

RDC Meeting August 25, 2016

The August 25, 2016 meeting of the RDC was held at Beech Grove City Hall on Thursday at 7:10pm (1910 hours). Those present included President Don Webb, Secretary Cathy Chappell and member Mac Bellner. VP Ron Mote, and members Tammy Storey and Jannis King were not present.

A motion was made by Mac Bellner to approve the minutes from the July 2016 meeting. Cathy Chappell seconded the minutes and they were approved.

Outstanding bills were for Lewis & Kappes, Tim Showalter and the BG Sewer Works. The bills totaled \$993.55. A motion to approve paying those amounts was made by Cathy Chappell and seconded by Mac Bellner. The motion was carried.

Mr. Mac Gilkerson, owner of Brown's Garage was the guest speaker representing the organization, Next Stop Beech Grove. He enlightened the RDC regarding the purpose of the organization. The goal is to become a 501C3 and to apply for grant money to be used to improve the facades of business buildings on Main Street. The group is asking for a donation from the RDC in the amount of \$1000.00. The money would be placed in a start up fund. They would like to get donations totaling \$4000.00. They are working with the office of Rural and Community Affairs.

President Donald Webb asked if this was the group requesting one or two RDC members become a part of this organization. Secretary Cathy Chappell explained Next Stop Beech Grove would like to have an RDC member on their Economic Development Committee. The RDC person would not be a voting member.

Donald expressed his concern if the RDC could even donate the \$1000.00. The RDC attorney, Mr. Robert Rund, stated we could not donate to an organization fund. We would have to donate for a specific beautification project. Cathy Chappell asked Mr. Gilkerson how many businesses or building owners have donated to the organizational fund. None have donated at this time. He did state that Tammy Hanna has approached some business owners.

Member Mac Bellner talked about how great it would be for the actual building owners to help in improving their properties. Mr. Rund inquired as to whether or not Next Stop Beech Grove knows the names of the actual property owners. They group is starting that research now.

President Donald Webb praised the organization for what they are attempting to accomplish. He also stated how he personally feels like the \$1000.00 donation from the RDC would not be a problem; it simply depends on what the money would be used for.

Mr. Gilkerson along with Diana Hendricks and Chris Henthorn attended a training class presented by the Office of Rural and Community Affairs to learn more about the process of redevelopment.

Our financial consultant, Mr. Jeff Peters, composed a required letter stating the RDC does not have enough TIF funds to retire it's outstanding debt obligations. \$482, 913.00 cash value was in the account as of December 31, 2015 and the debts total \$3,655,939.00. Cathy Chappell made a motion to approve the resolution and Mac Bellner seconded. Motion passed.

Mayor Buckley spoke next. The mayor first discussed putting sidewalks on the north side of Thompson Road, between 9th Avenue and Emerson. In the last 5 years 319 accidents have occurred in that area.

The Churchman Avenue project bid will be awarded in January from INDOT. It is a little over one year ahead of schedule. It will be a spring project for construction of the sidewalks on Churchman to Arlington Avenue. Over 75% of the roads in Beech Grove have been graded either fair or good. This is a huge improvement from 4 years ago.

Community Health Network will be opening around the first of November. They were a business wanting to know where the Greenway would be located. Mayor Buckley thought that to be an interesting question.

The Beech Grove Community Center has made some improvements. Mayor Buckley said they are trying to assist kids ages 3 to 17. The goal is to keep as many kids as possible out of the juvenile justice system. The open house will be October 27 at 1pm and everyone is invited. Many of the programs being offered are free.

Churchman Avenue is getting ready to be paved. It is not a Beech Grove project. It is in Frank Mascari's district.

The Butler extension running from the north to the south seems to be a good investment and is doing what it is expected to do.

The top 2 floors are just about completed in the medical arts building on Albany Street. Mayor Buckley expects businesses to start moving in within a couple of weeks.

In the last four years the MPO has given the community of Beech Grove \$10,000,000.00. INDOT has also been very good to the city as well. They have awarded the city \$625,000.00 for improvements to infrastructure. And INDOT also gave us \$392,000.00 for a community-crossings grant.

Mayor Buckley also wanted the RDC to know the Next Stop Beech Grove organization is non-political.

Mac Bellner made a motion to adjourn and Cathy Chappell seconded it. The motion passed and the meeting let out at 8:00pm or 2000 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary, Cathy Chappell