

February 4, 2008

The regular meeting of the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen was held on Monday, February 4, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Joe Collins presided. Aldermen Verlin Curtis, Jerry Evans, Joyce Handley, Carolyn Pattillo and Bob Scott were present. Alderman Billy Mashburn was absent.

Approval of the minutes

Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Pattillo to approve the minutes for the January 7, 2008 meeting as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Persons to be heard

Dan Williams said I have two things. He said I want to be put on next month's agenda. Mayor Collins said for what reason? Mr. Williams said for a lot of things. Mayor Collins said we have to have a subject. Mr. Williams said Kathleen Costa has been evicted from her house. He said her daughter, son and grandchildren live with her. He said nobody cares.

Jean McCollum said our water meter was changed in November. She said the readings increased. She read a letter to the Board. A copy is attached. Alderman Scott said I had the same problem and a humidifier on the furnace was our problem. She said we have made no changes. Alderman Scott said we can change the meter. Jay Gibson said we have checked the meter and there is nothing wrong. He said they are tested at the factory. The Board instructed Mr. Gibson to change the meter at the McCollums.

Jack Bright said I live at 67 Kingwood Circle. He said I am excited about the Main Street Program. He said we need to go to the meeting tomorrow and support the program. He said I have seen amazing things happen in the past. He said you have a charming town with some ugly places.

Presentation of the Town's Fiscal Year 2006-07 audit – Mitch Crisp, Dixon Hughes

Mitch Crisp said I am the Audit Partner in charge of your audit. He said you received an Unqualified Statement which is the highest you can receive. He said you have weaknesses in internal control due to the small staff size. He said you have to weigh the costs to the benefits. He said you did not do a Capital Project Ordinance when one was needed. He said the fund balance is 62% of your annual budget. Mr. Crisp said the Water/Sewer Fund is healthy. He said we have suggested the vending machines be maintained as required by GS 159-17.1. He said we are recommending the Town do a written policy concerning the use of the credit cards.

February 4, 2008 meeting continued,

Nikwasi Mound celebration plans – Jerry Tate, Macon County Historical Society

Jerry Tate said the Macon County Historical Society is planning to have a day of celebration and dedication of the signs at the Nikwasi Mound on May 17, 2008. He said we are asking that the Town partner with us on this celebration. He said we are asking that Michael Grubermann and Alderman Bob Scott work with us on the planning for this event. Alderman Pattillo said the Macon County Historical Society was started in 1946 to save the Nikwasi Mound. Gordon Mercer said I am a Board member of the Macon County Historical Society. He said I want to thank you for your support. He said there is a lot of history involved with the Nikwasi Mound.

Application for certificate of convenience and necessity to operate a taxicab – Larry Jacobs

Larry Jacobs said I am applying for a taxicab certificate. Mike Decker explained to the Board the steps outlined in the Town's ordinance in granting a taxicab certificate. He said the next step is to publish a notice in the newspaper. Information copies are attached. **Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Evans to do the necessary publication. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

Departmental reports

Police Chief Terry Bradley gave the police department report. A copy of the report is attached. He said the Martin Luther King Day parade went well on January 21, 2008. Alderman Scott said I want to commend you for the new striping on the police cars.

Public Works Director Jay Gibson said the work on the Ulco Drive sewer line is moving along. He said the work on the Highlands Road water project has started. He said we are getting close to the final inspection on the Raw Water Intake Project. Mr. Gibson said the North Carolina Department of Transportation will need to move our water line on their project at the Addington Bridge Road. He said we can hire a contractor of our choice and get reimbursed by the DOT. The Board agreed to hire a contractor and get reimbursed. Mr. Gibson said Eddie Sheffield has worked ninety days and I want to get him a \$1.00 per hour raise. He said we have done this in the past. Mayor Collins said I don't remember doing this in the past. Alderman Pattillo said I want to check and be sure that this has happened in the past. Mr. Gibson said Eddie Sheffield will be going on weekend duty and they do not receive overtime for this work. Janet Anderson said they receive comp time. Mr. Gibson said yes they do get the next Friday off. Mayor Collins said we will table this request for now.

Fire Chief Pete Haithcock gave the fire department report. A copy of the report is attached. He said we had to put in a fire wall at the fire department. He said we will need to do a change order on the contract with Kenneth Swanson. He said we are working on spending the grant money.

February 4, 2008 meeting continued,

Town Planner Michael Grubermann said I issued five zoning permits and six sign permits this month. He said several zoning violations have been cleared up.

Main Street Coordinator Linda Schlott said we have had a meeting with all the organizers of the festivals so that we can determine everybody's needs. She said I attended the Main Street Conference last week in Rocky Mount. Mrs. Schlott said Land Design will be having a meeting tomorrow on February 5, 2008 from 3 P.M. to 7 P.M. at the Burrell Building to hear comments.

Consideration of Resolution of Intent to Adopt the Council-Manager Form of Government

Alderman Scott said I will not vote to do this resolution unless you agree to advertise the position of town manager. Mayor Collins said I am not sure that we will advertise. **Motion was made by Pattillo, seconded by Handley to adopt the Resolution of Intent to Adopt the Council-Manager Form of Government. A copy is attached. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 1. Voting yes: Curtis, Evans, Handley and Pattillo. Voting no: Scott.**

Consideration of proposals regarding renovations to the Burrell Building

Ritter Architecture –

Mayor Collins said we have a proposal from Tom Ritter for \$4,000.00. Alderman Evans said I am not willing to spend money on this project. Mayor Collins said I would ask that you act favorably to Mr. Ritter's proposal tonight. He said there is talk about putting the council room downstairs. **Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Pattillo to accept Ritter Architecture's proposal. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 1. Voting yes: Curtis, Handley, Pattillo and Scott. Voting no: Evans. A copy is attached.**

McMillan Smith and Partners –

Alderman Scott said McMillan Smith and Partners fee for this work is too high. He said we may be able to get this work done for free. He said \$17,000.00 is too high. Mayor Collins said we need to get some other ideas and bids. Alderman Pattillo said we need some more proposals. The Board took no action.

Consideration of holding town meeting/public forum – Alderman Scott

Alderman Scott said I did not receive any responses of interest for a town meeting at this time.

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Discussion regarding implementation of room occupancy tax

Mayor Collins said we need to discuss the room occupancy tax. Michael Grubermann said I estimate that the Town would receive \$140,000.00 per year from the tax. Alderman Scott said can some of the money be used for the festivals? Mr. Grubermann said yes. Mayor Collins said we need to set a public hearing at the next meeting. Alderman Evans said this is a tax and I am against taxes. **Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Pattillo to set the public hearing on the room occupancy tax for February 18, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

Consideration of Change Order No. 1 on Ulco Drive Sewer Line Improvements

Mike Decker explained that Terry Brothers Construction Co. wants to delete two twenty-four inch bores from the Ulco Drive Sewer Line project and add one open cut across a private driveway. He said the next decrease in the cost would be \$14,580.00. Mr. Decker said McGill Associates is recommending approval of the change order. **Motion was made by Evans, seconded by Curtis to approve Change Order No. 1 on the Ulco Drive Sewer Line Project. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0. A copy is attached.**

Update on changes in the revenue bond schedule

Mike Decker explained that the revenue bond schedule had changed. A copy is attached.

Request for proposals for engineering services

Mike Decker said do you want to get engineering proposals for some of our projects? Alderman Curtis said McGill did the I&I project. He said we need to stay with them. Alderman Evans said I do not want to pay somebody twice for the same work. **Motion was made by Handley, seconded by Curtis to get proposals for engineering for the West Franklin Sewer Interceptor and Spring Street/North Womack sewer improvements. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

Authorization for the mayor to sign the NCStep grant application

Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Scott to authorize Mayor Collins to sign the necessary documents for the NCStep grant application. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Update on Mountain Landscapes Initiative

Michael Grubermann said Angela Moore and I met with Vicki Greene about this project and this does not fit into our plans at this time.

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Additional departmental and committee reports

Mike Decker said Avis Davis, the new postmaster, will be having an installation ceremony on February 15, 2008 from 10-11 A.M. at the Franklin Post Office.

Mike Decker said the organizers of the Franklin Folk Festival want to use the Burrell Building on July 17 – 19, 2008. Mayor Collins said we do not know at this time if they can or not.

Mike Decker said Macon County Board of Commissioners wants to have a joint meeting on March 18, 2008 at 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Collins said I would like to have an out of town retreat in March.

Mike Decker said we need McGill Associates to help us to redo the Water Supply Plan. **Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Curtis to allow McGill to help with this work. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

Janet Anderson reported on the 2007-2008 budget through December 2007. A copy is attached.

Water adjustments - pay bills

Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Evans to approve the water adjustments for January and to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0. A copy is attached.

Adjournment

Mayor Collins adjourned the meeting at 9:00 P.M.

Joe Collins, Mayor

Janet A. Anderson, Town Clerk