



Meeting of the Franklin Economic Development Commission (EDC)

Agenda

**Franklin City Hall, Hearing Room
9229 W. Loomis Road, Franklin, Wisconsin
August 27, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.**

Chairman Steve Bobowski
Cathleen Richard
Mike Barber

Barbara Wesener
Timothy Wachter
Aldерwoman Michelle Eichmann

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Citizen Comment Period
- III. Approve Minutes for the July 30, 2026 Meeting
- IV. Economic Development Update
 - A. Current Prospects

The Economic Development Commission may enter closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(e), for market competition reasons, to deliberate and consider potential commercial/industrial/manufacturing development(s) and governmental actions in relation thereto, and to reenter open session at the same place thereafter to act on such matters discussed therein as it deems appropriate.
- V. Business Appreciation Celebration
 - A. Date
 - B. Theme
 - C. Awards Nominations
- VI. Candidates Forum
- VII. Next Meeting Date
- VIII. Adjournment

Notice is given that a majority of the Common Council may attend this meeting to gather information about an Agenda item over which they have decision making responsibility. This may constitute a meeting of the Council per *State ex rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Board*, even though the Common Council will not take formal action at this meeting.

Notice is given that upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information, please contact the Franklin City Clerk's office at (414) 425-7500.



Minutes of the Franklin Economic Development Commission Meeting
Franklin City Hearing Room
9229 W. Loomis Road, Franklin, Wisconsin
July 30, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Members Present			Others Present	
Mike Barber	X	Bobowski, Steve (Chair)	X	
Barbara Wesener	X	Timothy Wachter (Vice Chair)	X	John Regetz, Economic Development Director
Cathleen Richard		Michelle Eichmann (Alderwoman)	X	

- I. The Franklin Economic Development Commission (EDC) meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chairman Bobowski.
- II. The floor was opened for Citizen Comment at 6:06 p.m. No citizens were present, and Citizen Comment closed at 6:07 p.m.
- III. Approve Minutes from the May 28, 2026, Meeting – Motion by Barber, second by Wesener, to approve. Motion Carried.
- IV. Economic Development Update
 - A. Strategic Plan Implementation
 1. Comprehensive Plan Update and Prioritized Industrial & Commercial Nodes Report & Discussion – Regulo Martinez-Montilva described the City’s Comprehensive Plan process to date and those Node Priorities that are in agreement with the current draft. He also described those that are not, specifically 76th St. & Ryan Rd. (Town Center), where Planning and Economic Development Depts. agreed to keep the future use as Commercial. Regetz felt it would be easier to change to industrial use if an exceptional opportunity presented itself there. Some disagreement in documents will continue as some parcels in the Landfill District are recommended for Park by Planning and Landfill by Economic Development. Both Depts. feel that Agriculture is best along 124th St. in the Industrial to Waste Management Transition Tract. Motion by Barber, second by Eichmann, to accept the updated Prioritization of Industrial and Retail Nodes. Motion Carried.
 - B. Current Prospects – Motion by Eichmann, second by Wachter, to enter closed session. Motion Carried.

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- V. Business Appreciation Celebration (BAC)
 - A. Date – Motion by Wesener, second by Barber, to select November 12 as the date to hold the BAC at the Polish Center. Motion carried and Regetz will confirm with the Polish Center.
 - B. Speaker nominations – Regetz mentioned Jesse Valdez volunteered, Wesener suggested state Rep. Wittke and Chairman Bobowski proposed Mayor Nelson for the BAC keynote speaker. Motion by Eichmann, second by Bobowski, to select Mayor Nelson as keynote speaker. Motion Carried with Barber and Wesener abstaining.
 - C. Preliminary Awards Nominations – A Mayor’s Award recipient was designated. Barber



suggested Nitz Farmstand. Selections will be finalized at the next meeting.

- D. Regetz sent some BAC event themes, drafted by Mary Christine, for selection of one by the EDC. Consensus of the EDC was to get the Mayor's input as he will be keynote speaker.

