

City of Franklin Common Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2025

The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Franklin, Indiana, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 70 E. Monroe Street, with Mayor Steve Barnett presiding. Council members Kenneth Austin, Todd Shuck, Irene Nalley, Jennifer Price, Josh Prine, and Shawn Taylor answered roll call. Clerk-Treasurer Jan Jones was also present. Anne McGuinness and City Attorney Lynnette Gray were absent.

Mayor Barnett opened the meeting and asked the Clerk-Treasurer to call the roll.

Bryan Ries offered an invocation and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements & Public Comments

Presentation of Franklin Heritage's annual Preservation Awards - Franklin Heritage Glenn

Faris and Rob Shilts presented the following awards:

Restorer(s) of Old Franklin: ROOF Award	Mike and Connie Hill
Best New Construction in an Existing Historic Area	Dugan Construction
Best Adaptative Reuse of an Existing Historic Structure	Iozzo's on Jefferson
Best Renovation Project of an Existing Historic Structure	Julie Wells
Best New Addition to an Existing Historic Structure	Will and Regina Harvey
Best Continued Use of an Existing Historic Structure	The Church on Jefferson
Natural Beauty	Timothy and Cara
Little Charmer	Nancy Fleshood-Papps
Preservation Partner Award	Franklin College, National Register of Historic Places

Consent Agenda

Mayor Barnett presented the consent agenda for approval.

- o Approval of the May 5, 2025, Common Council Minutes

Council President Austin motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Old Business

Council President Austin motioned to read Old Business by title only, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Approval of Budgetary Ordinance 25-08 to appropriate \$10,000 from Creative

Convergence Grant - Clerk-Treasurer Jan Jones stated this was introduced at the last meeting and is ready for action. Mayor Barnett opened the Public Hearing. There were no Public Comments. Mayor Barnett closed the Public Hearing. Councilor Prine motioned to approve Budgetary Ordinance 25-08, seconded by Councilor Price. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Approval of Budgetary Ordinance 25-09 to appropriate all funding for CCMG 2025 - Part 1- \$2,282,538.64 - Clerk-Treasurer Jan Jones stated this was introduced at the last meeting and is ready for action. Mayor Barnett opened the Public Hearing. There were no Public Comments. Mayor Barnett closed the Public Hearing. Councilor Price motioned to approve Budgetary Ordinance 25-09, seconded by Councilor Taylor. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

New Business

Council President Austin motioned to read New Business by title only, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Yearly Tax Abatement Compliance Reports for Approval - Community Development Specialist Dana Monson stated that on May 13, 2025, the EDC unanimously found the following tax abatement compliance reports to be in substantial compliance and are presenting them before the Council with favorable recommendations:

C 2025-13: G & H Wire 21-12

C 2025-37: PRJ Properties/Ortho America 21-34

Councilor Taylor motioned to approve C 2025-13 and C 2025-37, seconded by Council President Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

The EDC also found the following tax abatement compliance report to be substantially compliant in a 3-1 vote, the vote being split over personal property development.

C 2025-38: Ortho America Holdings 21- 36.

Devon McSurley spoke on behalf of Ortho America Holdings. Their initial abatement was issued in November 2021, and due to a failed acquisition, real property, equipment, and job investments shifted. Ms. McSurley stated that Ortho America is still continuing to invest in equipment and hire, and has plans to meet the personal property requirements. Council President Austin pointed out that they have been out of compliance for two years. Mayor Barnett stated they have done substantial work in and around the property with paving, painting, and adding upgrades, and that it is appreciated. Council President Austin motioned to approve C 2025-38, seconded by Councilor Taylor. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

2025 Economic Development Fees grant award - Community Development Specialist Dana Monson stated we are receiving \$107,679.08. This money comes from companies voluntarily supporting our community. By state statute, this grant can only be awarded to non-profits whose mission is economic development and building those connections within city limits.

The following organizations fit those requirements:

Discover Downtown Franklin	Franklin Chamber of Commerce Foundation
Franklin Development Corporation	Franklin Heritage
Festival Country	Aspire Johnson County

Of these, the following organizations applied:

Franklin Chamber Foundation	\$25,000.00	Small Business Capacity Building Grants
Franklin Heritage, Inc.	\$25,000.00	Artcraft Live Concert Series
Discover Downtown Franklin	\$57,679.08	Large-scale Marketing Campaign

Councilor Taylor motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Council President Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Request waiver of Non-Compliance for Form 322 Tax Abatement - Community
Development Specialist Dana Monson stated this request is from Pure Development, located at 2280 McClain Dr. Ms. Monson outlined the abatement process. Peterson Group originally built this building and sold it to Pure Development in 2022. In the process of buying the property, Pure Development did not file Form 322 with the County. Last year, they received a Waiver of Non-Compliance. Again this year, Pure Development did not file a Form 322, resulting in a higher-than-expected tax bill. Granting them a Waiver of Non-Compliance would allow them to receive credit in the amount already paid, for the fall installment and possibly into 2026. Jesse Sadoway spoke on behalf of Pure Development. Mayor Barnett and Council President Austin asked for more details. Ms. Monson explained her role in assisting businesses and how this would affect the EDC. Councilor Taylor stated this has been an oversight for two years in a row. Councilor Taylor motioned to deny Pure Development Form 322 Tax Abatement Waiver Request, seconded by Council President Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Pure Development RE: Tax Abatement Request - Community
Development Specialist Dana Monson stated this is for 2280 McClain Dr. The southern portion is currently leased to Ryder Logistics; this is for the northern portion. They are requesting a 5-year abatement of \$558,289.00 for the buildout of office spaces. The EDC recommends a 3-year abatement with a 5% EDC fee. Jesse Sadoway from Pure Development shared their plan and was available to answer questions. Mayor Barnett opened the Public Hearing. There were no Public Comments. Mayor Barnett closed the Public Hearing. Council President Austin motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Councilor Taylor. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Other Business

There was no Other Business.

Council Comments

Councilor Shawn Taylor wished good luck to the upcoming graduates and hopes everyone enjoys race weekend.

Councilor Todd Shuck stated he had the opportunity to tour the Active Adult Center and it looks outstanding.

Councilor Jennifer Price shared that the Opioid Task Force met last week. Applications for grants will open on June 1st, and a meeting will follow on June 13th.

Franklin Mayor’s Youth Leadership Council Member Levi Martin stated the pickleball court lights should be done this week, and the mural on the City Hall generator should be approved at the next Board of Works meeting. Other members in attendance were Abe Botkin, Carsten Bland, and Brooks Huddleston.

Council President Ken Austin added that he, Councilor Shuck, Councilor McGuinness, and City Staff met with Crossroad Engineering concerning the upcoming Scott Park Project.

Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer
Enrolled: 05/28/25

Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer