

WEST FRANKFORT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016

1. MAYOR JORDAN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. REQUESTING A ROLL CALL. ALL COMMISSIONERS WERE IN ATTENDANCE, ALONG WITH THE CITY ATTORNEY AND CITY CLERK.
2. MAYOR JORDAN ASKED FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 22, 2016 AND THE APRIL 5, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING. COMMISSIONER HARKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SIMPSON. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.
3. MAYOR JORDAN NEXT ASKED FOR APPROVAL TO PAY CITY BILLS AND PAYROLL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$476,754.92. COMMISSIONER SIMPSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.
4. THE NEXT ITEM WAS DISCUSSION, WITH POSSIBLE ACTION, REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS. THE MAYOR STATED WE HAVE A FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT FROM MORTHLAND BUSINESS ENTERPRISES 300 E. MAIN STREET IN WEST FRANKFORT. THIS IS FOR A SIGN THAT THEY PUT UP AND AN ADDITIONAL BANNER IDENTIFYING THE FRANKFORT AMERICAN OPERATING IN THE COLMAN ROADS BUILDING THE AMOUNT IS \$521.00. COMMISSIONER HARKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.
5. THE NEXT ITEM WAS DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION, REGARDING ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT WITH TRAVIS AKIN FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEST FRANKFORT OUTLET MALL. THE MAYOR STATED TRAVIS AND I GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING OF BECOMING MAYOR HE WAS HERE AS AN ADVOCATE FOR LAWSUIT ABUSE. HE HAS ALSO BEEN INTERACTIVE WITH THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS MAYORS ASSOCIATION. DURING OUR CONVERSATIONS HE SHOWED AN INTEREST IN HELPING US TO WORK ON OUR OUTLET MALL AS FAR AS OUR RENTALS INSIDE THE MALL AND ALSO SOME PUBLIC RELATIONS

FOR THE CITY AND HOW WE DISPLAY AND INTERACT ON THE MALL. AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO ASK TRAVIS TO STEP FORWARD. TRAVIS STATED HE WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY TALKING ABOUT THE CHALLENGES THAT ANYONE WILL FACE TRYING TO BRING BUSINESS IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS. WITH THE ECONOMY BEING UNCERTAIN MANY OF THE RETAILERS ARE DOWNSIZING AND NOT ADDING NEW STORES. THE SMALL POPULATION IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS, THE COAL INDUSTRY LAY OFFS AND NO BUDGET. IF THERE IS GOING TO BE A BUDGET IN THE FUTURE MOST LIKELY A TAX INCREASE IS GOING TO BE A PART OF THAT. THERE WAS JUST A REPORT THAT CAME OUT FROM A WEBSITE CALLED WALLET HUB AND ILLINOIS PAYS THE HIGHEST STATE AND LOCAL TAXES OF ANY OTHER STATE. THESE ARE THINGS THAT PROSPECTIVE BUSINESSES ARE GOING TO LOOK AT. THEY ARE ALSO GOING TO LOOK AT SOME OF THE ISSUES WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERING WE DON'T HAVE THE BEST TRACK RECORD. THESE ARE SOME OF THE NEGATIVES WE HAVE TO PREPARE FOR IF WE ARE GOING TO GO OUT AND SELL THIS MALL. THERE ARE MANY POSITIVES THAT WE HAVE TO CONSIDER AS WELL. THIS IS THE ONLY RETAIL OUTLET MALL IN THE REGION. THERE IS A HUGE CUSTOMER BASE AT THE VF OUTLET. I VISITED THE VF ON A SNOWY SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND THERE WAS STILL A LOT OF FOOT TRAFFIC COMING IN AND OUT OF THE MALL. THERE ARE TREMENDOUS MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES. IT IS A CLEAN ATTRACTIVE RETAIL SPACE AND SELLING THAT TO A PROSPECTIVE BUSINESS AND SHOW THEM PICTURES, WHAT THEY ARE GETTING AND THE VALUE OF THE SPACE. THIS IS ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY NOT ONLY TO FILL THE SPACES THERE BUT TO GROW AND CREATE A RETAIL CENTER AND THIS GOES HAND IN HAND WITH WHAT WEST FRANKFORT IS ALL ABOUT. WEST FRANKFORT HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR MANY YEARS IT IS THE FURNITURE CAPITAL OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS. PEOPLE COME HERE FROM MILES AROUND TO SHOP IN WEST FRANKFORT IS IT REALLY THAT BIG OF A STRETCH TO GET PEOPLE TO SHOP IN OTHER WAYS AND GO TO OTHER STORES. I DON'T THINK SO. THIS IS A COMMUNITY THAT HAS BRANDED ITSELF AS A RETAIL HUB SO WHY NOT CONTINUE THAT TRADITION AND BRING PEOPLE IN. THE OTHER POSITIVE IS THE MOST RECENT TRAFFIC COUNTS ON INTERSTATE 57 NORTHBOUND 32,250 CARS A DAY. SOUTHBOUND 31,200. BETWEEN THE TWO NORTH AND SOUTH DIRECTIONS YOU ARE LOOKING AT 60,000 PLUS VEHICLES A DAY. ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS I WOULD DO IS LOOK AT SOME OF THE RETAIL OUTLETS THAT ARE ALREADY PAIRED UP WITH THE VF FACTORY

OUTLETS. SOME OF THESE INCLUDE EDDIE BAUER, GAP, FAMOUS FOOTWEAR, COACH, CARTERS, UNDER ARMOUR, SKETCHERS AND BANANA REPUBLIC. JUST TO THE NORTH OF US AT THE TANGER OUTLET MALL THERE IS ALSO A VF FACTORY OUTLET AND THERE ARE STORES LIKE THE ONES I LISTED. I THINK THAT WOULD BE THE BEST PLACE TO START BECAUSE THEY ALREADY HAVE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE AND KNOW WHAT THE VF STORE BRINGS TO THE TABLE. I LIVE IN MARION AND EVERY CHRISTMAS WE COME TO WEST FRANKFORT TO DRIVE DOWN CANDY CANE LANE AND BECAUSE WE ARE IN WEST FRANKFORT WE GO THROUGH DIXIE CREAM DONUTS, IT'S A TRADITION. IF YOU LIVE IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AND YOUR NOT INTO OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES SUCH AS HUNTING AND FISHING THERE AREN'T THAT MANY OPTIONS. YOU CAN GO OUT TO EAT, TO A MOVIE OR YOU CAN GO SHOPPING. YOU CAN DO ALL THESE THINGS IN WEST FRANKFORT AND WE NEED TO COMMUNICATE THAT TO ALL THE PROSPECTIVE OUTLET STORES. IT IS ALL ABOUT CREATING AN EXPERIENCE IF WE CREATE THE EXPERIENCE THEN PEOPLE WILL COME. SOME OTHER FACTORS ARE THE WIDENING OF INTERSTATE 57, WE HAVE A GREAT WORKFORCE WITH LOWER WAGES AND BEING ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE MALL. THE TWO MAIN THINGS I AM GOING TO DO IS AGGRESSIVELY GO AFTER NEW TENANTS FOR THE MALL AND TO WORK WITH THE CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR TO FRAME THIS IN A WAY THAT WE CAN BUILD PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR WHAT THE CITY IS TRYING TO DO. YOU ARE ONLY GOING TO BE SUCCESSFUL IF YOU HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY BEHIND YOU. WHEN YOU ARE TRYING TO DO THINGS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN DONE BEFORE YOU ARE ALWAYS GOING TO HAVE FORCES TRYING TO PREVENT YOU FROM BEING SUCCESSFUL. WHAT IS NEEDED IS SOME EDUCATION AND SOME HELP TO BRING PEOPLE ALONG. MY BACKGROUND IS IN COMMUNICATIONS, I WORK WITH THE MEDIA ON A REGULAR BASIS IN FRAMING ISSUES LIKE THIS TO THE PUBLIC. I KNOW HOW TO CREATE A COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY THAT CAN BE SUCCESSFUL. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WHEN YOU ARE DOING SOMETHING THIS MOMENTOUS YOU MAKE SURE YOU ARE BEING TRANSPARENT AND THAT YOU ARE COMMUNICATING WHAT YOU ARE DOING AND GET THE PEOPLE BEHIND YOU. WHAT I CHARGE WILL HELP DEVELOP THE SOCIAL MEDIA, PRESS PRESENCE AND WORK WITH THE LOCAL BUSINESS TO DEVELOP POTENTIAL AD REVENUE FOR THE MALL AND ALL THE OTHER THINGS I HAVE WENT OVER. THE COST WILL BE \$1000 A MONTH PLUS A ONE TIME FEE OF TWO MONTHS RENT FOR EACH LEASE SIGNED. IT

WOULD BE A ONE TIME THING I WOULD WORK WITH YOU ON HOW THE PAYMENTS COULD BE STRETCHED OUT OR WHAT WOULD WORK BEST FOR THE CITY. I WOULD NOT CHARGE ANYTHING FOR RENEWALS IT WOULD JUST BE THE ONE TIME FEE. I WOULD WANT A LITTLE BIT OF COMPENSATION IF WE DO LAND BIG BUSINESSES OUT THERE. I THINK IT IS A FAIR PROPOSAL AND I WOULD BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS. COMMISSIONER SIMPSON STATE ON THE ONE TIME FEE FOR TWO MONTHS RENT THAT WOULD BE ON WHAT MINIMUM LEASE PERIOD? WOULD THAT BE A 36 MONTH LEASE OR 60 MONTHS? TRAVIS STATED AGAIN WE COULD WORK OUT THE SPECIFICS ON THAT I WAS THINKING OF TRYING TO LOCK PEOPLE IN FOR A MINIMUM OF FIVE YEARS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. COMMISSIONER SIMPSON STATED HE WAS MORE CONCERNED THAT WE HAVE THAT SPECIFIED IN THE AGREEMENT ON THE LEASE PERIOD SO THAT IF YOU BRING SOMEONE IN AND THEY GO WITH A ONE YEAR LEASE AND WE PAY. TRAVIS STATED NO; HIS INTENTION IS TO GET PEOPLE IN THERE FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME. COMMISSIONER SIMPSON STATED THAT HE WANTS THAT SPECIFIED IN THE AGREEMENT. TRAVIS STATED HE CAN MAKE THAT CHANGE. COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS STATED ARE WE TALKING ABOUT YOU MARKETING THE SPACE JUST INSIDE THE VF MALL OR THE SPACE OUTSIDE? TRAVIS STATED WHATEVER THE CITY IS INVOLVED IN AND NEEDS HELP WITH GETTING PEOPLE TO OCCUPY SPACE WHATEVER IT IS DOES NOT HAVE TO BE LIMITED TO JUST THE OUTLET MALL. THE MAYOR STATED HE WILL BE ABLE TO HELP US IN ANY WAY THAT WE ASK HIM TO DO. PRIMARILY HIS RESPONSIBILITY IS TO MARKET THE MALL AND INTERIOR AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT IT. IF HE IS NEEDED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT WITH THE AREAS AROUND THE MALL I THINK HE WOULD BE WILLING TO DO THAT. RIGHT NOW WE ARE WORKING WITH KEITH MORAN WHO IS TRYING TO BRING IN SOME MARKETING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPERTY WE ARE TRYING TO BUILD ON THE FRONT AND SIDE. COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS STATED SHE CAME TO THIS JOB OUT OF TWELVE YEARS IN MEDIA I AM ALWAYS SOLD ON GOOD PR AND TRANSPARENCY AND MEDIA RELATIONS THAT PART IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE A GOOD OPTION FOR ANY CITY MARKETING THEMSELVES. WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT END OF IT? HAVE YOU WORKED ON BRINGING COMPANIES TO MALLS BEFORE? TRAVIS STATED HIS EXPERIENCE WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS MORE ON THE POLITICAL SIDE AND BEING AROUND BUSINESSES AND MARKETING. MY EXPERIENCE IS MORE ON HELPING BUSINESSES PROMOTE AND

