

RDC Meeting February 18, 2016

The Beech Grove RDC met on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at approximately 7pm (1900 hours). It was held at Beech Grove City Hall and was the second regular meeting of 2016. Those present included President Donald Webb, Vice-President Ron Mote, Secretary Cathy Chappell, and Jannis King. Mayor Buckley, RDC attorney Robert Rund and council members Elizabeth Lamping and Ed Bell were also present.

A motion was made by Ron Mote to accept the minutes, seconded by Cathy Chappell and the motion was carried. Another motion was made by Ron Mote to pay the outstanding bills, seconded by Cathy and the motion was carried.

School Superintendent Paul Kaiser asked to speak to the RDC regarding a project being contemplated for the high school. He discussed installing green houses so students can study various aspects of the agriculture industry. Mr. Kaiser stated that Dow, on the north side gives \$25,000.00 to the school for training teachers and they are also on the advisory board.

Mr. Moorehouse was the next speaker. He would like to take back the landfill property. He would then have possession of 36 acres. Because the property is contaminated there would be only a select amount of development allowed: perhaps greenhouses or solar panels. President Webb said he would need more information as to the future of the landfill prior to making a decision. His concern is of liability should the cap be damaged and IDEM would hold the city and the RDC responsible in some way. Mr. Moorehouse said he had talked in depth with Mayor Buckley and he understands we require more information. He also said he spent countless hours and between \$150,000 to \$200,000 working on this very project with the previous mayor.

Mayor Buckley spoke next. He said Mr. Moorehouse would like to be given back the original 18 acres he had donated. Ron said we are not the prior RDC and we would like to see the property developed, but we simply need more information. The RDC would have to secure two appraisals, advertising in two publications and follow strict guidelines before selling or donating the property. Ultimately, the decision lies with the city council on what to do with the property.

Mayor Buckley said Kinetrics did bid on the property previously owned by Refined Metals but as of this meeting, no decision had been made. If they are successful, the facility will be used for staging.

The mayor also said they were reviving the grant awarded back in 2010. It will be used for youth educational programs. President Webb talked briefly about something he had read regarding putting daycare for children into nursing home. Both the children and the elderly benefited.

Mayor Buckley says he is confident the grant money for the Greenway Project will come through, but we will not know until a later date. The RDC and the city will both be

assisting in the financing. He said the MPO originally had the roundabout slated for 2020 and the Greenway Trail for 2021. However those dates have changed to 2019. Dennis also mentioned St. Francis Hospital on Albany and he strongly suggests the hospital will be demolished but no official word just yet. No final decision has been made on the medical building on the west side of 17th Avenue. The owners are waiting to see what is to become of the hospital.

President Webb spoke again about how diligent the RDC needs to be regarding use of TIF money. He wants us to be completely transparent and careful when making financial decisions. The city of Greenwood just spent 6 million dollars on an unsuccessful project and the money is gone forever.

Cathy Chappell talked briefly about a meeting held at City Hall composed of Chamber of Commerce members, RDC members Cathy and Ron Mote and several business owners. The discussion was about how to improve the facades of the Main Street buildings. The group will be forming a 501C3 and will be applying for grant money. Cathy announced another meeting would take place at city hall on Feb. 23. It is open to everyone.

Jannis King made a motion to elect officers at the March meeting and it was seconded by Ron Mote. The motion was carried. Jannis also made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Vice President Ron Mote. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Chappell, Secretary