- VI. Conduct/host Candidates Forum – Chairman Bobowski proposed that the EDC host a Candidate's Forum that would have a Franklin Economic Development theme. After discussion Bobowski moved, Barber seconded, to pursue the concept. Motion Carried and Chairman Bobowski will call political party chairs and leaders to see if they are interested, and would assist.
- VII. Next Meeting Date – Motion by Bowbowski, second by Wachter, to hold the next EDC meeting on August 27, at 6:00 p.m... Motion carried.
- VIII. Adjournment – Motion by Wachter, second by Eichmann, to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.

DRAFT

2026 BUSINESS APPRECIATION CELEBRATION SELECTED EVENT THEMES

Mary Christine assembled some themes for this year's Business Appreciation Celebration and we selected the ones we thought most appropriate. Please take a look and we will discuss more at Thursday's meeting. Please suggest any others that you feel would be good themes.

Building Tomorrow Together

Honoring the people, businesses, and partnerships shaping our community's future

Partners in Progress

Recognizing collaboration that strengthens our local economy

Growing Communities, Growing Business

Honoring excellence in economic development

Building on Our Momentum: Moving Our Economy Forward

Development efforts that build on successes

Business Appreciation Awards Nominations Guide

AWARD CATEGORIES

- Franklin Excellence in Large Business – gross annual revenues are greater than \$10M
- Franklin Excellence in Small Business - gross annual revenues are less than \$10M
- Franklin Excellence in Business Innovation
- Franklin Business Leader of the Year
- Mayor's Choice Award – Nomination made by the Mayor

EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS – LARGE AND SMALL CATEGORIES

Eligibility (list status of each)

- Minimum of 3 years in business
- Significant presence in Franklin
- Gross annual revenue qualification (Large Business>\$10M>Small Business)
- Hasn't won Excellence in Business within the previous five years

Judging Criteria (briefly describe)

- A commitment to good business practices
- A history of good employee relations/benefits
- Customer focused commitment
- Financial growth and consistency
- Community service involvement
- Education partnerships and workforce development involvement

EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS – INNOVATION

Eligibility (list status of each)

- Business must be located in Franklin
- Hasn't won Excellence in Business Innovation within the previous five years

Judging Criteria (briefly describe)

- Demonstrated Company Innovations
- Innovative practices that have been integrated in to the business
- New technology that has been integrated into the business

Business Appreciation Awards Nominations Guide

BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR

Eligibility (list status of each)

- Nominees must live or work in Franklin
- Hasn't won Business Leader of The Year within the previous five years

Judging criteria (including but not limited to) (briefly describe)

- Community Service Involvement: Volunteer efforts; personal giving of time with or without an organization.
- Leadership Traits: Displays integrity collaboration, commitment, inclusivity, accountability and a growth and results orientation.
- Team Player: Works to actively improve the team/group.
- Professional Achievement: Success in reaching specific professional goals.
- Personal & Professional Development: Pursues educational opportunities and learning experiences.

NOMINATIONS

Include Businesses' and Nominee's Names, list Eligibilities statuses, briefly describe Judging Criteria met, as well as other pertinent rationale for the nomination.

Send nominations to: John Regetz, Director, Economic Development, jregetz@franklinwi.gov

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS BY AUGUST 20, 2025

PAST NOMINATIONS AND WINNERS TO DATE

2018, 2019 and 2020 winners are again eligible for nominations

2019 NOMINATIONS (winners underlined in red)

Excellence in Business – Small

Anderson Family Dental

Hide-Away Pub & Eatery

Lovers Lane Sushi and Seafood Buffet

Southwestern Suburban Symphony

Excellence in Business – Large

Dash Medical Gloves

Krones, Inc.

Northwestern Mutual

Payne & Dolan

Vesta Inc. / Lubrizol

Excellence in Leadership

Apostale Evreniadis, Mimosa

Susan Rabe, Conservancy for Healing & Heritage

Tom Schulz, Krones, Inc.