ELECTED OFFICIALS. WHAT I HAVE TO OFFER IS THE ABILITY TO HELP FOCUS THE EFFORTS AND DEVELOP A STRATEGIC GAME PLAN AND PUT THE CITY IN THE BEST POSITION POSSIBLE TO BE SUCCESSFUL. THE MAYOR STATED WE HAVE TALKED TO SEVERAL LARGER GROUPS ABOUT MALL MANAGEMENT AND WE HAVE A 95,000 SQFT BUILDING OUT THERE THAT WE ARE CALLING AN OUTLET MALL. IT IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE MALL THEY HAVE IN MARION OR THESE LARGE OUTLETS. THE REASON I ASKED TRAVIS TO DO THIS WAS THAT I FEEL LIKE WE NEED SOMEONE LOCAL, SOMEONE I CAN PICK UP THE PHONE AND CALL. HE IS HERE HE IS NOT IN ST. LOUIS WORKING WITH FIFTEEN OTHER CLIENTS. HE HAS THE TIME TO PUT IN ON THIS AND FOLLOW UP. I SPEND A LARGE AMOUNT OF TIME RUNNING THE CITY AND SO A LOT OF THINGS FALL THROUGH THE CRACKS. I AM LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO HELP THE CITY AS A GROUP TO STAY ON TRACK AS FAR AS CONTINUING TO FOLLOW UP WITH THESE PEOPLE, CALL PEOPLE, GET PEOPLE INTERESTED' FILLING IN NOW. TRAVIS STATED ALL OF HIS CONTRACTS HAVE A THIRTY DAY OUT NOTICE. COMMISSIONER BLADES MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SIMPSON. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

6. THE NEXT ITEM WAS DISCUSSION, WITH POSSIBLE ACTION, REGARDING AN AJR UPDATE. THE MAYOR STATED WE HAVE MIKE ROBERTS HERE FROM BROWN AND ROBERTS AND HE WILL GIVE US AN UPDATE ON THE AJR REPORT. MIKE STATED THEY HAVE RECEIVED THE COMMENTS AND IT IS A PRETTY LENGTHY LIST. THERE ARE A COUPLE ITEMS ON THERE THAT THEY CALL SIGNIFICANT REVISIONS. WE HAVE A CONFERENCE CALL SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY MORNING. THE CONSULTANT THAT WE ARE USING HAS REVIEW ALL OF THOSE AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE WORST CASE SCENARIO WE ARE LOOKING AT AN ADDITIONAL PAPERWORK TO BE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL. THAT IS WHERE WE ARE AT. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WANT TO TAKE ACTION OR WAIT. COMMISSIONER SIMPSON STATED YOU ARE GOING TO TALK TO IDOT TOMORROW? MIKE STATED THURSDAY. COMMISSIONER SIMPSON STATED THEN WE WILL HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT WE ARE. COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS STATED WHAT IS THE MAIN DIFFERENCE? MIKE STATED THERE ARE CERTAIN GEOMETRIC GROUP REQUIREMENTS THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH EACH CLASSIFICATION. URBAN DEVELOPMENT ASSUMES TRAFFIC IS MOVING SLOWER ON THE SIDE ROADS AND STOPPING DISTANCES. IF IT IS A RURAL CHANGE THEN

THEY ARE ASSUMING THE SPEEDS ARE SIGNIFICANT. WE CHANGED SOME OF THE GEOMETRICS SIGNIFICANTLY. IF WE MAKE THESE ADJUSTMENTS WE WOULD GET THE APPROVAL TO THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION. THE MAYOR STATED WILL WE NEED TO SPEND ANY MONEY THESE NEXT TWO WEEKS? CAN WE TAKE ACTION THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING ON THIS? MIKE STATED YOU CAN IT JUST DELAYS IT A COUPLE WEEKS. IN THE WORST CASE SCENARIO WE ARE LOOKING AT A 30 DAY TURN AROUND. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT IS RIGHT NOW IS THAT THEY ARE ACCEPTING TIGER GRANTS SO IF IT DELAYED TWO WEEKS WE COULD MISS THAT APPLICATION. THE MAYOR STATED SO YOUR RECOMMENDATION IS THAT WE TAKE A VOTE TO APPROVE THIS. COMMISSIONER SIMPSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

7. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION FOR THE OLD KING COAL COMMITTEE TO SPONSOR THEIR ANNUAL OLD KING COAL PARADE ON SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016 AT 1:00 P.M. COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BLADES. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.
8. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL FOR RELAY FOR LIFE TO HOLD A ROADBLOCK ON APRIL 23, 2016 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. AT THE INTERSECTION OF ROUTE 149 AND HIGHWAY 37. COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS STATED THIS THROUGH THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY THEY ARE THE ONES DOING THIS. COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HARKINS. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.
9. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL FOR THE VFW TO HOLD THEIR ANNUAL ROADBLOCK ON APRIL 29, 2016 FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M. AND APRIL 30, 2016 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. AT THE INTERSECTION OF ROUTE 149 AND HIGHWAY 37. COMMISSIONER SIMPSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BLADES. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

10. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF AN INVOICE FROM UL, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,849.05 REGARDING THE ANNUAL TESTING OF ALL GROUND LADDERS AND APPARATUS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER HARKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SIMPSON. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

11. BUILDING AND SIGN PERMITS:

CODES OFFICER ED HAMMONDS STATED HE HAS TWO SIGN PERMITS AND TWO BUILDING PERMITS.

THE FIRST ITEM IS A SIGN REQUEST IS FROM MARTY CONAUGHTY HE IS GOING TO BE ADDING AN ADDITIONAL SIGN OUT FRONT FOR HIS PROPANE SALES. THE SIZE WILL BE ROUGHLY 3 X 5 INDICATING THAT HE HAS PROPANE FOR SALE. COMMISSIONER HARKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SIMPSON. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

THE NEXT ITEM IS A SIGN REQUEST IS FROM MICHAEL AND GAYLE THOMAS THEY ARE BUILDING AT 328 E MAIN STREET. THEY ARE GOING TO BE PUTTING UP A 4X8 SIGN THAT WILL BE ON THE WEST WALL FOR RISSI'S EVENT CENTER. COMMISSIONER HARKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

THE NEXT ITEM IS A BUILDING PERMIT FROM NEIL & CLAUDIA BRYAN THEY LIVE AT 1404 N TIMOTHY COURT. KATHALYNAS WILL BE DOING THE ADDITION THEY REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL BEDROOM, BATHROOM AND WALK IN CLOSET. THEIR BID IS FOR \$57,965.00. COMMISSIONER HARKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SIMPSON. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

THE NEXT ITEM IS A BUILDING PERMIT FROM DAVID WESTON HE LIVES AT 1211 E 5TH STREET. HE IS REQUESTING A PERMIT TO ADD ON TO THE SIDE OF HIS HOUSE A 5X10 GREEN HOUSE FOR HIS WIFES PLANTS. IT WILL BE A VERY SMALL GLASS ROOM. COMMISSIONER HARKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED

TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

12. MAYOR'S REPORT:

THE MAYOR STATED LAST THURSDAY I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO BLOOMINGTON TO TAKE PART IN A CONFERENCE WITH THE SHOPPING CENTER ASSOCIATION. I SAT WITH ABOUT 125 PEOPLE IN A ROOM AND WE RECEIVED A REALLY NICE PRESENTATION FROM VENDORS. SOME OF THE VENDORS THERE WERE HOBBY LOBBY, JIMMY JOHNS AND DUNKIN DONUTS. THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT SOME OF THE THINGS THEY REQUEST AND WHAT REQUIREMENTS THEY HAVE FOR COMING TO A COMMUNITY. IT WAS NICE TO BE A PART OF THAT DISCUSSION AND HEAR THE LANGUAGE THAT THEY USE. THE MAYOR OF EAST PEORIA, CHAMPAIGN AND THE MAYOR OF MT. VERNON SPOKE TO US ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS THAT THEY HAVE DONE IN THEIR COMMUNITY AND HOW THEY HAVE STRUCTURED THAT. IT WAS REALLY NICE TO HEAR SUCCESS STORIES AND THE STRUGGLES THEY HAVE HAD. IT WAS A VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO SIT AND TALK WITH HOBBY LOBBY AND CARNIVAL SHOES. THEY ARE LOCATING AND LOOKING FOR MORE STORES. I TOOK DON GASS WITH ME WE HAD A NICE DISCUSSION WITH THESE PEOPLE AND IT IS ALWAYS NICE TO GET OUR NAME OUT THERE. THANKS TO THE MAYOR FROM MT.VERNON SHE RECOGNIZED US SO EVERYBODY KNEW WE WERE THERE. THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME FOR OUR COMMUNITY WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY HERE TO TRY AND GROW. I TRY TO PORTRAY WEST FRANKFORT IN A POSITIVE LIGHT. WE COULD TALK ABOUT THE NEGATIVE THINGS IN OUR COMMUNITY BUT I CHOOSE TO TALK ABOUT POSITIVE THINGS THAT ARE GOING ON. THE MAYOR OF MACOMB PULLED UP OUR INTERSTATE ON HIS PHONE AND SAID TO ME WOW YOU HAVE A TON OF PEOPLE DRIVING BY YOUR TOWN ON A DAILY BASIS. ONE THING I DID UNDERSTAND WAS THE COMMUNITIES THAT ARE SUCCESSFUL THE MAIN THING THAT THEY HAVE IS LAND. ER BROWN HAS BOUGHT INTO THAT. THEY WANT MORE FURNITURE STORES HERE THAN LESS. IF YOU CAN COME TO WEST FRANKFORT AND GO TO FOUR OR FIVE FURNITURE STORES IN ONE TOWN IT GIVES YOU A LOT OF OPPORTUNITY. THE GUY FROM JIMMY JOHNS SAID HE WOULD RATHER BE IN A GROUP WITH A BUNCH OF PEOPLE BECAUSE NOT EVERYONE LIKES JIMMY JOHNS AND SOME DON'T LIKE SUBWAY SO YOU HAVE A GROUP COMING TO A LOCATION TO EAT AT DIFFERENT PLACES. THE MYTH IS THAT IF WE GET SOMETHING THEN IT WILL HURT ANOTHER STORE. I THANK THE

COUNCIL FOR BRINGING TRAVIS ON TO HELP US OUT. WE ARE TRYING; WE RE MAKING EVERY EFFORT WE CAN TO MAKE THIS COMMUNITY GROW. WHEN YOU TRY TO DO THINGS LIKE THIS YOU GET CRITICIZED. THIS COUNCIL HAS MADE AN EFFORT TO TAKE A STEP AND TRY TO DO SOMETHING FOR THIS COMMUNITY.

13. COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER HARKINS STATED HE IS THANKFUL THAT WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY OFFICERS INJURED. I WAS JUST SITTING HERE THINKING IN THE LAST YEAR OUR OFFICERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN TWO DIFFERENT SHOOTINGS WHERE PEOPLE HAVE GOT KILLED. I AM SO THANKFUL TO SAY THAT OUR OFFICERS ARE ALRIGHT AND WELL. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THE STRESS IT TAKES ON THEM AND WHAT THEY GO THROUGH. THE FIRE DEPARTMENT THEM BOYS THERE SEE A LOT OF STUFF THAT YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY DEAL WITH DAILY. I AM JUST PROUD TO BE AROUND THEM AND SEE HOW PROFESSIONAL THEY ARE. OUR TOWN IS VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE THEM AND I WANT IT TO BE SAID THAT I FEEL THAT WAY FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART. I AM GLAD THAT NOBODY GOT INJURED TODAY AND ALL OF OUR BOYS ARE ALRIGHT.

