

**City of Franklin Common Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 6, 2023**

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, Bob Heuchan, Anne McGuinness, Irene Nalley, Jennifer Price, Josh Prine and Shawn Taylor answered roll call. Clerk-Treasurer Jayne Rhoades, and City Attorney Lynnette Gray were also present.

Mayor's Youth Leadership Council members Anna Brumley and Madelyn McCullough were present.

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

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

**Announcements, Presentations & Public Comments**

Johnson County Public Library Director Lisa Lintner presented a five-minute JCPL 2022 review. Gretchen Beaman and Dan Mitchell were also in attendance. Ms. Lintner explained all of the Spring events at the library are free and open to the public. JCPL is proud of many things they accomplished in 2022 with the biggest success being the new Clark Pleasant branch. The door count is up 30% and continues to increase. Last year, the children's learning spaces at the Franklin and Whiteriver locations were updated. The Trafalgar branch will also be receiving some updates for early childhood learning. In 2022, JCPL hosted the Read-to-Me Jamboree at the new Clark Pleasant branch. They joined the Indiana State consortium to expand e-book and e-audiobook collection. They collaborated with the Johnson County Community Foundation to do the Great Arts Quest which was a scavenger hunt to look at 40 pieces of art across Johnson County. In 2023, the library will be getting a new book-mobile that will make reading access easier for all county residents this summer. Also, JCPL will be conducting a feasibility study for the Franklin and Whiteriver branches to see what improvements can be made. Ms. Beaman shared some upcoming programs: March 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a learning session about Trafalgar & the Battle of Trafalgar, April 30<sup>th</sup> there will be an early childhood literacy event for families and on May 15<sup>th</sup> there will be a kick-off for the Explorer Summer Learning Program.

**Consent Agenda**

Mayor Barnett presented the consent agenda for approval.

- Approval of the February 22, 2023 Common Council Minutes

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

### **Old Business**

There was no old business presented.

### **New Business**

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

**ERA and Tax Abatement Request and Public Hearing** - Community Development Specialist Dana Monson stated she is requesting approval of both the ERA designation request and the 10-year tax abatement request for Sunbeam Corporation. Sunbeam partnered with the city to build the Energizer and Amazon buildings. They will be beginning the I-65 South Commerce Park that will be 1 million square feet with a \$78 million investment. The request to advertise was approved at the previous Board of Works meeting. Justin Furr and Jamie Christman from Sunbeam Development gave a brief presentation on the project. He outlined that their contributions to buildings in Franklin so far has totaled \$90 million. He explained the new Commerce Park totals 542 acres of land that is zoned for industrial development. The initial sitework has started with the plan being to build 1-2 buildings this year and then 2 more buildings in the future that could total 5.5 million square feet over the next 5-7 years. The additional investment into the city from Sunbeam Development will be \$500 million. The building being considered for the tax abatement is 1.1 million square feet with infrastructure underway. The second building may start later this year. Buildings 3 and 4 are in the flood plain so the land will need to be improved before construction begins. The plan is to have 200-1000 employees per building. Ms. Monson explained the land is currently farmland. With the \$78 investment and the tax abatement, after 10 years, the Commerce Park project could bring in \$12,586,588.00. If it stayed the farmland, after 10 years, the city would receive \$109,000.00 in tax money. The EDC recommended approval for the ERA designation and the 10-year tax abatement at their February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Vice President Taylor stated that Sunbeam has been a great partner and they have a great vision to help develop the city. Mayor Barnett opened up the public hearing for the ERA. Ms. Monson explained that ERA designation is required by the state before the park can be granted a tax abatement. Mayor Barnett closed the public hearing on the ERA. Mayor Barnett opened up the public hearing on the tax abatement request. There were no comments and that public hearing was closed. Vice President Taylor made a motion to approve Resolution 23-04 and Resolution 23-05, seconded by Ms. Price. A voice vote was taken for both Resolutions with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

**Other Business**

There was no other business presented.

**Council Comments**

Councilor Josh Prine thanked Officer Jason Hyneman for his service to the city.

Councilor Bob Heuchan thanked Mayor Barnett and Sally Brown for going by Compass Park to talk about the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Mayor's Youth Leadership Council stated they finalized the roundabout sculpture design. Next week, they are presenting at the Rotary Club to ask for fundraising for the sculpture. The Art Committee is meeting with the artist Arlon Bayliss before spring break.

**Adjournment**

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer  
Enrolled:03/13/2023

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Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

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Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer