

City of Franklin
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

City Hall
55 W. Madison St.
Franklin, Indiana 46131

Monday, January 8, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.

Presiding Officer: Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews

Members Present: President Stephen D. Hougland
Mr. Joseph P. Abban
Mr. Joseph R. Ault
Mr. Phillip R. Barrow
Mr. Jeffrey C. Eggers
Mrs. Ann M. Gordon
Dr. William T. Murphy

Also present: Clerk-Treasurer Janet P. Alexander, and City Attorney Robert H. Schafstall

News Media: Joseph Pete with the Daily Journal was present at this meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Janet P. Alexander opened the meeting with roll call of the members. Dr. William T. Murphy offered an invocation which was followed by a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews asked if anyone from the public wished to comment on any matter not listed on the agenda. No one asked to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Ault, seconded by Dr. Murphy, made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

1. Minutes of the meeting held December 11, 2006.

The motion carried and the consent agenda was approved.

PUBLIC HEARING

Resolution 06-10: A Resolution Creating an Economic Revitalization Area for 551 Earlywood Drive (Wertz, Timber and Veneer)

This item appeared on the agenda in error and was stricken.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of Resolution 07-02: A Resolution Setting Forth Final Action in Determining an Economic Revitalization Area and Confirming Resolution 06-10

The City Planner, Krista Linke, presented the proposed resolution that confirms resolution 06-10: Economic Revitalization Area (ERA) Tax Abatement for Wertz, Timber and Veneer located at 551 Earlywood Drive approved December 11, 2006. Ms. Raeann Wertz-Moore explained that the facility will be a veneer distribution and sales center with limited processing. The EDC recommended that Wertz, Timber and Veneer receive a five (5) year tax abatement on personal

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property. A motion and a second were made to read by title only. The motion carried resolution was read by title only. Mr. Barrow, seconded by Mrs. Gordon, made a motion to approve. The motion carried. The Council was polled and the votes cast were as follows:

Ayes – Hougland, Abban, Ault, Barrow, Eggers, Gordon, Murphy
Nays – None

Introduction of Resolution 07-01: A Resolution Authorizing the Submittal of the Community Focus Fund Grant Application

The City Planner, Krista Linke, presented the proposed resolution authorizing the submittal of a community focus fund grant application to the Indian Office of Community and Rural Affairs. Mrs. Linke explained that prior applications for this type of grant have not been approved in the past due to the amount of matching dollars required. The grant guidelines require a 10% match of the funds. The current application is for a \$750,000, requiring a \$75,000 match from the City of Franklin. Mrs. Linke explained that support of this grant application is not a guarantee that the grant will be awarded to the City of Franklin. The purpose of the grant is to fund improvements, upgrades, and new items such as sidewalks, streets, signage, trash receptacles, benches, etc. for downtown Franklin along Jefferson Street from Jackson Street to Water Street. Dr. Murphy, seconded by Mrs. Gordon, made a motion to approve. The motion carried. The Council was polled and the votes cast were as follows:

Ayes – Hougland, Abban, Ault, Barrow, Eggers, Gordon, Murphy
Nays – None

City Planner Linke also invited members to attend the Discover Downtown Meeting on January 24, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. to be held at the Johnson County Museum at 7:00 p.m. She explained that the meeting would review activities for 2006 and prioritize activities for 2007. She also reported that the organizations will increase from nine to fifteen members.

Request for Consideration of an Ordinance that Would Regulate Unsightly Vehicles and Vehicles Seldom in Use and Parked on the Street

Mr. Ruben Bates, 1159 Fiesta Drive (Deer Run) appeared before the Council to ask the members to consider the creation of an ordinance to regulate unsightly vehicles parked along the street in front of his home. Mr. Bates had spoken with the Mayor and the police department prior to this presentation. A discussion was held. Mr. Bates explained that his neighbor parks old rusted vehicles in front of his home. The vehicles are not used generally and are an eyesore. The vehicles have valid license plates and are not considered abandoned.

Mr. Eggers recommended that a notice be submitted to the homeowner not to park the vehicles in front of an occupied lot for a period longer than 24 hours. The Council directed the Planning Department to provide Mr. Bates with the covenants for the Deer Run subdivision. The Council also asked the City Attorney to write a letter to the neighbor about the parking situation. Dr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Abban, made a motion to direct the City Attorney to send a letter to the said owner of the vehicles discussed, explaining the situation and requesting action to move the said vehicle in front of his property. The motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

The City Council's Appointment to Police Merit Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and Economic Development Commission.

Mayor Jones-Matthews requested appointments for the Police Merit Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and Economic Development Commission. Mr. Hougland, seconded by Dr. Murphy made a motion to reappoint Joan Pfifer to the Police Merit Commission. The motion carried and Mrs. Pfifer was appointed.

Mr. Hougland, seconded by Mr. Ault made a motion to reappoint Joe Vaught to the Board of Zoning Appeals. The motion carried and Mr. Vaught was reappointed.

Mr. Hougland, seconded by Dr. Murphy made a motion to reappoint Sam Yount to the Economic Development Commission. The motion carried and Mr. Yount was reappointed.

Board Comments

Mrs. Gordon complimented the Police and Fire Departments on their efforts and actions during a recent automobile accident involving a family member.

President Hougland opened nominations for Council President for 2007. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mr. Barrow made a motion to nominate Dr. Ted Murphy for Council President. The motion carried and Dr. Murphy was appointed Council President.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held January 22, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet P. Alexander, Clerk-Treasurer

Enrolled Date: 1-19-07

Approved by Common Council: 1-22-07