

**City of Franklin Common Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Franklin, Indiana was called to order at 6:08 p.m. at City Hall, 70 E. Monroe Street, with Mayor Steve Barnett presiding. Council members Kenneth Austin, Daniel Blankenship, Andrew Eggers, Bob Heuchan, Danny Richards and Richard Wertz answered roll call. Clerk-Treasurer Jayne Rhoades, Records Clerk Kathy Cragen, City Attorney Lynnette Gray were also present. Council member Joseph Abban was absent.

Councilor Wertz offered an invocation. Mayor Barnett opened the meeting and asked the Clerk-Treasurer to call the roll. Mayor Barnett led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements, Presentations & Public Comments

Councilor Richard Wertz – Tree Board President listed the members of the City Tree Board: Jim Crane, Jim Barnett, Dana Marietta, JoAnne Cummings, Meg Jones, & Jim Farr. Mayor Barnett stated that Franklin has recently been awarded as a Tree City USA member. Arborist Jim Farr came forward to accept a proclamation which was read by the Mayor regarding National Arbor Day. Mr. Farr stated an Arbor Day celebration was held with tree plantings, and other events. Mr. Farr presented Mayor Barnett with a Tree City Flag.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Barnett presented the consent agenda for approval.

- Approval of the April 15, 2019 Common Council Minutes & Joint Council & School Board Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2019

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

Old Business

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

Public Hearing

Common Council Budgetary Ordinance No.: 19-05 An Additional Appropriation Local Road & Bridge Matching Grant Fund Capital 2019 - 258 004 400 in the amount of

\$1,000,000.00 – Mayor Barnett stated this item was presented at the previous meeting, and is now ready for a Public Hearing. Mayor Barnett opened the floor for Public Hearing, no one asked to speak. Councilor Eggers made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Richards. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Common Council Budgetary Ordinance No.: 19-06 An Appropriation Reduction from MVH Fund Capital \$500,000.00; LRS Fund Capital \$175,000.00 & General Fund BOW Capital \$325,000.00 – Mayor Barnett stated this was presented at the previous meeting, and is now ready for Public Hearing. Mayor Barnett opened the floor for Public Hearing, no one asked to speak. Councilor Eggers made a motion to approve, seconded by Council President Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

New Business

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

Update of the Tourism Agency's Progress - Ken Kosky, Director of Tourism, Festival Country Indiana/Johnson County CVT Board came forward and explained their annual report, and stated that he had handouts that explained what they have done in the past year. Mr. Kosky stated they have awarded seven of their thirteen grants to programs in the City of Franklin. He stated their long term goal is to fund bigger projects in the future in regards to tourism. Mr. Kosky stated they have been awarded the front cover of the 2022 Indiana State Festival Guide. A discussion was held.

Request Approval of Yearly Tax Abatement Compliance Reports - Community Development Specialist Rhoni Oliver asked Mr. Austin to read the yearly Tax Abatement Compliance Reports for the following companies: C2019-39 Tube Forming Systems; C2019-40 Tube Forming Systems; C2019-06 CLF Cooper Franklin; C2019-16 Fisher Contracting; C2019-22 Innovative 3D Manufacturing; C2019-34 NSK Corporation; C2019-35 NSK Corporation; C2019-36 NSK Corporation; C2019-37 NSK Precision America; C2019-41 Powder Metal Technicians; C2019-45 Rapid Prototype & Engineering; C2019-48 Superior Systems & Supply; C2019-49 Sunbeam Development Corporation; C2019-50 Tippman Realty Partners-Phases 1-3; C2019-51 Tippmann Realty Partners-Phases 4-6; C2019-53 Urban Air – Franklin, LLC. Mr. Austin stated the only one they had questions on was Tube Forming Systems, but that the EDC found all companies to be in compliance with their tax abatement. Ms. Oliver explained what the issues were, and stated they were actually still in compliance. A discussion was held. Councilor Heuchan made a motion to approve tax abatement compliance for Tube Forming Systems, seconded by Council President Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried. Council President Austin made a motion to approve the remainder of the compliance reports, seconded by Councilor Wertz. A voice vote was taken with all members

stating aye. The motion carried.

