

July 3, 2017 meeting,

The regular meeting of the Franklin Town Council was held on Monday June 5, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Robert S. Scott presided. Vice-Mayor Patti Abel, Council Members Joe Collins, Adam Kimsey, Brandon McMahan and Barbara McRae were present.

Council Member Billy Mashburn was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was done by Vice-Mayor Patti Abel.

Adoption of the July 3, 2017 Town Council Agenda

Motion was made by Abel, seconded by Kimsey to excuse Council Member Billy Mashburn from the meeting. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – I would like to add as 7(I), discussion of property located at 381 East Main Street.

Motion was made by McRae, seconded by McMahan to add item 7(I) – Discussion of Property Located at 381 East Main Street to the agenda. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Motion was made by Kimsey, seconded by McMahan to adopt the agenda as changed. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Approval of the June 5, 2017 Town Council minutes

Motion was made by McRae, seconded by McMahan to approve the June 5, 2017 Town Council minutes. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Public Hearing 7:05 p.m. for Amendment to the Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance

No one from the public spoke.

Public Session

Narelle Kirkland – Some years ago, [Tom Ritter] and I worked up this view stand and we were going to locate it at the Methodist Church. The Boy Scouts were going to come and earn badges, Lowes was donating the lumber and the Church was on board until they thought about liability. Fortunately, you are not in the same situation. You have coverage. Some 20 years ago you closed the old land fill property on Radio Hill Road. It's not covered over with grass. Tom and I have come up with something that is roughly a V-Shape with a roof. This would be an ideal spot for people to gather. This would be something for the folks of Macon County. This would be a benefit for the people living here. We'll take on the project but we need your go-ahead.

Mayor Bob Scott – When you talk about taking it on, do you mean paying for it as well?

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Narelle Kirkland – There is a good chance that the Baptist Men’s Association and the Rotary in town could provide the labor. And Lowes has done it once for me and I don’t see why they wouldn’t do it again. I quoted \$20,000 as an outside figure but it might be less than \$5,000.

Joan Palmer – Tonight the Council will be voting on a resolution to move towards 100 percent renewable energy by 2050. It sounds like a daunting task but look at what has been achieved environmentally in the last 33 years. Solar energy farms all across North Carolina, wind farms, and electric cars. Speaking of electric cars, there is an interesting article that says gas powered cars will vanish in eight years. It also says by 2025, all new cars, buses, vans and everything else on wheels will be electric. By 2022, when prices go down to \$20,000, the tide will be unstoppable. Franklin can join Boone, Watauga County, Waynesville, Sylva, Webster, Jackson County and most recently Asheville who are on board with a similar resolution. In a recent U.S. Conference of Mayors in Miami, there was bipartisan support for 100 percent renewable energy. The main thing to take from that meeting is that local government can take on a large role in shaping American policy on a range of issues, supplanting the federal government. We want Franklin to get on the green train and sign the resolution.

Angela Faye Martin – I don’t live in Franklin, I live in the County but I’m the Environmental Leader of Forward Franklin. I just want to make myself available to you all from this point forward. I have spent all of my adult life studying the environment. I call myself a naturalist. With humility I would say that I have forgotten more than a lot of people understand about what is happening with our climate. I’m so excited to have this council with everything that you have done with Crawford Branch, the way you treated us with the climate march. It just made me feel so hopeful about the future of this community.

Lauren Hickman – We did have a climate march in April and our turnout was really great and with not a whole lot of advertising. I feel like we do owe this resolution to our community, our environment and our children. I’m not an expert but I do know that I want my kids and grandkids to have the opportunity to have the same beautiful land to live on that I have had. I just urge you to support this resolution.

New Business: Board Action Regarding Amendment to the Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by McMahan to amend the Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance as presented with a 250 foot buffer. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0. Ordinance is attached.

New Business: Consideration of Clean Energy Resolution

Motion was made by McMahan, seconded by McRae to adopt the 100 percent Clean Energy Resolution as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

John Henning Jr. – Town Attorney – This may be a good place to point out the packets I have distributed showing what Buncombe County has done as far as a solar project on a piece of property that is similar to what we have at the old land fill. This is just for your consideration.

Council Member Collins – That area of the Town that is hidden in plain view. It needs to get utilized. Something like this could coexist with a viewing pad.

Mayor Scott – Let’s start looking at this.

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New Business: Re-appointment of Town Tax Collector

Town Manager Summer Woodard presented this item.

Motion was made by McRae, seconded by Abel to re-appoint Jessie Collier as Town Tax Collector and set the bond amount of no less than \$25,000. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

New Business: Resolution Authorizing Tax Collector to Collect 2017 Taxes

Town Manager Summer Woodard presented this item.

Motion was made by Kimsey, seconded by McMahan to authorize Tax Collector Jessie Collier to collect taxes for 2017. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

New Business: Application for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Non-Profit Funding Pool

Town Manager Summer Woodard presented this item.

New Business: Town of Franklin Retention Schedule

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – This is the state’s retention schedule. It would be beneficial for the board to get this on file so we can move forward with getting rid of appropriate items.

Motion was made by Abel, seconded by McMahan to adopt the Town of Franklin Retention Schedule as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

New Business: Tax Releases

Town Manager Summer Woodard presented this item. Information is attached.

New Business: Presentation of Fish Habitat Study at Memorial Park

Land Use Administrator Justin Setser presented this item. Presentation is attached.

New Business: Discussion of Property Located at 381 East Main

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – The tenants of this property, Life Spring Church recently notified the Town that they would be moving out of this property. This has been deemed surplus property. When we solicited bids before we had two bids that were way under the appraisal price. The appraisal price from about a year and a half ago was \$126,000. I just want to get some direction from the board. Maybe it would be time to consider listing it. I would like to see what the board has in mind.

Council Member McRae – I think we should sell it.

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Council Member Collins – I don't want to hand pick one realtor over another but we need to get it out there and give everybody a chance to get a fair commission by finding a purchaser. Yeah we need to move it forward.

Mayor Scott – I don't think we need a motion since it is already surplus property. I think you just need your marching orders, right?

Council Member Collins – Yeah, lets sell it.

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – Thank you.

Announcements

The Town of Franklin will be having a July 4th Celebration Downtown at the Gazebo on Tuesday July 4, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Town Hall Officer will be closed Tuesday July 4th, 2017 in observation of Independence Day

Comments or Concerns from the Board

Council Member Kimsey – No concern, I just wanted to thank Justin [Setser] and everybody involved at Memorial Park for what they've done and especially how they have helped on the educational side of things.

Council Member McMahan – I second that. I also just want to thank the board for moving ahead with the energy resolution.

Council Member McRae – The bird community would love a viewing area at the old land fill.

Mayor Scott – I think it's time that this board decides to do whatever we're going to do with the Whitmire property. Whether it's going to be private public or a combination of both, I think it's time to do something. It's been six or seven years. It's kind of a bad situation that we haven't done anything with it yet.

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Adjournment

**Motion was made by Abel, seconded by McRae to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:52 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

Robert S. Scott, Mayor

Travis Tallent, Town Clerk