COMMISSIONER SIMPSON STATED HE IS ALSO THANKFUL NO ONE GOT HURT TODAY. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT. I KNOW THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF ANTICIPATION IN THE CITY AND WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO WITH THE OUTLET MALL. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE RESULTS THAT WE ARE GOING TO GET FROM TRAVIS AND WE EXPECT THEM SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. WE ARE GLAD TO HAVE YOU ABOARD AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE RESULTS.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS STATED WHEN WE FIRST GOT ELECTED SIX YEARS AGO AT THIS TIME. I CALLED A BUSINESS TODAY THAT I CALLED SIX YEARS AGO AND THEIR ANSWER SIX YEARS AGO WAS NO. THERE WASN'T A LOT OF BARGAINING TO DO BACK THEN AS TO WHAT THE CITY HAD TO OFFER. WE WANTED THEM HERE AND WE KNOW WE HAVE A GREAT TOWN BUT HOW DO YOU TELL THAT TO PEOPLE. THE CONVERSATION IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT NOW THAT WE HAVE MADE THIS INVESTMENT INTO THE LAND OFF THE INTERSTATE. WHEN YOU SAY IM WITH THE CITY OF WEST FRANKFORT I WANT TO TELL YOU A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WEST FRANKFORT MOST RESPOND WITH SAYING I DON'T KNOW WHERE WEST FRANKFORT IS. WHEN YOU TELL THEM THAT

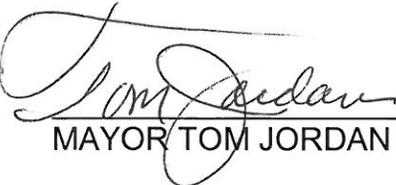
THE CITY OWNS SEVERAL ACRES OF LAND RIGHT OFF THE INTERSTATE AND WE ARE RIGHT NEXT TO 149 WE HAVE 37 THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY AND WE NOW OWN AN OUTLET MALL. IT'S A VERY ENGAGING CONVERSATION THEY WANT TO TALK TO YOU AND HEAR ABOUT THE SPACE THAT YOU HAVE. MOST THE TIME THEY WILL SAY THAT THEY HAVE LOOKED AT TOWNS AROUND WEST FRANKFORT BUT THEY WANT TO BE RIGHT ON THE INTERSTATE AND THEY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING AVAILABLE. THEIR SUCCESS IS KIND OF TO OUR BENEFIT NOW. WE HAVE SOMETHING THAT NOBODY ELSE HAS. EVERYBODY AGREED THAT THIS DECISION WAS A GOOD IDEA AND WE ARE AT THE FOREFRONT NOW WHERE WE GET TO SEE ALL OF THIS HAPPEN. IT HAS BEEN A LONG PROCESS BUT BEING ON THE OTHER END OF THE PHONE WITH THOSE PEOPLE WHO I HAVE ALREADY HEARD THEIR OPINION OF US BEFORE WE HAD THIS AND BEING ABLE TO OFFER THIS NOW IS REALLY EXCITING. THIS IS OUR TICKET TO GET BACK TO WHERE WE NEED TO BE.

14. AUDIENCE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

15. MAYOR JORDAN ASKED FOR APPROVAL TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS, PERSONNEL, LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR PENDING LITIGATION, WITH POSSIBLE ACTION. COMMISSIONER SIMPSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HARKINS. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS ALONG WITH THE MAYOR VOTED YES. MOTION CARRIED. THE COUNCIL WENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:04 P.M.

16. THE COUNCIL RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION AT 8:27 P.M. ON A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SIMPSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS ALONG WITH MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. MOTION CARRIED.

17. WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED ON A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HARKINS AT 8:27 P.M.


MAYOR TOM JORDAN


ANGIE BAKER, CITY CLERK