Common Council Resolution No.: 19-05 Approving an Amendment to the Economic Development Plan for the US 31 Economic Development Area; Common Council Resolution No.: 19-06 Approving a Lease Between the City of Franklin Redevelopment Authority and the City of Franklin Redevelopment Commission, and Pledging Local Income Tax Revenues - RDC Attorney Rob Schafstall came forward to explain these two resolutions to the Council. Attorney Schafstall stated that Resolution 2019-05 deals with RDC trying to do two things. The first is to expand the spending zone off of US 31. This proposal would expand the spending zone; Resolution 19-06 deals with bond issues and lease, and he would like to table Resolution 2019-06 at this time. He asked that Resolution 19-06 be tabled until the May 20th City Council Meeting. Attorney Lynn Gray added that there are a lot of documents to look through and if anyone has any questions to feel free to reach out with those before the next meeting. Mr. Schafstall further explained that this resolution deals with the financing and the legal structure to set up the deal and there are some moving parts to it that are not quite ready yet. Resolution 19-05 approves a change to the economic development plan for the US 31 TIF district. The Redevelopment Commission is trying to accomplish expanding the “spending zone” of the US 31 TIF area, which means the current parcels where the money is being collected, otherwise known as the allocation areas, are shown on the map in yellow. The northern group of yellow highlighted parcels represents the Meijer property and surrounding out lots. The southern group of yellow highlighted parcels shown on the map represents the Kroger property and surrounding out lots. This is where the tax increment is being collected from, and no changes are proposed to those areas. The current spending zone parcels are shown on the map in red. The RDC is proposing to add parcels to the “spending zone.” The proposal is to expand the red zone to include those parcels being added which are shown on the map in blue. The area would be expanded to follow US 31 North to Israel Lane in front of Knollwood Farms, and to the south on US 31 to S. Main Street. It also extends east along Young’s Creek. The second change Resolution 19-05 makes are to the list of projects in the economic development plan. The Young’s Creek Corridor Development Project includes a possible amphitheater, pedestrian trails, picnic areas, lighting etc. It would be built in the area that the RDC has recently purchased, made up of Bastin Logan, Graham’s Wrecker Service, Hendershot, Paris owned Recovery One, and the Auction Barn. Those buildings (with the exception of the Auction Barn) will all be removed and that area will be turned into a real community asset that not every community is lucky enough to have. The second project would allow the RDC to assist INDOT with a planned redesign of US 31 through the entire city limits of Franklin. It’s a very substantial project. It will happen without local involvement. But if the RDC and the City Council choose to be involved and have a seat at the table, we can have some influence in what that redesign looks like. Approval of Resolution 19-05 will allow us to pay for the Young’s Creek Corridor Development and the redesign of US 31 through a bond. Our best guess is that the Young’s Creek project will cost around \$5 million and the engineering costs for US 31 might be \$5 million, so we are talking about \$10 million total. There needs to be a legal structure that is complex and that is what Mr. Schafstall wants to discuss further at the next Council Meeting on May 20th. The process for this to occur is for the RDC to have a written plan that was initiated and has been

approved by the RDC. It then went to Plan Commission for them to make sure it conforms to the Comprehensive Plan. It was approved last week. This step is City Council approval. It then goes back to the RDC at their May 21st meeting. City Council will meet again before that, on May 20th and Resolution 19-06 will be discussed. Another entity called the Redevelopment Authority will meet. This has all been designed to meet a possible closing date on the bond for July 22nd.

Councilor Wertz asked the term of the bond, Mr. Schafstall responded 25 years. A discussion was held. Councilor Heuchan pointed out that to date none of the TIF dollars that have been collected from the US 31 TIF have been spent. The RDC has engaged a number of firms to make sure the amount received in revenue is sufficient to cover the cost of the bond. Councilor Heuchan asked Councilor Wertz to explain the importance of the pedestrian improvements along US 31. Councilor Wertz explained that with the high school on the west side of US 31, it is very unsafe for pedestrians to cross US 31 and access the facilities at the high school from the east side of town. He envisions trails along with a long term possibility of an overhead crossing on US 31. The County Fair also creates a lot of pedestrian access across US 31. He is in favor of a safer alternative to crossing US 31. When the US 31 TIF district was created it was done with this in mind. Attorney Gray pointed out that with our investment of \$5 million, the State of Indiana will be spending \$40-50 million on improvements to US 31. Councilor Eggers added that Knollwood Farms would also be better connected to the rest of the City, which is something Councilor Abban has been advocating for quite some time. Mayor Barnett asked if there were any questions from the public about either project. There were none. Councilor Eggers made a motion to approve Resolution 19-05 and to table Resolution 19-06, seconded by Councilor Richards. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Other Business

Mayor Barnett gave an update on everything his office has been doing since July 2018 through today working with the EPA & IDEM regarding the contamination issues at the former Amphenol site, and other areas in the city.

Council Comments

City Attorney Gray stated the Planning Department has come up with placards for jury members to put in their vehicles when a trial is going on. Ms. Gray stated they are trying to work with the county so there will not be issues with jurors getting parking tickets when they are on jury duty. Ms. Gray will talk to the county commissioners to see if they approve the idea of the placards. Senior Planner Joanna Myers stated that in order for the placards to be valid they must be signed & dated by the judge.

Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Common Council Minutes
May 6, 2019

Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer
Enrolled: 5/14/19

Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer