

March 6, 2017 meeting,

The Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday March 6, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Robert S. Scott presided. Vice-mayor Patti Abel, Aldermen Joe Collins, Adam Kimsey, Billy Mashburn, Brandon McMahan, and Barbara McRae were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was done by Boy Scout Troop 235.

Adoption of March 6, 2017 Town Board Agenda

Motion was made by McRae, seconded by McMahan to amend the agenda to add consideration of a resolution to oppose partisan elections 6(G). Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Approval of February 6, 2017 Town Board minutes

Motion was made by McMahan, seconded by Kimsey to approve February 6, 2017 minutes as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Public Session

Lauren Hickman – I want to address the changing of the term aldermen. As a young woman, I would approve and I would encourage you to move forward with that and join the 21st century.

David Culpepper – I would like to caution the board as to what they have with the Whitmire property and to consider what that property is and what it could be. If you were going to buy it right now, I would be adamantly against the town purchasing that property, but it is in your hands and you get to decide its fate. I think it requires more reflection than you have given it. I would like for you not to act in a hostile manner to try and dispose of it at undervalue to a crony in town who is going to develop it in an unsightly manner. Outdoor recreation is our asset, don't discredit that. Whether you do something outdoorsy with it or not, you do get to decide what is there. That is going to affect the town for the foreseeable future. Talking about outdoor assets. I think you have before you the bike-walk plan that the consultants worked on. I think it is a really good plan. I think it is going to be really difficult and probably impossible to implement it all. I do think that it's possible to do some of the things on there. I spoke about the Crawford Branch part of the Greenway at the last meeting and how you can directly help that. One thing you might look into and without spending a lot of money, if there is a sewer easement going across then you could possibly use that easement as our walking path. I want to task you with thinking about how we can do part of these plans without breaking the budget. What can we do in this room with your brains and with public input to get this stuff done? The third thing is parking in town. There has been lots of studies and lots and lots of money spent on those studies. Everybody keeps discounting parallel parking because people say they don't know how to parallel park. To coincide with the parallel parking issue there is an issue with too many people parking on Main Street so if somebody doesn't know how to parallel park then they can park in the back parking lots and we can kill two birds with one stone. Please don't discount parallel parking either just because some people don't know how to drive. It works in Waynesville, it works in Asheville, it works in every other downtown in the world. I think it might work for Franklin

March 6, 2017 meeting continued,

Public Hearing 7:05 p.m. Re-Zoning Petition for Wayah Street and Georgia Road

Heather Shields – I live on Hillcrest Avenue. I have a perfect view of the property in question where the rezoning request came from. My issue isn't with the view but with traffic. I have been there over 19 years and over that time the traffic in that area has increased quite a bit. It increased when Dr. Davis opened his office. When Dr. Hill's office came in, there was an impact. Then the townhouses came. There was more impact. Rizzo's has had a huge impact. There is a lot of congestion during their times of operation. My concern is long range. It's already congested. There are certain times of day when you can't get out there and traffic is backed up. I think that is something that has to be considered.

Kenneth Kopp – Applicant for Re-Zoning – The Department of Transportation is planning to take about 1/3 of the property for a round-about. That is supposed to alleviate some of the traffic.

New Business: Proclamation for Hunger Awareness Month

Mayor Bob Scott read the proclamation declaring February 2017 as Hunger Awareness Month. Members from First United Methodist Church were present for the reading.

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by Mashburn to declare February as Hunger Awareness Month. Motion carried. Vote 6 to 0.

New Business: Board Action on Re-Zoning Petition for Wayah Street and Georgia Road

Motion was made by McMahan, seconded by Kimsey to adopt the amendment as approved by the planning board. Request carried. Vote 6 to 0.

New Business: Adoption of Comprehensive Plan for Bicyclists and Pedestrians

Land Use Administrator Justin Setser presented the item.

John Henning Jr. – Town Attorney – For the board to know, what would be the procedure for the board to bring up projects?

Justin Setser – Land Use Administrator – We were going to create a committee to look over projects and suggest ones that we want to move forward with. Every two years the NCDOT has a STIP program where they update projects. That process is actually about to begin in June. Once it starts, we can submit some plans to be prioritized in the next round of the 5.0 STIP Program. This is the same programs that we got the Depot Street sidewalks committed from, the Georgia Road roundabouts and some other ones throughout the county. We can't hardly submit every one of them but I think we could submit probably five this time. There is lots of different funding options, it's not just the Town's responsibility to fund them. One thing to keep in mind though is that large projects with STIP may require a 20 percent match.

Motion was made by McMahan, seconded by McRae to adopt the Comprehensive Plan for Bicyclists and Pedestrians. Motion carried. Vote 6 to 0.

March 6, 2017 meeting continued,

New Business: Martin Starnes Audit Contract for Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Finance Office Kyra Doster presented the item.

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by Kimsey to approve the Martin Starnes Audit Contract for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

New Business: Update on Town of Franklin Solar Eclipse

Town Manager Summer Woodard presented this item.

New Business: Street Closing Request for Solar Eclipse Event

Town Manager Summer Woodard requested the closing of Iotla Street from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Motion was made by McMahan, seconded by Abel to allow Iotla Street to be closed. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

New Business: Discussion on Charter Change Regarding the Term of Aldermen

Mayor Scott read the resolution to set a public hearing. Resolution is attached.

Mayor Scott – The term of aldermen is pretty old fashion. In some respects it means old men. We're one of the very few towns left in North Carolina that still use that terms. I'm asking for a vote tonight on a resolution that would allow us to having a public hearing on changing the term.

Alderman Mashburn – I didn't get a resolution. I want something to look at. Who drafted this?

John Henning, Jr. – Town Attorney – It is from the League of Municipalities. There are a few basic things in the charter than you can change by ordinances that you adopt. This resolution does follow the procedure that would allow for this type of change and to set a public hearing. I will point out that this isn't a binding change, the resolution calls for a public hearing.

Motion was made by McRae, seconded by McMahan to pass the resolution to set a public hearing for April 3, 2017 at 7:05 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 1. Mashburn opposed.

New Business: Resolution to Oppose North Carolina Senate Bill 94

Mayor Scott presented this item. Resolution is attached.

Motion was made by McMahan, seconded by Kimsey to pass the resolution to oppose North Carolina Senate Bill 94. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

March 6, 2017 meeting continued,

Legal: Discussion on Ordinance Pertaining to Speed Limits in the Town of Franklin

Town Attorney John Henning Jr. presented this item.

Motion was made by Abel, seconded by McMahan to adopt the speed limits as presented with the exception of Mimosa Drive. Motion carried. Vote 6 to 0.

Announcements:

BizWeek will be April 17 through April 21.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by McRae, seconded by Abel to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Robert S. Scott, Mayor

Travis D. Tallent, Clerk