

Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen  
Meeting Agenda  
Monday August 4, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to order- Mayor Bob Scott
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adoption of August 4, 2014 Proposed Agenda
4. Approval of the July 7, 2014 Board Minutes
5. Public Session
6. New Business

1. Proclamation for Historic Preservation Week - Mayor Bob Scott
2. Presentation on Franklin Water Treatment Plant Upgrade and Expansion - McGill Associates - Mike Dowd, Dennie Martin and Keith Webb.
3. Resolution in Opposition to Hydraulic Fracturing - Mayor Bob Scott
4. Privilege License Refund - Tax Collector Jessie Wilkins and Town Attorney John Henning JR.
5. Tax Refund - Tax Collector Jessie Wilkins
6. Forward Rezoning Petition for one (1) parcel on Highlands RD to Town Planning Board - Justin Setser Land Use Administrator
7. Forward Rezoning Petition for (3) parcels on Traces Place to Town Planning Board - Justin Setser Land Use Administrator
8. Road name Request Berry BLVD - Justin Setser Land Use Administrator

8. Announcements

1. Applications for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Non-Profit Funding Pool are available at Town Hall and online at [www.franklinnc.com](http://www.franklinnc.com). All applications are due Monday August 18, 2014.
2. The Town of Franklin Offices will be closed Monday September 1, 2014 in observance of labor Day.
3. The next regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting will be Tuesday September 2, 2014.

9. Adjourn

**August 4, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen was held on Monday, August 4, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Robert S. Scott presided. Aldermen Patti Abel, Verlin Curtis, Joyce Handley, Farrell Jamison, Billy Mashburn and Barbara McRae were present.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was done.

**Adoption of the August 4, 2014 Proposed Agenda**

**Motion was made by Jamison, seconded by Curtis to adopt the August 4, 2014 Proposed Agenda. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

**Approval of the Minutes**

**Motion was made by McRae, seconded by Jamison to approve the July 7, 2014 and July 24, 2014 Board Minutes as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

**Public Session**

Larry Stenger – Macon County resident - I'm here tonight to support a resolution for the banning of fracking. I know you don't have the legal authority to enforce anything dealing with a regulation or resolution such as the banning of fracking. But I do know you can send a very strong message to Raleigh in the following manner. The message should be please don't take away our private property rights. Please don't take away our local governments' rights to protect its citizens, and please don't allow conditions that would pollute our fresh air and pristine water. Don't create long-term health care issues for us, and don't reduce the value of our real estate.

Orville Coward-Attorney representing Hospice House Foundation of WNC- I stand here representing Hospice Foundation of WNC, Inc. I apologize for doing it, because I know it's nearly out of order and it's certainly irregular to be on the agenda and be back so soon. I have Michele Alderson with me tonight. I think Michele would tell you that the presentation of this issue that's been made to this board in the past has probably been lacking. It's probably been lacking in information and in organization, and I have not had the opportunity to prepare for this the way I normally would. I can't flush out the details tonight, but we sure can in the future. Now here's the problem that I see. For the city to say no to people who have worked so hard, to give something so valuable and so precious. For the city to say no to them, and for them to have to go to the county and say, well the city wouldn't do it so you do it. I think politically it creates a difficulty, an obstacle, a roadblock that I don't think you want to create. I don't stand here tonight and ask the board to say yes. I stand here tonight and ask the board not to say no. Should I come back and be on the agenda next month?

**August 4, 2014 meeting continued,**

Mayor Scott- I will have to consult with the manager and with the town attorney, to see about being back on the agenda.

Jeanne Webster - I'm here in support of the resolution to the opposition to fracking. I never was too much of an activist until this came along, and I've done extensive research on it. It terrifies and angers me at the same time. We have a confluence here in our county of four different watersheds. Those watersheds mix in with several counties in Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee. If any of those counties are fracked or if we frack here, we are infringing on the rights of people in other counties and states. This isn't a political issue. We all deserve clean water and clean air, and I'm asking you to please pass the resolution tonight.

Anne Blaine- Dowdle Mountain Rd- I was born here in Franklin and now live on Dowdle Mountain Road. I was going to speak against fracking also, but they did a much better job than I would. But I do want to add my voice. I urge you to pass it. I don't know if that will do any good, because the legislation has already been passed, but it would be a start.

**New Business Proclamation for Historic Preservation Week**

Robert Shook - Executive Director of the Macon County Historical Museum – I would like to request the Town Board to proclaim the week of October 4 through October 10, 2014 Historic Preservation Week. In doing so, we want to honor those that have been involved with restoration and preservation of a lot of our sites. In conjunction with that, we want to get local artists involved to pick out a historical site and give a rendition of their work. This project would support the Jim McRae endowment fund for the arts, and this would be followed up with an art show presented in Franklin, Highlands and Nantahala.

Mayor Scott read the resolution to make October 4 through October 10, 2014 Historic Preservation Week.

**Motion was made by Handley to adopt the resolution to make October 4 through October 10, 2014 Historic Preservation Week, seconded by Mashburn. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy of the proclamation is attached.**

**New Business Presentation on Franklin Water Treatment Plant Upgrade and Expansion**

Keith Webb - Vice President of McGill Associates - The Town of Franklin's Water Treatment Plant was constructed in 1975, with a few upgrades in 1997 and in 2002, when renovations were made to the filters. Seven years ago some improvements were made to the raw water intake. I would say that age is one of the most significant problems facing the plant. The lab and office facilities are also outdated. How do we move forward? We think using the package treatment plant.

**August 4, 2014 meeting continued,**

We have used in other towns. It's the same treatment technology, but it's a way to build stuff cheaper. It takes less money, but it does a great job in producing great drinking water for your citizens.

Mike Dowd – McGill Associates – Peak demand will be in 2020, as Mr. Webb noted. We have to do something to meet that demand. Additionally, the state in annual inspections have identified two concerns. The sediment sludge removal process that the operators are using and the chemical storage of the area. A brand new treatment plant on a new site would cost an estimated \$15 to \$18 million, not including property acquisition. A package plant would be more cost effective, because it wouldn't take up as much space. That would be about \$7 to \$9 million. These are preliminary estimates, and both options would require new intake, which would require a reclassification process for the river to be able to be used as an intake. One primary option is to upgrade and expand the plant, which would involve pre-treatment because of size constraints, a new sediment basin, new filters and numerous other upgrades with an estimated cost of \$9.3 million. Alternatively, a package plant expansion would replace your conventional plant, pretreatment and other upgrades that we talked for about \$7.8 million.

Alderman Abel - Which one has the longest life expectancy of the two options you showed us?

Mike Dowd- They are probably very similar in life expectancy. The package plant units, if we build them out of stainless steel, they will require very little maintenance. In terms of future upgrades, the package plant gives us the option of upgrading with little capital costs. I would lean more toward the package plant in terms of having a longer life expectancy.

Alderman Jamison- We did do a flow rate study. The state says up to four (4) million gallons. It still has that capacity. So three (3) million gallons shouldn't be a problem.

Mike Dowd- That would not be an issue. We would just have to revisit that model to make sure the habitat hasn't changed.

Denny Martin - McGill Associates - The Town of Franklin has three options for phase one (1). The State Revolving Loan Fund, the USDA Rural Development Loan Program and conventional financing. The timing on all of the options are critical. The next round of the State Revolving Loan Program are due by September 30, 2014 and this is a one (1) year cycle. The project as qualifies has a really good chance of getting the debt financed at zero (0) percent interest. If you wind up having to get it done at market rate, right now it's done at 2.2 percent. The amortization period is twenty (20) years. The second choice with USDA offers a forty (40) year term, with two interest rate categories. You wouldn't qualify for subsidized rate, so interest rate with USDA would be 3.5 percent. The third option is conventional financing, or installment credit. You offer improvements to the system as collateral, and those loans are generally fifteen (15) to twenty (20) years. This project would be able to secure twenty (20) year financing for a market rate below four (4) percent. But the market is unstable right now, it depends on the week or month. But somewhere between 3.5 or 4 percent.

**August 4, 2014 meeting continued,**

All of the options do not involve grant money, which seems to be a thing of the past. All of the options require the consent of the Local Government Commission.

Alderman McRae- How complex is the application process for the State Revolving Loan Fund?

Denny Martin- That process is very user friendly. This September cycle would involve a very small investment of time and resources. And another advantage to this process, at any point in time up to the actual loan closing- you can exit the process. The loan closing would probably be eighteen (18) months out.

Mayor Scott- I think what I hear you saying is that you would recommend the State Revolving Loan Fund.

Denny Martin- That would be my preference. And particularly if we can secure the funding at a zero (0) percent rate. The big advantage is that the debt is amortized over twenty (20) years. The big disadvantage of the USDA is that the debt is forty (40) year amortization, and with a project this size, you never get it paid for. We also suggest meeting with public water supply staff at North Carolina, if you move forward, and talk specifically about phase one (1). It's better to involve state regulators with the process.

**Motion was made by Handley to authorize Town Manager Summer Woodard to work with McGill Associates to prepare and submit an application for the State Revolving Loan Fund, seconded by Curtis. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

**New Business Resolution in Opposition to Hydraulic Fracturing-Mayor Bob Scott**

Mayor Scott read the Town of Franklin's Proposed Resolution against fracking.

**Motion was made by Jamison to adopt the proposed resolution against fracking, seconded by Curtis. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. The adopted resolution is attached.**

**New Business Privilege License Refund**

Jessie Wilkins – Tax Collector - Due to a new state law changing privilege licenses, we had some businesses that requested a refund. The businesses are located outside of the city limits, which under the new law prohibits them from paying privilege license fees. Four (4) businesses are requesting a refund for a total of \$95.00

**Motion was made by Curtis to refund the four privilege licenses for a total of \$95.00, seconded by Handley. Motion carried. Vote 6 to 0.**

**August 4, 2014 meeting continued,**

**New Business Tax Refund**

Jessie Wilkins - Tax Collector- I had tax money from North Carolina Debt Set-off, from an individual taxpayer that was on North Carolina Debt Set-off. The lien holder was aware that there were delinquent taxes, and they wanted to secure their lien position. They came in one day before a file came in to me that attached to the debtor, and they paid in the full amount.

The next morning we received \$329.00 from North Carolina Debt Set-off. So we're asking for a refund of \$329.00 to the taxpayer.

**Motion was made by Jamison to authorize a refund of the overpayment of taxes for \$329.00 as presented, seconded by Curtis. Motion carried. Vote 6 to 0. The debt set-off is attached.**

John Henning, Jr. – Town Attorney – I would recommend that the board authorize the Town of Franklin Tax Collector to forward on to the taxpayer any future overpayments collected through the North Carolina Debt Set-off Program.

**Motion was made by Jamison to authorize the Town of Franklin Tax Collector to forward on to the taxpayer any future overpayments collected through the North Carolina debt set-off program, seconded by McRae. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

**New Business-Forward Rezoning Petition for one (1) parcel on Highlands Road to Town Planning Board**

Justin Setser- Land-Use Administrator – Property owner Richard Phillips is requesting one (1) parcel of land on the Highlands Road to be rezoned from Residential (R-1) to Commercial (C-3). I would request that the board forward the petition to the Town Planning Board.

**Motion was made by Abel to forward Richard Phillips' rezoning petition for 1011 Highlands Rd. to the Town Planning Board, seconded by Curtis. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. The petition for rezoning is attached.**

**New Business-Forward Rezoning Petition for three (3) parcels on Traces Place to Town Planning Board**

Justin Setser - Land use Administrator- Property owners Donald Holland and Karl E. Gillespie have requested for a rezoning petition for three (3) parcels on Traces Place. They want to go from Residential (R-2) to Commercial (C-2). I would request that the Town Board forward the petition to the Town Planning Board.

**Motion was made by Curtis to forward the request for rezoning petition for three (3) parcels on Traces Place to the Town Planning Board, seconded by Abel. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. The petition for rezoning is attached.**

**August 4, 2014 meeting continued,**

**New Business Road Name Request for Berry Blvd**

Justin Setser- Land Use Administrator – Property owners near the road, located at the new Wal-Mart have agreed to name it Berry Blvd.

**Handley made a motion to accept the request to name the road Berry Blvd, seconded by Mashburn. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

**Discussion**

Mayor Scott- I would like the Board to think about adopting the attached logo. Eventually it will be on vehicles and everything else. It spells out hiking, ruby mines and waterfalls. I don't think we left out anything. We did do this in 2008. I'm not asking for a motion. I'd just like for us to consider it.

Alderman Jamison - Let's look at what the cost is. There are things we have that we use right now. We use our seal. I don't want us to end up throwing away anything. So let's look at what the cost will be.

Alderman Abel- After sitting through the focus group meeting last week, I think we should definitely take a look at the logo. I'd like for us to look at everything that came out of the focus group meeting, and be ready to talk about it at the next meeting.

Vice-Mayor Curtis- On that same point, I think maybe we should have a meeting before our next meeting to talk about the focus group presentation. And talk about what we can do and what we cannot do. I also think we need to look at publicizing the option of Code-Red Alert after this past weekend. I think the media really needs to get on this. People have to sign up for it.

Alderman Jamison- I would like to request that we get a colored copy of McGill's water plant presentation. I'd like to look at it. I had a hard time seeing it during the presentation.

**Announcements**

Mayor Scott announced that Town Hall will be closed Monday September 1, 2014 in observance of Labor Day.

Mayor Scott announced that applications for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Non-Profit Funding Pool are available at Town Hall and online at [www.franklinnc.com](http://www.franklinnc.com). All applications are due Monday August 18, 2014.

The next regularly scheduled Town Board meeting will be Tuesday September 2, 2014.

August 4, 2014 meeting continued,

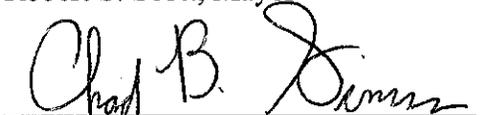
Adjourn

Motion was made by Jamison to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:20 P.M, seconded by McRae. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.



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Robert S. Scott, Mayor



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Chad B. Simons, Town Clerk