Capital Projects List**

Mayor Paris provided the members with a list of several planned capital projects and asked the Council members to look it over before the next meeting. He stated that funds currently held in the Disaster Recovery Fund will be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund. The list included: North Main Street, TEA drainage project, paving of Water Street from Jefferson to Madison, Project Green area; Scott Park improvements, a downtown public restroom; walking trail extensions & pedestrian bridge in Southwest Quadrant. He estimated that the cost of all the projects proposed is 1.37 million.

## **Discussion of Gateways & Greenways Project**

Mayor Paris provided maps of the proposed Gateways and Greenways project area. A discussion was held.

## **Library Project**

Mayor Paris invited Mr. Trent McWilliams a member of the Redevelopment Commission (RDC) to present information about that Commission's efforts to encourage the Library Board to build the proposed new Franklin Library branch in the downtown area. Mr. McWilliams gave an overview of the RDC's view of this project stating that it is their belief that the downtown area needs facilities to bring the public to this area. Challenges include parking and the RDC believes that additional parking of some sort will need to be added. He stated that the RDC will work with city on parking for both the library and downtown patrons. The RDC passed a resolution last week supporting the library and a downtown parking area. Mr. McWilliams would like to encourage the City to make the Oren Wright property available for the construction of the library and parking area at no cost. Mr. Robert Heuchan also a member of the RDC came forward and stated that he is an advocate of a downtown library.

Mrs. Beverly Martin the Director of the Johnson County Library provided the Council Members with a timetable for the library referendum. She explained that the Library Board is currently looking at two different locations, one on the north side of town, and downtown at Jackson and Jefferson Streets. Ms. Martin stated that it was critical to have some kind of answer from the City concerning their backing due to the timetable. Ms. Martin stated that 320 parking places would be necessary for the size of library they are planning to build. She also stated that a decision on where it will be built will make a difference in the cost of construction.

A discussion was held.

Residents Allen Watts, Larry Nunn, Gary Moody, Alice Mann, Cecilia Campbell, Ron Collins and Rob Henderson spoke.

Mayor Paris stated that this presentation was for informational purposes. A discussion was held about the exchange of property.

Mayor Paris stated that the Council should hold a joint meeting with the RDC, EDC, and Franklin Development Corporation to discuss this project.

## **Other Business**

### **Vacant Building Update**

Mayor Paris asked the Council to consider what they plan to do with the City owned vacant buildings. He listed the Fire Station at Hamilton and Forsythe Streets (appraised \$125,000), former Street Garage (appraised at \$270,000.00) which is currently being used for Project Green material storage, former City Hall at Madison Street (appraised at \$225,000.00 in 2009). He asked that the Council to discuss these properties at the next regular meeting.

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Mayor Paris also asked City Attorney Schafstall to check into how the City could offer some of these buildings to non- profits; such as the G.C. Murphy building. He also stated that 400 S. Main has been re-advertised and an individual has stated that they would offer double what was originally offered. He also stated that the City owns fifteen (15) acres adjacent to Blue Herron Park; a lot located behind Ann's Restaurant; and 20 acres on Commerce Drive.

**Budget Calendar**

Mayor Paris stated that the proposed budget adoption calendar was provided to the members in their packets. The 2012 budget will be discussed at the next meeting and council assignments for budget review will be made at that time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion and a second were made to adjourn. As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held Monday, June 20, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet P. Alexander, Clerk-Treasurer

Enrolled: 6/16/2011

Approved by Common Council: