

City of Franklin Common Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2013

The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Franklin, Indiana was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 70 E. Monroe Street, with Mayor Joseph E. McGuinness presiding. Council members Joseph Ault, Kenneth Austin, Stephen Barnett, Robert Henderson, Stephen Hougland, and Richard Wertz answered roll call. Clerk-Treasurer Janet P. Alexander, Records Clerk Kathy Cragen, and City Attorney Lynnette Gray were also present. Council member Joseph Abban was absent.

Mayor McGuinness opened the meeting and asked the Clerk-Treasurer to call the roll. Councilor Hougland offered an invocation, which was followed by a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements & Presentations

Fire Chief Henderson read a letter of appreciation in **Recognition of the Construction Crew that helped to Evacuate Residents during a Fire at 399 N. Main Street.**

May 20, 2013

To: Sunesis Construction
From: Franklin Fire Department
Re: Letter of Appreciation
Cc: Mayor Joe McGuinness

On Monday morning May 13th at approximately 1045 hours we at the City of Franklin Fire Department were called to a working apartment fire at 399 North Main Street. From all accounts, the fire was managed by our fire crews and contained to the involved apartment. There were no injuries to civilians or to our fire crews responding.

However, this area of the City where this call took place is heavily involved in a renovation project. This has presented some unique challenges that we and the construction crews involved have to manage on a daily basis to keep this City safe. Please accept this letter as our gratitude for the efforts of the Sunesis Construction Crews working and responding to this particular call for the following reasons:

- 1) The onsite construction crews led by Solomon Martin and Jeff Paulshock responded quickly to alert the neighbors and other occupants of the adjacent and down stairs apartments. They recognized the danger and put themselves in harm's way to make sure

the apartment was evacuated, thus eliminating one of our biggest hurdles for this operation.

- 2) The fire crews responding executed pre-determined alternate routes of access to stage apparatus in place to suppress the fire.
- 3) The onsite construction crews continued to assist us with the moving of equipment and providing access for other equipment and personnel to help our efforts.
- 4) Working together both crews helped mitigate and avoid any further harm or injury during this difficult situation.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those living in the apartment house and their loss of their personal belongings, but the fact remains that we are grateful for their quick actions of the Sunesis Construction Crews and hope we foster this relationship as this project unfolds to keep it smooth and safe.

Respectfully Submitted,
John D. Henderson
City of Franklin Fire Department

Representatives from Sunesis were given a copy of this letter during the Board of Works meeting held earlier today.

Councilor Henderson made a motion to move Item #1 from Other Business, "Proposed Criminal Information Reward Fund Ordinance", to the top of the agenda. Councilor Houglund seconded. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Council Member Rob Henderson introduced Mr. John Wales a Franklin resident who has been working with Councilor Henderson to bring forward a **Proposed Criminal Information Reward Fund Ordinance** in memory of murder victim Blake Dickus. Indiana Senator Greg Walker and State Representative John Price accompanied Mr. Wales. Both representatives spoke in support of this effort. Mr. Wales asked that the reward fund be named in honor of Blake Dickus. He also recognized the family of Blake and Chynna Dickus, who were present. Mr. Wales outlined his vision of the proposed reward fund. Chief O'Sullivan spoke in favor of the reward fund concept. City Attorney Lynn Gray asked for input to develop a draft ordinance. A discussion was held. It was determined that the introduction of the proposed ordinance will be set for the second meeting in June giving the City Attorney time to develop a version for review by the members in advance of introduction.

Announcements & Presentations (continued)

Mayor McGuinness introduced Franklin Heritage Executive Director Mr. Rob Shilts who presented the **Preservation Week Awards from Franklin Heritage** to Franklin homeowners and business owners. The recipients were selected by the Franklin Heritage Board to residents and businesses for their efforts

to maintain their historic Franklin properties. The award winners and the award were given to:

1. Bob Murray & Gina Bollinger 35 N. Edwards Street - Natural Beauty
2. Shari Ann Carr 248 E. Monroe Street - Little Charmer
3. Franklin College/City of Franklin 66 S. Water Street Café - Best Adaptive Reuse
4. Franklin Window and Door (Scott & Cori Brown) 112 W. Jefferson Street, Best Renovation Project of an Existing Historic Structure
5. Paul & Julie Hass 149 S. Home Avenue - Best Continued Use of a Historic Structure
6. Colin Riessen 200 Walnut Street - Best Continued Use of a Historic Structure
7. Kathleen Van Nuys 868 W SR 44 - The Kathleen Van Nuys Historic Farmstead Award

Consent Agenda

Mayor McGuinness presented the consent agenda for approval.

- Approval of the May 6, 2013 Common Council Minutes

Council President Barnett made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Councilor Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Old Business

Council President Barnett made a motion to read all old business by title only, seconded by Councilor Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Mayor McGuinness read **Common Council Ordinance No.: 13-06 An Ordinance Approving Vacating Right-of-Way Within the City of Franklin, Indiana Between Lots 93, 94, & 99 of Hamilton & Oyler's Addition** aloud into the record. Senior Planner Joanna Myers gave an overview of the proposed ordinance vacating an alley and stated that this matter was taken to the Board of Works on April 15 and the Board had given the request a favorable recommendation to the City Council. Mayor McGuinness opened the floor for a public hearing. No one asked to speak. Council President Barnett made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Wertz. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

New Business

Council President Barnett made a motion to read all new business by title only, seconded by Councilor Wertz. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Common Council Resolution No.: 13-15 A Resolution Authorizing the use of Merchant Issued Line of Credit and/or Store Credit Card Accounts (Repealing and Replacing Common Council Resolution No.: 07-06) - Parks Superintendent Orner stated that this request authorizes an increase to the Parks Sam's Club credit card, increasing the limit from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Mr. Orner explained that this card is used to purchase supplies for Kickapoo Kids Camp and their concession stands. He said that the current balance is too low. Mr. Orner stated that the Park Board approved this increase at their meeting last Thursday. Clerk-Treasurer Alexander stated that the resolution presented lists all authorized departments but only the Parks Department line has been increased. A discussion was held. Council President Barnett made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Wertz. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Common Council Budgetary Resolution No.: 13-03 A Budgetary Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of \$5,600 from Police Dept. 300 Services Series to 400 Capital Outlay Series - Police Chief O'Sullivan explained that the transferred money will pay for the installation of equipment in a vehicle, and to purchase a drug cabinet to secure confiscated illegal drugs. The specialized cabinet also reduces drug odors in the evidence room. Council President Barnett made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Henderson. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Common Council Ordinance No.: 13-05 An Ordinance Repealing & Replacing Section 1 - Pawnbrokers of Ordinance 83-20 & Ordinance 96-13 - Senior Planner Myers explained that the proposed amendment to the existing ordinance was prepared because the current ordinance needs to be clarified. City Attorney Gray stated that this new ordinance follows as closely as possible to the state statute that is already in place. Ms. Myers stated that the proposed ordinance is for introduction only. It was noted that because the proposed ordinance amendment contains fines it must be advertised one time 30 days before it will take effect. The proposed ordinance will be on the June 3, 2013 agenda for first reading and a public hearing.

Economic Development Fee Allocation - Community Development Director Linke came forward and explained that each year the Economic Development Commission (EDC) is asked to make a recommendation to City Council regarding the development fee which is collected on certain tax abatements. Ms. Linke stated that she learned earlier this year that the county failed to assess the agreed upon fee in 2012 so the County has agreed to collect the fee twice this year. Seventy seven hundred and four dollars (\$7,704) should have been collected and distributed last year. She estimates that a total of \$18,000 will be collected this year. She explained that this issue was discussed with the EDC members at their meeting last week. She reminded the Council that in 2010 the funds were split between Franklin Heritage and Discover Downtown Franklin. Council President Barnett made a motion to approve the fee allocations as presented and to authorize two collections this year. This motion was seconded by Councilor Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

FDC Proposal & Discussion - Mayor McGuinness stated that he has been speaking with the Franklin Development Corporation's (FDC) legal counsel about a planned restructuring and the future of the organization. Mayor McGuinness stated that the benefits of the FDC are substantial. Mayor McGuinness stated that he would like to discuss the possibility of the City providing operating funds to the organization beginning in 2014. He estimated the amount needed to be \$20 to \$30,000 annually. He asked the Council members if they are willing to include this funding in the City's annual budget. A discussion was held. The members indicated that they would be willing to discuss the possibility.

Other Business

Potential New Locations for City Court Offices - Council Member Kenneth Austin stated that he is opposed to the sale of the old city hall building. He presented an alternate plan, which would place the city courtroom and offices in the former post office. Neil Dixon a local architect assisted him with this project and provided the cost estimates to renovate the former city hall building into a City Court room with offices. He estimated the renovation of the interior of the old post office would cost \$662,514. Additionally, repairs to the exterior would cost between \$50,000 to \$60,000. In comparison, the architect also prepared a drawing and cost estimate placing the courtroom and offices into an area located within the garage area of the current police station. That project estimate came to \$667,880. Both the diagrams and cost estimates were provided to the members for both locations. A discussion was held. Councilor Austin stated that it would be possible to convert the building into City Court and that it should be considered as an alternative to selling the building.

Mr. Henderson who is a member of the Redevelopment Commission stated that there will be a special meeting June 6th to hear proposals for uses for the building.

Council Member Comments

Councilor Henderson stated that tomorrow Tuesday May 21st the RDC will hold a special meeting to discuss an additional appropriation for the OCRA North Main Street Revitalization Program. He also offered to congratulate Hopewell Presbyterian Church in recognition of their 182nd anniversary.

Mr. Wertz stated that he would like Ms. Gray to research the development of an ordinance to require utilities to bury lines underground over a 20-year period. Mr. Barnett stated that he would like this discussion to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. City Attorney Lynn Gray reported that she has done some research on this idea and will share that information with the council at their next meeting.

Council President Barnett asked the Mayor for an update on the status of the fire protection fee. Mayor McGuinness reported that it is in effect and that no additional action is necessary.

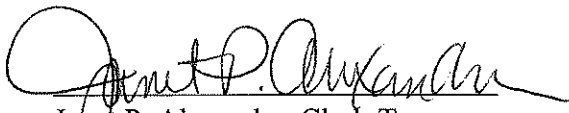
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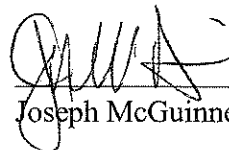
The Clerk Treasurer reported that the Board of Public Works authorized her to work with the City Attorney to review the City's ordinance concerning taxi rates and to address enforcement issues within the existing ordinance. She stated that the current ordinance and fee structure was adopted in 2001.

Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held Monday, June 3, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Janet P. Alexander, Clerk-Treasurer
Enrolled: 05/29/2013


Joseph McGuinness, Mayor

Attest:


Janet P. Alexander, Clerk-Treasurer