Excellence in Innovation

Ascension SE Wisconsin Hospital

Aurora Healthcare

Big Bang LLC

Forte Theater Company

Wheel & Sprocket

2018 NOMINATIONS (winners underlined in red)

Excellence in Business – Small

Anderson Dental

Innovative Fitness

Mimosa

South Suburban Symphony

Excellence in Business – Large

Carlisle

Northwestern Mutual

Payne & Dolan

Vesta

Excellence in Leadership

Richard Simonson, Carma Laboratories

Seth Tiegen, Ascension

Tom Schulz, Krones

Dave Dull, Allis Roller

Excellence in Innovation

Krones

Roc Ventures

Ascension

Aurora

2021 NOMINATIONS (winners underlined in red)

Excellence in Business – Large

Carma Labs,

Hermle USA, Inc.,

Lubrizol

S&C Electric

Dash Medical Gloves

Excellence in New Business Nominees

Askren Wrestling Academy

Havana Café

Honey Butter Café

Sweet Basil

Wheel & Sprocket

Habitat for Humanity Restore

Excellence in Business – Small

Harry's Hardware

Castleman Plumbing

Starfire (CertaSite)

Victory Creek Accounting

Excellence in Leadership

Starfire

Strauss

Carma Labs

Tom Schultz - Krones

Sue Malek - Starfire

2022 NOMINATIONS (winners underlined in red)

Excellence in Business – Large

Lubrizol
Innovative Pain Care
Saputo Cheese
Northwestern Mutual

Excellence in Business – Small

Honey Butter
Gaia Micro Spa
Ace Hardware

Excellence in Innovation

YMCA
Hunger Task Force
Luxe Golf
S&C Electric

Excellence in Leadership

Jonathan Wichman
Stewart Wangard

2023 NOMINATIONS (winners underlined in red)

Excellence in Business – Large

Forever Companies
Saputo Cheese
Vesta/Lubrizol
Carma Labs

Excellence in Business – Small

Castleman Plumbing
JV Lawn Care
Mimosa
Sweet Basil Franklin
Ace Hardware
Gaia Micro Spa
Roc Ventures

Excellence in Innovation

Innovative Pain Care
S&C Electric
Land By Label

Excellence in Leadership

Jim Pekar - Luxe Golf Bays, Land by Label

Gary Lacourt - Forever Companies
David Myers - S&C Electric
Carma Labs - Rich Simonson
Mike Zimmerman - Roc Ventures

2024 NOMINATIONS (winners underlined in red)

Excellence in Business – Large

Saputo Cheese

Excellence in Business – Small

Stark and Yager
Point After
Bright Cleaners

Excellence in Innovation

Niche Chocolate

Excellence in Leadership

O'Brien Homes & Franklin Schools Construction
Trades Project

2025 NOMINATIONS (winners underlined in red)

Mayor's Award

Yaskawa, America, Inc.
Polina Soccer Club

Large Business

Yaskawa, America, Inc.

Small Business

James Bild Insurance
Crossroads Pizza & Subs

Innovation

Croatian Park
Federation & Soccer Club
Senior Flexonics

Leadership

Franklin School Dist.
Briscoe Family YMCA Wellness Center
Yaskawa, America, Inc.

Other Economic Development Achievements



Carma Laboratories Completing Facilities

Carma Laboratories is completing their 225,000 square foot headquarters, production and warehousing consolidation project, requiring a \$38 million investment. The City of Franklin's Establishment of TID 9 was instrumental in making the Carma Labs project a reality. It will also enable new industrial, commercial, institutional, and residential uses yet to come.



Modine Manufacturing

Modine is leasing 153,000 square feet in the new HSA building to produce air handling equipment used in data center cooling systems. The company is investing over \$26 million to equip and finish the space, which will employ 436 workers within three years. Franklin collaborated with Milwaukee 7 and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to secure the project.



Microbial Discovery Group (MDG)

MDG is leasing, finishing and equipping 117,000 square feet in the new HSA building to house 22,000 liters of fermentation, lyophilization and drying capacity for large-scale *Bacillus* production. MDG started its company in Franklin and now has three facilities in the area to conduct R&D and support the commercialization of their proprietary products as well as those of their contract manufacturing clients. The City of Franklin collaborated with HSA to construct the spec building that houses MDG and Modine.



Krones moving into Wangard Building

Krones Inc. has leased the former Wangard Flex-Spec Building to provide more space for its equipment servicing operations, as it continues to grow and invest in its other Franklin-based bottling equipment manufacturing and distribution. Krones is also investing in green initiatives to be integrated into its Franklin operations.