

RDC – May 11, 2017

The May 11, 2017 meeting of the Beech Grove RDC was held at Beech Grove City Hall. The meeting began at 7:06pm (1906 hours) Members present included President, Don Webb, Vice President Ron Mote, Secretary, Cathy Chappell, and members Ed Bell and Jay Oswalt. Rick Skirvin was not in attendance.

The first order of business was the reading of the minutes from April 13, 2017. Ed Bell made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Jay Oswalt seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Next order of business was attending to outstanding bills. Invoices totaling \$49,191.09 included Borgmann Enterprises, Tim Showalter, JL Brown, Peters Consultants, the sewer bill, Crossroads Engineering and Lewis & Kappes Law Firm. Cathy Chappell made a motion to pay the balances as presented and Ron Mote seconded. All voted in favor.

Mr. David Terrell, from Ball State University, was a guest speaker for the RDC. He was the startup Director for OCRA and continued at that position for seven years. Mr. Terrell now works at Ball State for the Community Research Institute. He did a presentation called the 20th Century Economic Development Policy. The graph displayed of how the average income is spent showed the following: 70% on services, 20% on non-durable goods like food and clothes and 10% on durable goods such as appliances and cars. He also stated fewer people are being hired for manufacturing.

He also stated job creation does not necessarily lead to population growth. A community based around a manufacturing plant stands a chance of losing that company due to relocating the facility. It is considered a footloose job.

Mr. Terrell stated that over time, 88% of the job losses are the result of technology and 12% due to off shoring. However, off shoring is what captures the attention through media outlets. A national study will be coming out this summer that will show how many jobs are lost due to technology and how many jobs are lost due to off shoring, The study will map the results county by county.

President Don Webb asked Mr. Terrell if there were any studies on the impact of tax abatements . He mentioned how Greenwood, Indiana invested 6 ½ million dollars into a business there never opened. Mr. Terrell stated that some RDC's make good decisions and some not so good regarding TIF money.

An online survey called CRI is available to mostly elected officials. It is an assessment of what is known regarding the future of the community and where the community stands at present. It helps to determine if community members are on the same page as to where the city is headed. Topics discussed are residential, retail, recreation, manufacturing, etc. Additional information and graphs regarding Mr. Terrell's presentation and information about the CRI survey are available online at Beechgrove.com.

Attorney, Robert Rund, presented copies of Resolution 6 to be signed by the RDC members. It gives authorization for the payment of the local match for the "Beech Grove Revitalization Planning Grant." Ron Mote made a motion to read title only and Ed Bell seconded. All were in favor. The resolution had already been voted upon

A motion was made to read Resolution 9 by title only. The motion was made by Ed Bell and seconded by Ron Mote. The motion was carried. This resolution is regarding the necessity of TIF money used by the RDC.

Mayor Buckley gave an update on what is going on in the community. Hopefully, by June 5 an architect will be selected for the Main Street Revitalization project, the Churchman sidewalks will be installed when school lets out, NRP is still looking for property to build additional Senior Living residences, no St. Francis news to give, an environmental phase is proceeding regarding the Arlington roundabout, the roundabout may be bumped up to 2019 as opposed to 2020.

Trent, from Crossroads will ask to speak soon to the RDC. Phase 2 begins in the fall. The MPO funded Phase 1. This is regarding the Greenway Trail.

There is a possibility of food trucks being allowed on Main Street.

Town Hall meeting June 6 at 7pm at the Beech Grove Community Center.

On May 25 at 9am there will be a meeting at City Hall regarding St. Francis Hospital on Albany Street. This will be the last meeting before the contractor begins tearing down the facility.

Ed Bell made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded by Ron Mote. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Chappell, Secretary