

RDC Minutes - February 20, 2020

The February 2020 meeting was held on Thursday the 20th on the second floor of City City Hall. The meeting started at 7:00pm (1900 hours) and ended at 8:18 (2018 hours.)

Those present included President Elizabeth Lamping, Secretary Cathy Chappell, Barbara Hook, Dave Grenoble, Nathan Rinks and School Board Rep Rick Skirvin.

Liz started the meeting by saying at the January meeting she mistakenly stated Tara Wolf was removed from the RDC. Actually, Tara Wolf resigned from the RDC. She wanted that information on record.

Dave Grenoble noticed a mathematical error in the January minutes. The correct amount of dollars lost because of reduced taxes on TIF properties was \$65,022.00. The correction was made and the voting of the minutes proceeded. Nathan Rinks made a motion to accept the corrected minutes and Dave Grenoble seconded. The minutes were approved.

President Liz Lamping stated the election of a new Vice President should have been immediately after the member introduction so next on the agenda was the election of a vice president to replace Ed Bell.

Ed Bell who was in attendance at the January meeting and was elected to the office of Vice President decided it was time to leave the RDC. Therefore, it was necessary to elect a new VP. Barbara Hook nominated Dave Grenoble and Cathy Chappell nominated Nathan Rinks. Nathan won and the vote was 2 to 1.

The next order of business was accounts payable. The amounts are as follows: Regions Bank \$800.00, Peters Financial Consultants \$1029.06 and Lewis-Kappes \$2637.90. The grand total was \$4,466.96. A motion was made by Cathy Chappell to accept the docket and seconded by Nathan Rinks. The motion carried.

Member Dave Grenoble wanted an opportunity to express his concern over the two professional services used by the RDC: one being the law firm of Lewis-Kappes, the RDC attorneys and Jeff Peters from the financial firm of Peters Municipal Consultants. Mr. Grenoble believes that RDC money is not being spent wisely and that many of the questions that arise can be researched through other channels. He brought up how much the RDC paid for Mr. Peters to attend the January meeting. His bill was \$1026.06. Dave thought the amount was exorbitant for information that he was able to secure

doing his own research. Cathy Chappell stated even though both Dave and Jeff came up with the same figures, without both attending the January meeting, how would we as a group know if Dave's numbers were in line with the financial consultant's.

Member Barbara Hook expressed her thoughts on adding all invoices and dockets to the RDC portion of the Beech Grove website. She said if the information had been readily available for her to view on the site, there would not have been any reason for her to request any information from the RDC. The bill for the information totaled \$416.00. Cathy Chappell reminded Barb her information was printed and still waiting to be picked up. Nathan Rinks asked Barbara Hook why she requested the information and Barbara explained that she had an interest in becoming a member and wanted to learn more about the RDC. President Liz Lamping stated recently someone volunteered to assist Clerk Treasurer Jim Coffman in working on the Beech Grove website. We all agreed Jim was working very hard at his new position and we realize it takes time to revamp a website. Having assistance will be a big help.

Member Dave Grenoble stated he would be in touch with Drew Carlson and get an estimate of the new tax rate when the information would become available.

Resolution 2020-2 regarding a Disclosure Statement. Uniform Conflict of Interest forms had already been voted on. All that was needed was signatures on the resolution.

President Lamping let the commissioners know she filled out the RAI application and all names and email addresses had been added. The fee for the first year is \$25.00 which Liz donated. This amount covers the first year for new members. The year runs from July 2020 to July 2021. Starting the second year the membership fee is \$125.00. We all now have access to the RDC Manual which normally would cost \$70.00 and is 52 pages. Rhonda Cook is the RDC contact.

President Lamping announced Trent Newport, from CrossRoads will be attending the March 19, 2020 meeting. He will be discussing the Franciscan Trail. The public will be invited to ask questions and express their thoughts and concerns about the greenway trail.

Mayoru Buckley got up before the commission to discuss INDOT and the Franciscan Trail.

Dave Grenoble asked Mayor Buckley if there was any written agreement regarding the \$400,000.00 dollars Franciscan Alliance pledged the greenway. Mayor Buckley said it was a gentleman's agreement and he takes the Franciscan Foundation at their word.

INDOT gets money from the Federal Government. Then INDOT sends approximately \$50,000,000.00 to the various MPO's. Beech Grove then applies for money from the MPO for financial assistance for such things as sidewalks, roundabouts, mass transportation, and more.

Several years ago the city applied for money for a trail and the city was successful in being awarded the funds. However, Beech Grove could not come up with their portion needed so the money was returned to the MPO.

After July 1, 2020 INDOT will put out the opportunity for construction companies to bid on the trailways job. INDOT has complete control over selecting the winning bid.

There are two parts to the agreement with regards to the greenway trail: 1. CrossRoads and 2. Construction. The original estimate for the entire project was \$3.3 million dollars and now the amount is 2.9 million dollars. 2.32 million dollars is federal money, leaving \$580,000.00 less \$400,000.00 from Franciscan Alliance and the remaining \$180,000.00 is divided 50-50 between the city and the RDC.

The mayor also said 11 parcels of land were going to be affected by the trailways. Nine parcels were donated by the property owners, 1 parcel has recently been secured and the other will be finalized very soon.

The final inspection once the trailways is completed is at a cost of \$450,000.00.

On March 9, 2020 the bids regarding the sewer installation for Milestone will be opened. The RDC has committed up to \$600,000.00. However, the bids are not expected to be that expensive. This will be the only thing taking place at the Board of Works meeting. RDC members are welcome to attend.

School Board Rep, Rick Skirvin, said when big businesses move into Beech Grove he believes the sewer and water should indeed be supplied.

Audience member Pam Stallard wanted to step to the podium and express some of her concerns. The first being her belief we rely on professional services too frequently. The second is her concern over the money the RDC has committed to pay for the

Franciscan Trail. And her third concern is a conflict of interest because one of the members is employed at Franciscan Alliance Hospital. Robert Rund explained there is a difference working for a company the RDC deals with and being an owner of a business the RDC deals with. Liz does not benefit from the RDC working with the hospital.

Dave expressed his concern, and he stated Cathy also had some concern over the RDC being able to meet financial obligations. However, knowing the RDC is owed money from the city, he does feel better about finances and if we are lucky enough to have bids for Milestone lower than \$600,000.00 our money concerns will be lessened.

Dave mentioned at the January meeting he was expressing his concern over what he called mob mentality. Also, how many people get on Facebook and make comments without facts.

Nathan Rinks commented how if people in the community want respect from the RDC they need to reciprocate by showing the commission the same respect. We are all volunteers giving up our time and trying to make decisions that benefit the community. He mentioned a former commissioner who was talked about in a negative manner on social media and how this particular person was just the kind of person we want moving into Beech Grove.

Last but not least Secretary Cathy Chappell read a short paragraph from Ed Bell explaining his years of service to the city of Beech Grove. He wished the RDC the best.

Rick Skivin wanted to let Mr. Bell know we thank him for the years working and volunteering in our community.

A motion was made by Dave Grenoble to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Nathan Rinks. The motion was so moved.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Chappell, Secretary