

# City of Greencastle

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**Teresa P. Glenn**

Clerk Treasurer

## Greencastle Common Council Special Meeting Minutes

**December 30, 2008**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Greencastle City Hall**

- I. Call to Order; Roll Call
  - A. Mayor Murray called the special meeting to order at 7:00 PM; upon roll call the following councilors were present: John Lanie, Jinsie Bingham, Mark Hammer, Terry J. Smith, absent: Adam Cohen
  
- II. Public Hearing – **Ordinance 2008-17**, An Ordinance Establishing An Economic Improvement District For The Central Business District, **First Reading**
  - A. Mayor Murray opened the Public Hearing at 7:02 PM by reading Ordinance 2008-17 in its entirety. At this time the Mayor asked those who carried the petition to speak. Trudy Selvia addressed the Council and audience with information regarding how this petition came to life. Laurie Hardwick read a letter of support from Ken Eitel and a letter not in support from Monique Hartley and Mark Mansfield. Jane Bitzer, business owner of Catalina Beauty Salon, corner of Washington and Spring Street. Ms. Bitzer spoke against this petition and shared her thoughts on ideas on what businesses should be doing to help businesses downtown. George Hecko, downtown business owner. First he has heard of this was in November 2008. Opposed to this assessment. John Danberry, downtown property owner. Neighbors on East Franklin are helping each other and are not in support of this assessment. Jim Stevens, representing Senior Center. This assessment would be a hardship on the Senior Center and not in favor of this at this time. Randy Seipel, President of Masonic Temple Association, a non for profit organization. Approximate assessment is \$840.00 and this would be a hardship on this organization as well. Asking that Council consider allowing not for profit organizations be allowed to pay the minimum assessed amount. Dan Rattray, property owner, questions regarding if this is the appropriate venue to achieve the end desired. Perhaps the Chamber of Commerce is the correct place to begin this endeavor. Feels this should be a volunteer effort through the Chamber for businesses that desire to be involved. Also, feels this should be limited to business community that is income producing. Cami Goldman, owns a residence on Washington Street. Would agree with Mr. Rattray regarding income producing properties. Cheryl Danberry tenant in downtown area. Questions regarding this district and the lines as they are drawn. How binding is this proposed budget? Discussion. Submit that the proposed budget is non binding because there is a line item for paying a maintenance person and ordinance directly states no salaries shall be paid. Control of purchases? Laurie Hardwick read statute regarding budget questions. This does not appear to benefit the majority of the businesses downtown, contended Ms. Danberry. Dave Murray, downtown business owner. Has very little to gain if this assessment goes through, but feels if we want more creative businesses, we need these assessment funds for an

investment in the downtown and the continued life of the businesses. Property owners association will control what the funds are used for. Went to major property owners first due to the need for their buy in. Response to how the lines were drawn. As commercial as possibly could, minimize residence as much as possible. These are the times when we need to invest in our local community. When we stand still we fall behind. The reason why City Hall was included is because Main Street intended to come down Washington Street to minimize the inclusion of personal residences. Hope is that this will bring more businesses to Greencastle and keep vital businesses that already exist downtown. Gary Barcus, representing Main Street Greencastle. Goal is to preserve, enhance and protect the downtown area. Volunteer day each year to clean up downtown area. Becoming harder to get the volunteers to do this each year. Important to protect the downtown area. Believe it is absolutely necessary to have this assessment for the viability of the downtown area. Leslie Hanson, downtown business owner, speaking for herself that it is important in lean economic times to pull funds together to work toward a common goal. Jeff Boggess, downtown business owner, support for this district as the greater good for Greencastle. Rick Bittles, HBG Insurance, property owner, here lending his support. Sharon Eiteljorge, lives and works on the square. Loves Greencastle and is concerned about the businesses that come and go and the impact this assessment will have on existing businesses. Bob Bitzer, property owner listened to a lot and feels the town is in bad shape. Businesses have moved east because we have given the incentives to those businesses and they are convenient. George Hecko asked to discuss parking downtown due to the County employees parking. Truck traffic is still coming downtown. Agrees this should be a volunteer program. Mayor Murray closed public hearing at 8:27 PM.

III. Public Petitions and Comments

A. None heard.

IV. Special Requests

A. None heard.

V. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting December 9, 2008

1. Jinsie Bingham request #9, A add lampposts. Motion by Jinsie Bingham to approve as presented, second by Mark Hammer, unanimous approval.

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

A. **Ordinance 2008-17**, An Ordinance Establishing An Economic Improvement District For The Central Business District, **First Reading**

1. Mayor Murray asked to move this item up from E to A. Mayor Murray asked Council to consider tabling this item for further consideration on these issues. Motion by Mark Hammer to table this item for further consideration, second by John Lanie, unanimous approval.

- B. **Resolution 2008-28**, A Resolution Authorizing An Extension of Resolution 2008-18, A Resolution Authorizing A Temporary Loan For The City of Greencastle Park and Recreation Fund
    - 1. Motion by Terry J. Smith, second by John Lanie, unanimous approval.
  - C. **Resolution 2008-29**, A Resolution Authorizing An Extension of Resolution 2008-18, A Resolution Authorizing A Temporary Loan For The City of Greencastle General Fund
    - 1. Motion by Jinsie Bingham to approve as presented, second by Mark Hammer, unanimous approval.
  - D. **Resolution 2008-30**, A Temporary Loan For The City of Greencastle Park Bond Sinking Fund
    - 1. Motion by John Lanie, second by Terry J. Smith, unanimous approval.
  - E. **Resolution 2008-31**, A Resolution Authorizing Encumbrances In The 2008 City of Greencastle Budget
    - 1. Motion by Jinsie Bingham to approve as presented, second by Mark Hammer, unanimous approval.
- VIII. Approval of City Claims
- A. Motion by Mark Hammer to approve as presented, second by John Lanie< unanimous approval.
- IX. Reports
- A. Mayor's Report
    - 1. Shared Putnam County Transit Schedule.
    - 2. Christmas trees will be picked up between 5<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of January.
    - 3. Invitation to join city employees next Friday for lunch here at city hall.
  - B. Clerk-Treasurer's Report
  - C. Councilors
    - 1. Councilor Jinsie Bingham asked regarding purchases for People Pathways. Laurie Hardwick stated moving along, tying up loose ends and most completed.
- X. Adjournment
- A. Motion to adjourn at 8:47 PM by Jinsie Bingham, second by Terry J. Smith. Unanimous approval.

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Susan V. Murray, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Teresa P. Glenn, Clerk Treasurer