

June 4, 2012

The regular meeting of the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen was held on Monday, June 4, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Joe Collins presided. Aldermen Verlin Curtis, Joyce Handley, Farrell Jamison, Billy Mashburn and Bob Scott were present. Alderman Carolyn Pattillo was absent.

Board Member Absence

Motion was made by Handley, seconded by Curtis to excuse Alderman Carolyn Pattillo from the meeting. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Handley to approve the minutes for the May 7, 2012 meeting as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Public Hearing on the Proposed 2012-2013 Budget

Mayor Collins opened the public hearing on the proposed 2012-2013 budget at 7:02 P.M. The following person spoke at the public hearing.

George Duley – I live in Mill Creek. I am objecting to the increase in water and sewer rates. It's becoming a burden in these economic times.

Mayor Collins closed the public hearing at 7:05 P.M.

Consider Adoption of the Proposed 2012-2013 Budget

Mayor Collins said what will the average bill be? Sam Greenwood said it is a blended rate. Alderman Mashburn said my bill will go from \$38.00 to \$54.00 per month. Mr. Greenwood said the focus will be on in-town users with ¾ inch meters. He said the plan is to set the flat rate at \$13.00 plus 2.50 per 1,000 gallons. He said there are 2,400 customers in this category.

Public Hearing on the Proposed 2012-2013 Budget

Mayor Collins reopened the public hearing on the proposed 2012-2013 budget at 7:20 P.M.

Angela Moore – The town passed a resolution four years ago to encourage customers to conserve on their usage. Residential usage should be less than 3,000 gallons. You need to look at using penalties for customers with higher amount of usage.

Mayor Collins closed the public hearing at 7:23 P.M.

June 4, 2012 meeting continued,

Consider Adoption of the Proposed 2012-2013 Budget

Sam Greenwood - There is no longer a discount in the rate schedule. The rate is the same all the way up.

The Board postponed a decision on the proposed 2012-2012 budget until later in the meeting.

Public Session

Mayor Collins told Dan Williams that he could not speak on the same subject as previous meetings.

Dan Williams – I have been taking care of Dogwood Drive for thirty years. I have had a heart attack. I cannot continue to do this work. The road needs to be cleaned up. Wood needs to be chipped up that the power company left. Mowing needs to be done.

Diamond Brown – I am an Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians councilman. I am a culturist. We are not happy about the condition of the Nikwasi Mound and pesticides being used. What are the plans of the town for the mound?

Mayor Collins - We have hydro seeded the mound. Our plan is for there to be grass on the mound with little or no maintenance.

Diamond Brown – What can we do? We are trying to help the town. We would be willing to partner with the town in the maintenance.

Mayor Collins - The Board was not informed before the mound was sprayed. It was a management decision. The ownership of the mound will remain with the town.

Diamond Brown – I would like to get a grant from the Cherokee Preservation Foundation to put a fence around the landmark. Prisoners could be used to do the weed eating on the mound.

Mayor Collins – There are three steps we need to do: (1) getting the mound green again, (2) putting up fencing and signage and (3) possibly using some of the idle land around the mound.

Alderman Scott – I ask the Board to consider reinstating the Nikwasi Mound Committee and ask Diamond Brown to serve on it.

T. J. Holland – You have each been sent a letter from Chief Hicks asking for an apology. The application of herbicide on the mound was considered an insult by our tribe.

June 4, 2012 meeting continued,

Presentation on Ten-Year Solid Waste Management Plan Update

Chris Stahl – Macon County – He presented a power point on the Ten-Year Solid Waste Management Plan Update. A copy is attached.

Motion was made by Jamison, seconded by Mashburn to adopt the Resolution Accepting and Endorsing the Solid Waste Management Plan of 2012 for Macon County, the Town of Franklin and Town of Highlands. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0. A copy of the resolution is attached.

Tourism Development Authority Appointments

Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Handley to appoint Vicki Springer to the Tourism Development Authority (TDA). Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Curtis to appoint Michael Grubermann to the Tourism Development Authority (TDA). Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Budget Amendments

Janet Anderson presented budget amendments. Copies are attached.

Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Handley to approve the budget amendments. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

ABC Reimbursement Resolution

Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Mashburn to approve the ABC Reimbursement Resolution Designating the Town Clerk and Finance Officer of the Town to Declare Official Intent on Behalf of the Town of Franklin, North Carolina to Reimburse Expenditures Under United States Department of Treasury Regulations. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 1. Voting yes: Curtis, Handley, Jamison and Mashburn. Voting no: Scott. A copy of the resolution is attached.

Installment Purchase Contract

Motion was made by Handley, seconded by Jamison to set the public hearing on the method of financing on July 2, 2012 at 7:05 P.M. Motion carried. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 1. Voting yes: Curtis, Handley, Jamison and Mashburn. Voting no: Scott.

Easements

John Henning, Jr. – Attorney – I need a closed session to discuss the easements.

June 4, 2012 meeting continued,

Other Business

Mayor Collins said we need sample water bills with the new rates. Alderman Jamison said the fee schedule needs to be fair to both inside and outside customers. Alderman Mashburn said we need to come up with some increase because of the work needed at the wastewater treatment plant. Alderman Scott said I am not happy with the budget message. He said it does not tell me a lot.

Departmental reports are attached.

Closed Session

At 9:00 P.M., motion made by Mashburn, seconded by Curtis to go into closed session to discuss matters covered under attorney-client privilege. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

The Board came out of closed session at 9:25 P.M., on motion made by Handley, seconded by Curtis. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Continuation of Meeting

At 9:30 P.M., motion was made by Scott, seconded by Jamison to continue the June 4, 2012 meeting to Thursday, June 7, 2012 at 5:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Board Room. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Call to Order

The regular June 4, 2012 meeting of the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen was continued at 5:30 P.M., Thursday, June 7, 2012 in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Collins presided. Aldermen Verlin Curtis, Joyce Handley, Farrell Jamison, Billy Mashburn, and Bob Scott were present. Alderman Carolyn Pattillo was absent.

Street Closing

Bobbie Contino – The Arts Council requests permission to close Iotla Street from Main Street to Church Street on Friday, June 29, 2012 from 6:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. for the Freedom Rocks Concert.

Motion was made by Handley, seconded by Mashburn to close Iotla Street from Main Street to Church Street on Friday, June 29, 2012 from 6:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. for the Freedom Rocks Concert. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

June 4, 2012 meeting continued,

Contract Obligation with Bright Meyers

John Henning, Jr. said we need to appropriate \$50,000.00 earnest money out of the fund balance to pay the contract obligation with Bright Meyers and amend the budget.

Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Handley to appropriate \$50,000.00 earnest money out of fund balance to pay the contract obligation with Bright Meyers and amend the budget. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 1. Voting yes: Curtis, Handley, Jamison and Mashburn. Voting no: Scott.

Budget Discussion for Proposed 2012-2013 Budget

Sam Greenwood – The water and sewer committee has worked out a rate adjustment that reduces the inside town residential rates. The water rate charge per 1,000 gallons increase will be delayed until July 1, 2013. The sewer charge will increase by .07 cents per 100 gallons with the remaining .08 cents per 100 gallons being delayed until July 1, 2013. Information copies are attached.

Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Handley of approve the proposed water and sewer rates and to approve the 2012-2013 budget. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 1. Voting yes: Curtis, Handley, Jamison and Mashburn. Voting no: Scott.

Report on Easement Issue

John Henning, Jr. said I have sent you an email on your tablets about the status of the easement.

Other Business

Alderman Scott said I do not like the new telephone system. He said we should be able to talk to a person. Sam Greenwood said positions are evaluated when an employee retires. He said it was decided not to fill this position. He said the duties were shifted to other employees. Mr. Greenwood said the phone duties were shifted to an automatic system. Mayor Collins said the person working up front should be able to answer the phone. Alderman Handley said you can hit zero and get an operator. Alderman Scott said we are here to serve the public. Alderman Jamison said I have already put in the new numbers and the extensions. Alderman Curtis said I have tried the new system and it seems to work.

Mayor Collins said we need to have further dialogue with Cherokee about the Nikwasi Mound. Sam Greenwood said we are talking with the North Carolina Department of Transportation to get suggestions about vegetation on the mound. Mayor Collins said I sent a letter to Chief Hicks concerning the Nikwasi Mound. A copy of the letter is attached.

June 4, 2012 meeting continued,

Adjournment

**Motion was made by Jamison, seconded by Curtis to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 P.M.
Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

Joe Collins, Mayor

Janet A. Anderson, Town Clerk