CITY OF FRANKLIN, INDIANA

COMMON COUNCIL, REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING
JUNE 20, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.

City Council Chambers -70 E. Monroe St.
Franklin, Indiana 46131

1. **Call to Order**: The special joint meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. Mayor Paris opened the meeting and asked the Clerk-Treasurer to call the roll.

2. **Roll Call:**

   a) **Members of the City of Franklin Common Council** : Quorum established
      i) Dr. William Murphy
      ii) Joe Abban
      iii) Joe Ault
      iv) Ken Austin
      v) Steve Barnett
      vi) Ann Gordon
      vii) Steve Hougland

   b) **Members of the Economic Development Commission (EDC)**: Quorum established
      i) Lee Hodgen
      ii) John Ditmars
      iii) Ken Austin
      iv) Sam Yount

   c) **Members of the Redevelopment Commission**: (RDC) Quorum established
      i) Larry Koenes
      ii) B.J. Deppe
      iii) Ted Grossnickle
      iv) Bob Heuchan
      v) Danny Vaught

Other people present at this meeting were: Clerk Treasurer Janet Alexander, City Attorney Robert H. Schafstall, and Kathy Cragen.

Dr. Murphy offered the invocation, which was followed by a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Paris presented the Common Council's consent agenda for approval.

- Approval of the June 6, 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

Resolution No.: 11-03 – A Resolution Setting Forth Final Action in Determining an Economic Revitalization Area and Confirming Resolution No.: 11-02

Planning Director Krista Linke came forward to explain that this is the public hearing confirming the action taken by the Common Council on Resolution No.: 11-02 – A Resolution Establishing an Economic Revitalization Area and Designating a Tax Abatement for GROK Enterprises/Nitrex approved at the previous meeting. Mayor Paris made a motion to read by title only, seconded by Mr. Austin. The motion carried. The Mayor read the title aloud. A discussion was held. The Mayor stated that this is a Public Hearing and asked if anyone from the public wished to speak on the matter. No one asked to speak. Mr. Austin made a motion to approve Resolution No.: 11-03 – A Resolution Setting Forth Final Action in Determining an Economic Revitalization Area and Confirming Resolution No.: 11-02. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gordon. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. No members stated nay. The motion carried.

Joint Meeting Discussion

Mayor Paris asked the Chairmen of the Redevelopment Commission (RDC) and Economic Development Commission (EDC) to summarize their responsibilities. Mr. Larry Koenes President of the RDC came forward, and explained that the commission's primary goal is to foster an environment that encourages job creation. Mr. Koenes explained that the commission is required to work within the TIF districts and that their ultimate goal is economic development and revitalization.

Mr. Sam Yount, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) stated that the primary responsibility of the EDC is to review tax abatement requests that come in from industries interested in locating in the Franklin area, or industries currently located here that want to expand. It is the EDC's job to decide if abatement is appropriate and to forward recommendations to the Council. Mr. Yount stated that these companies must be located in an area which is approved as an Economic Revitalization Area before tax abatement can be approved. All of the abatements are reviewed annually.

Discussion of Downtown Library Project

Mayor Paris introduced the subject of the proposed library branch in the downtown. Mr. Larry Koenes stated that the RDC had approved plans to fund capital projects including: the Gateway Project, directional signage, and the International Drive project. He also stated that the RDC has purchased the old Franklin Engineering building which will be torn down. He reported that the RDC has offered an incentive to the Johnson County Library to build the new Franklin branch downtown and committed 3.5 million dollars to the project to address parking issues.

A discussion was held between the Council Members and the members of the RDC and EDC concerning downtown property including the former G.C. Murphy building, the building located at 55 W. Madison Street, and the Oren Wright property. They also discussed the capital projects proposed by the Mayor including Scott Park improvements and the Main Street TEA 21 drainage project.

Mayor Paris asked the Council for their opinions about the future use of the Oren Wright property which is also one of the proposed locations of the new Franklin library branch. The Mayor stated that the RDC is interested in redeveloping downtown, and asked the Council if they were willing to work with the RDC concerning these properties.

A discussion was held. Dr. Murphy, Mrs. Gordon, Mr. Ault, Mr. Barnett, Mr. Austin stated that they were in favor of having the RDC market the GC Murphy building and 55 W. Madison Street. Mr. Barnett and Mr. Austin objected to extending this privilege to the Oren Wright property. Mr. Hougland and Mr. Ault stated that they were not in favor of the Oren Wright property as a site for the library. Mr. Barnett stated that he is not in favor of the South West quadrant but that he supports fixing downtown streets and the Gateway.

Mayor Paris stated that 999 Hamilton Avenue (former fire station #22) is appraised at $125,000; and 847 Hamilton Avenue (former Street Department garage) is currently being used for Project Green material and equipment storage. Mayor Paris also reported that the Board of Public Works and Safety have received an offer to purchase the real property located at 400 S. Main Street. Mayor Paris stated for the record that the City has no use for these properties and that they should be sold and returned to the tax rolls.

