

## RDC Meeting, March 9, 2017

The March 09, 2017 RDC meeting was held at BG City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm (1905 hours). Those present included President Donald Webb, Vice President Ron Mote, Secretary Cathy Chappell, Jay Oswald, Ed Bell and Rick Skivin.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the February meeting by Jay Oswald and seconded by Ron Mote. The minutes were approved.

RDC bills totaled \$227,409.02. Outstanding invoices included Lewis & Kappes, Star Media, Regions Bank, Tim Showalter, the BG sewer bill and Crossroads Engineering. A motion was made by Cathy Chappell to pay the designated amounts and seconded by Ron Mote. The motion was approved.

Mayor Buckley spoke next. The RDC is absorbing 50% of landscaping costs for the city. This would not apply to BG City Hall or the Police Department. The locations requiring attention all touch a TIF district. The company selected is Broady-Campbell. The RDC would be spending about \$12,000.00. A motion was made by Ed Bell and seconded by Jay Oswald. The motion was carried.

The lighting on Emerson from Churchman to the city limits on the north side has been approved and the lights will be replaced with LED's. The RDC has committed up to \$4000.00.

Mayor Buckley requested at least one RDC member attend a meeting at St. Francis Hospital on Albany Street. The date is March 16 at 9:00 am (0900 hours).

A town hall meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 14 at 7:00pm (1900 hours). This will be held at the Community Center. Topics for discussion include: sewer rate, grant funding, paving, infrastructure and St. Francis Hospital. Brandenburg Company is in charge of demolition of the hospital.

At the council meeting on April 3, 2017 Mayor Buckley will present his recommendations for the next 10 to 20 years for the police and fire departments and capitol improvements.

The city is applying for a planning grant through OCRA. The amount of money is \$40,000.00. The area for consideration is from Emerson Avenue to 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. If the plans are approved, then the city would apply for a substantial grant in the amount of money between \$500 and \$600 thousand dollars. It would be used to improve the outside of the buildings. Property owners do not have to participate. The idea is to attract more businesses to the community. Parts of the city would have to be declared a blighted area. This would make the city eligible for federal funds. Mayor Buckley requests the RDC pay for 50% of the \$4,400.00 application fee. Attorney Robert Rund will check to make sure the RDC can legally contribute financially.

On March 1, INDOT awarded the Churchman Sidewalk Project to E & B Paving. Four companies bid the project. \$979,000.00. was the E & B bid. New gas lines have been moved and the next step is moving the lighting. The MPO is picking up \$70,000.00 of the bill. The project should get started in May.

The city is checking in to funding for sidewalks in the north side of Thompson Road, from Emerson to 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues. In the last 5 years, there have been 319 accidents. There is also talk of creating a roundabout located at Churchman Avenue and 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Southern Avenue and Perkins.

Mayor Buckley provided a first concept of the beginning of the trail starting at St. Francis. He advised it may change many times before the final draft. Member Ed Bell mentioned using some of the limestone and decorative components from the original hospital.

President Donald Webb researched the possibility of improving the looks of the areas that lead into Beech Grove. The price tag could be anywhere from \$7500.00 to \$200,000.00. This could include anything from foliage to signs. President Webb thought it would improve the image of the city and perhaps there would be beautification grants to apply for. Rick Skirvin also brought up the idea of signs mentioning directions to the business district, schools, etc. A motion was made by Ed Bell to invite Kevin K. Parsons and Associates to attend our April meeting to discuss some improvement options and seconded by Jay Oswalt.

The Community Initiative Incentive from Ball State will be attending our April meeting on behalf of Next Stop Beech Grove.

President Webb mentioned to the commission the possibility of adding another shelter to the South Grove Park. Mayor Buckley said in the last five years the city has invested a substantial amount of money into the parks. The RDC has also contributed: play equipment and security cameras.

Ed Bell made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Jay Oswalt.  
The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Chappell, Secretary

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