



# CITY OF FRANKLIN

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

### MINUTES

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

May 9, 2023

#### **Members Present:**

Josh DeArmitt	President
Shawn Taylor	Vice President
Eric Leugers	Secretary
Lee Hodgen	Member

#### **Others Present:**

Dana Monson	Community Development Specialist
Ellen Fredbeck Ramirez	Legal Counsel

#### **Call to Order:**

Josh DeArmitt called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

#### **Roll Call & Determination of a Quorum**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

**April 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes** – Lee Hodgen made a motion for approval of the minutes. Shawn Taylor seconded. Passed unanimously, 4-0.

#### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

Dana Monson explained that \$73,690 had been received for the year's EDC fees. Grant applications had been sent out to all eligible non-profits, and three were received. Submittals were from Festival Country, Franklin Chamber of Commerce and Franklin Heritage.

#### **Economic Development Fee Grant Applications**

- i. **Festival Country Application** – Executive Director Ken Kosky presented their project request of \$13,690 for expansion of the Kuji alley. They wish to implement steelwork, decorative, solar Japanese lanterns to hang overhead, a Japanese footbridge that aligns with a photo-op on the north wall, and seating/outdoor furniture. Efforts are being overseen by a representative from Kuji to achieve cultural integrity. Quotes have been received from the designer, fabricator and installer of the bicentennial alley as well as for the outdoor furniture.
- ii. **Franklin Chamber of Commerce Application** – Executive Director Rosie Chambers presented the chamber's request for \$30,000 to fund 12 \$2,500 capacity-building grants. Their goal is to establish a small business, capacity-building, grant program that will provide funding to local organizations who seek to strengthen their business. The chamber has established an application process to insure funds are allocated in a fair and transparent manner. They will work closely with recipients to monitor their

progress and provide ongoing support. They will also require an impact statement upon project completion. The Capacity-Building Grant Pilot Program will be available to businesses who wish to expand their physical space, online presence or marketing initiatives. Businesses with 10 or fewer employees would qualify to apply.

- iii. **Franklin Heritage, Inc. Application** – George Chimples and Rob Shilts presented their request for \$30,000. They sought funding to restore the Artcraft to full operation. The March 31<sup>st</sup> storm lifted the roof over the theater flyloft and slammed it back down causing structural damage. Scope of work includes scaffold installation, clearing debris and damaged structural components, furnish temporary roofing, replace damaged structural elements and the installation of tiedown connectors on each roof rafter. Additionally, the front of the theater received cosmetic damage to the covering around the box office. The southern poster case was entirely sheered off and the marquee had significant damage. Photos were presented showing the damage.

Before the commission vote, Eric Leugers disclosed himself as a member of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

An additional requirement made by the commission to the applicants was to appear back before the board in six months with a project update and final accounting of costs.

Mr. Taylor made a motion for approval of the three projects with amounts as requested. Mr. Leugers seconded. Passed unanimously, 4-0.

### **Other Business**

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was made and passed unanimously, 5-0.

Respectfully submitted this 13th day of June 2023.

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Joshua DeArmitt, President

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Eric Leugers, Secretary