

July 6, 2006

The regular meeting of the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen was held on Thursday, July 6, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Joe Collins presided. Aldermen Verlin Curtis, Jerry Evans, Billy Mashburn, Carolyn Pattillo, Charles Roper and Bob Scott were present.

Approval of the minutes

Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Evans to approve the minutes for the June 5, 2006 and June 12, 2006 meetings as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Persons to be heard

Robert Wies said I live at 664 West Palmer Street. He said there is a problem with methanol gas near the Curtis property. He said the odor has on occasion made me sick. He said it is a hazard and could be flammable. He said it is worse in dry weather. He said I ask you to have your engineers look into this problem and give a solution. Mayor Collins said we have had this problem for a while. He said we have been putting in expensive chemicals. He said it may be time to do something else. He said we will be trying to solve this problem. Alderman Evans said I met today with the chemical company representative. He said we are looking into the problem. He said we may be able to flush the line with water or use more chemicals.

Howell Derrick said did you stop the sidewalk on Forest Avenue? Mayor Collins said yes since we didn't have enough grant money. Mr. Derrick said the sidewalk on Wayah Street has been broken due to car accidents. He said it needs to be fixed. Alderman Pattillo said it is on the list to be fixed.

Dan Williams said I question why you haven't cleaned up Main Street. He said Ambassador has a junk yard in the back. He said nothing has been done. He said the dog groomer seems to be the number one priority. He said why is that? Mayor Collins said we have priorities of interest to the whole town. He said we are going forward to try to clean up the neighborhood.

Tom Ritter said I want to thank the fire and police departments for their help on the 4th of July.

Departmental reports

Fire Chief Pete Haithcock gave the fire department report. A copy of the report is attached. He said the department picnic will be on Thursday, July 27, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. He said we need to get a construction bid. Alderman Curtis said there is no money in the budget for any construction this year.

Police Chief Terry Bradley gave the police department report. A copy of the report is attached. He said the department has only eight hours in service training left to complete. Alderman Scott said we need to try to get legislation passed like Highlands did to use our ATV on the streets.

July 6, 2006 meeting continued,

Town Planner Rebecca Crawford said in June I had a total of one hundred fourteen walk-in visits or phone calls. A copy of the report is attached. She said I assisted with the Principles of Growth Working Group meeting. She said I also attended the Planning Board and the Siler Road Extension project meetings. She said the grace period is up for the zoning violation on White Oak Street and the Board needs to decide whether to take further action. Mrs. Crawford said the zoning violation on Hillcrest Avenue has been given an extension to comply since the owner has made a significant attempt to clean up the property. Alderman Scott said I have been pretty involved with the White Oak Street violation. He said we have gone beyond and it is in violation. Kathleen Costa stood up and starting yelling: I have done nothing wrong. I have invested all my money in this property. I will continue to work and you will have to take me away in handcuffs. The Town gave me a license. Mayor Collins said Mrs. Costa you are out of order. **Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Scott to start the next procedure of the \$50.00 per day penalty on Kathleen Costa on the White Oak Street violation. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.** Mrs. Crawford said we need to look at changing the sign ordinance. She said with your permission, I will ask the Planning Board to recommend some changes. The Board agreed to this request.

Request from J & B Disposal regarding increase in landfill tipping fees – Bonita Hamstra

Bonita Hamstra said Macon County is increasing their tipping fees at the landfill. She said I am requesting I be allowed to pass through these costs to my commercial customers. Information copies are attached. **Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Scott to allow J & B Disposal to pass through the increase in tipping fees to the commercial customers. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Update on Edgewood Condos multi-family development – Terry Dalton

Terry Dalton said we have submitted an erosion control plan and storm water drainage plan. He said there will be an underground drainage system with a settling pool. He said it will filter out the back of the property. Alderman Pattillo said some of the neighbors have questions about the runoff. Mr. Dalton said these plans meet or exceed the county's requirements. Copies are attached. **Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Pattillo to approve the plans. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Preliminary plat for Franklin Real Estate Investors LLC – Trent Gustafson

Trent Gustafson with Franklin Real Estate Investors LLC said I am seeking preliminary approval of a subdivision plat for property now occupied by the Country Inn Town Motel on East Main Street. He said there will be a right-in and right-out driveway. He said we have added ten percent more impervious area. He said the storm water run off will go into existing storm drains. He said we will be doing one and one half feet of fill to meet the FEMA requirements. Mr. Gustafson said there will be a McDonald's and possibly two banks. Alderman Scott said we do not want a traditional McDonald's. Mr. Gustafson said I will pass this request on to McDonald's. Copies are attached.