Mr. Barnett made a motion to sell 847 Hamilton and 999 Hamilton Avenue and the 5 acres adjacent to Blue Herron Park. City Attorney Schafstall stated that the Council does not have the authority under Indiana Code to direct the sale of property. He explained that the decision to sell property is a duty of the Board of Public Works. Upon learning this Mr. Barnett withdrew his motion and stated that he would like to recommend that the Board of Works sell these properties. Mr. Ault stated that he would vote against selling the 15 acres adjacent to Blue Herron Park. Mr. Barnett changed his motion to recommend the City sell 847 & 899 Hamilton Avenue, seconded by Mr. Austin. The motion carried.

Discussion concerning proposed Capital Projects

Mayor Paris provided a list of proposed capital projects totaling $1.4 million to the Council Members. The Mayor suggested that funds reimbursed to the City by FEMA for expenses incurred due to the June 2008 flood could be used to fund the proposed capital projects.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion concerning defeated Ordinance Number 09-12 of the City of Franklin, Indiana An Ordinance Regulating Golf Carts

Resident John Wales came forward and gave a presentation promoting the idea that the City should adopt an ordinance permitting the use of golf carts. A discussion was held.

Deputy Police Chief Tennell commented that the Police Department’s preference is that the City simply follow existing state law and not permit golf carts on the streets.

Mr. Wales reported that Chip Orner of the Parks Department told him that the Parks Department uses golf carts to save money on gasoline.

Resident Cecilia Campbell who is also an insurance agent told the Council that she does not think golf carts should be allowed on city streets because insurance rates would go up if golf carts were driven on the streets.

Resident Al Welberry asked about insurance for golf carts.

Resident Jerry Limp stated that he had driven his golf cart on city streets for four years. He said that his cart is equipped with turn signals, brake lights etc. Mr. Limp stated that the college, and parks carts have no turn signals or brake lights and it is not fair to have a double standard.

Resident Bill Cantwell stated that his golf cart is fully equipped and he rides around his neighborhood to visit neighbors.

Mayor Paris thanked everyone who spoke and stated that this matter would be brought back at a future date.

OTHER BUSINESS

2012 Budget Discussions; Special requests by Department Heads for consideration
Mayor Paris asked Council members for their opinion concerning their departmental budget review assignments for next year. The Council Members agreed to retain the assignments from last year.

Council Member	Department(s)
Ken Austin	Streets
Joe Abban	Cemetery, WWTP, Sewer Maintenance, Sewer Billing
Joe Ault	Police
Steve Barnett	Board of Works, Park & Recreation
Steve Hougland	Planning, WWTP, Sewer Maintenance, Sewer Billing
Dr. Murphy	Fire
Ann Gordon	Mayor, Clerk Treasurer, City Hall

Mayor Paris stated that the Board of Works budget had been cut substantially last year and because of the higher gas prices it would require an increase in appropriated funds to purchase fuel next year. He stated that funds could be moved this year to cover anticipated shortfalls. The Mayor also stated that any newly hired city employees that do not live in city limits would not be permitted take home vehicles.

Chip Orner Superintendent of the Parks Department gave the Council a breakdown of all planned Parks Department expenses and explained that he will request a 3.25% increase in his 2012 budget. Mr. Ault complimented Chip and the entire Parks Department for the improved look of the pool area, and the condition of all of the park properties in general.

Planning Director Krista Linke explained that there will need to be changes in Planning Department staffing if she and the department assumes responsibility for the RDC liaison position. She also proposes to change the name of the department from Planning and Economic Development to Planning and Community Development. Ms. Linke stated that she would like to change the title of the current full time Code Enforcement officer Rhoni Oliver to Neighborhood Development Specialist. This position will focus more on minimum property maintenance and neighborhood revitalization than tall grass and trash. The flood buyout grant is nearing completion so that will allow Daryl Cochran to move from the Flood Recovery and Grant Coordinator position into a full-time Code Enforcement officer position. Ms. Linke also asked for a salary increase for her position if she takes on the RDC responsibilities as well as salary increases for Senior Planner Joanna Myers and Neighborhood Development Specialist Rhoni Oliver since they will also be taking on added responsibilities. She stated that after doing some research through the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) salary survey she has learned that the salaries are below the averages paid in other cities of our size.

The Mayor stated that the Police Department budget will remain flat. However, the Mayor said that the current fleet of patrol cars will hit 125,000 miles within the next two years and we will have to begin planning to replace them. He also mentioned that utility costs are going to increase in 2012 including water charges which impact the hydrant rental fee. Mr. Ault and Mayor Paris both agreed that the city should challenge the hydrant rental fees.

Mr. Barnett asked if the Council would receive a budget folder as they had in prior years. Clerk-Treasurer Alexander stated that the state now requires municipal budgets to be entered online, but that Council will still get a budget folder.

Dr. Murphy stated that the Clerk-Treasurer's office had passed their 2010 audit with flying colors, and thanked the Clerk-Treasurer and her office for a job well done.

Mr. Abban thanked the City for putting the Council packets and agendas online for council members and the public.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS & COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Resident Fran Leeper commented on drainage issues.

Resident Gary Moody commented on the proposal to transfer 55 W. Madison Street to the RDC.

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 9:55 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held Monday, July 18, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet P. Alexander, Clerk-Treasurer

Enrolled: 7/14/2011 Approved by Common Council: