

Avon approves economic development area on northeast side

(December 21, 2018) Last night, the Avon Town Council approved the creation of a district to support business development near Ronald Reagan Parkway and County Road 200 North.

“The new Ronald Reagan Parkway Economic Development Area allows the Town of Avon to make the infrastructure improvements needed to attract and accommodate businesses, and to repay the cost of those improvements through the future property taxes those businesses will pay,” explained Aaron Tevebaugh, Avon Town Council President. “That way, we’re able to make the necessary improvements in the area without putting a burden on our town’s residents.”

The Ronald Reagan Parkway Economic Development Area encompasses several large tracts of land north of the IU Health West Hospital campus, totaling about 663 acres. “It includes land on both sides of Ronald Reagan Parkway between IU Health West and 200 North, the old airport property between 900 East and Ronald Reagan Parkway and north of 200 North, and other farmland including the farm north of 200 North and west of 900 East,” said Avon Economic Development Director John Taylor. “The area includes the planned unit development known as Avon Landing that’s planned for the old Speedway Airport site which is located north of 200 North along the Reagan Parkway.”

Goals for the 141-acre Avon Landing development include a focus on office, light manufacturing, and professional businesses, rather than large manufacturing or warehouse facilities, Taylor added. “Avon’s economic development strategy focuses on diversifying the community’s tax base. Last year, we surveyed residents and they told us they wanted more emphasis on office and professional development and less emphasis on warehouse-type buildings. The Activate Avon Comprehensive Plan says this area is ideally suited for development such as offices and light industrial facilities,” he explained.

Approval of the Economic Development Area involved several steps. Avon’s Redevelopment Commission initially approved the plan, which also had to be reviewed by the town’s Plan Commission to ensure that it complied with the Activate Avon Comprehensive Plan. The Town Council has reviewed the process and formally approved a resolution authorizing the area’s creation at last night’s meeting.

“The Ronald Reagan Parkway Economic Development Area is just the next step in Avon’s ongoing economic development efforts,” notes President Tevebaugh. “So far, these efforts have included more than \$100 million in road and trail construction. That includes widening Ronald Reagan Parkway to four lanes and extending it to connect with Plainfield, Brownsburg, I-74, and I-70, all of which has made the area attractive to growing companies that will strengthen our tax base.”

The Activate Avon Comprehensive Plan is online at www.avongov.org.

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