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Motion was made Scott, seconded by Pattillo to give preliminary approval of the subdivision plans. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Ratification of June 20 – 21, 2006 telephone poll

Mike Decker said the Board needs to ratify the telephone poll that was taken on June 20 – 21, 2006 regarding notification to the Frog & Owl Mountain Bistro stating that the restaurant could no longer reserve parking places directly in front of the establishment on Saturday evenings during Pickin' on the Square. **Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Evans to ratify the telephone poll of June 20 - 21, 2006. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Saturday evening “patron” parking on Main Street – Mayor Collins

Mayor Collins said we need to consider patron parking to help some of the businesses on Main Street during the Pickin' on the Square. Alderman Evans said do we have the authority? Mike Decker said the North Carolina Department of Transportation indicated that the Town controls parking inside Town. Mayor Collins said the merchants need some consideration. Alderman Scott said I have a problem with giving special consideration to some businesses. Alderman Pattillo said it would only be four businesses from the alley to Primrose Lane. Alderman Evans said we can't do it for everybody. Alderman Scott said we need to look at what is fair. Alderman Mashburn said we tried it before and it did not work. **Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Scott to table the patron parking indefinitely. Motion carried. Voting yes: Curtis, Evans, Mashburn, Roper and Scott. Voting no: Pattillo.**

Consideration of resolution regarding agreement with NCDOT for improvements on Green and Maple Streets

Mike Decker said I have tried to outline the details regarding the money from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Copies are attached. He said we need to pass a resolution. Alderman Mashburn said there seem to be a lot of limitations. He said we need to look into what this will cost the Town. Alderman Pattillo said the construction cost will be \$192,000.00. Mayor Collins said we need to look at hiring a staff engineer. Alderman Pattillo said we need easements on Green Street. Alderman Mashburn said I am worried about the unknown costs. **Motion was made by Pattillo, seconded by Scott to approve the resolution and to move forward. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Recess

Mayor Collins recessed the meeting at 8:17 P.M.

Mayor Collins called the meeting back to order at 8:27 P.M.

July 6, 2006 meeting continued,

Consideration of agreement with McGill Associates for plan review and construction observation

Mike Decker said we have a proposed agreement with McGill Associates for them to do plan review and construction observation services for us. A copy is attached. Alderman Mashburn said I would like to have an individual contract for each project. He said I also do not like the payment pass through. He said I am not willing to bind us to a blanket contract. Alderman Evans said I am not willing to bind us to McGill Associates. The Board decided to table this matter for now and to look at the extension policy.

County meeting regarding economic impacts of illegal immigration

Mike Decker said we have been invited to participate in a meeting with Macon County to discuss the economic impacts of illegal immigration on July 31st, 2006 at 9:00 A.M. at the Macon County Community Building.

Response to NCDOT letter regarding roundabouts

Mike Decker said the NCDOT is suggesting that the Town look at doing a roundabout at the Chamber of Commerce and one at the Franklin Press office. Alderman Scott said we need to ask them to weigh the benefits of the roundabout as opposed to a left hand turn signal. Mayor Collins said we need to look at the cost of a roundabout as opposed to metal poles at the Franklin Press intersection. The Board asked Mike Decker to write the DOT with these questions.

Additional departmental and committee reports

Mike Decker said we need to establish a policy that for multi-family developments we allow site plans to be presented for the first time for information only and wait until the next meeting before voting on the request. Alderman Mashburn said the developers need to be at the meetings to answer any questions we have. The Board agreed to proceed with this policy in the future.

Alderman Pattillo said Stonewall Jackson Road is inside Town. She said we need to pave this street. John Henning, Jr. said we need a plat and dedication of a thirty foot right of way from the owners. Alderman Evans said normally in the past before we took over a street it was already paved. Alderman Pattillo said I want to give this street some consideration. Alderman Mashburn said how many houses are on this street? Alderman Pattillo said there are four to five houses. Mayor Collins asked Alderman Pattillo to get an estimate on paving this street.

Mayor Collins said I have a scheduling conflict for the August meeting. He said I would ask the Board to change the meeting date to August 1st, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. **Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Roper to set the regular August meeting for August 1st, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

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Water adjustments, tax discoveries, tax releases and payment of the bills

Water adjustments for June, tax discoveries, tax releases and payment of the bills were approved on motion made by Curtis, seconded by Roper. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Adjournment

Mayor Collins adjourned the meeting at 9:05 P.M.

Joe Collins, Mayor

Janet A. Anderson, Town Clerk