

October 17, 2016 meeting,

The Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen held a special called meeting on Monday October 17, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room. The purpose of the meeting was to have a planning session for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Mayor Robert S. Scott presided. Vice-Mayor Patti Abel, Aldermen Joe Collins, Adam Kimsey, Brandon McMahan and Barbara McRae were present.

Staff Present: Town Manager Summer Woodard, Town Clerk Chad Simons, Finance Officer Kyra Doster, Police Chief David Adams, Fire Chief Kevin Rohrer and Land-Use Administrator Justin Setser.

Adoption of the October 17, 2016 Agenda

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by McRae to adopt the October 17, 2016 Agenda as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Public Comment Session

Howell Derrick – Wayah Street – When I sit in my front yard there is a lot of speeding at that crosswalk by the high school, and that sign doesn't slow them down. If you start writing tickets you will stop it. I'm not knocking the Police Chief or anyone else. I just want to hear from this Board about what you intend to do about it.

Mayor Scott – We will be discussing this later on in the meeting. It's actually on the agenda.

Howell Derrick – There is also a problem with loud noise. It's coming from the school yard. I was told that the county has a contract with the Town, that you take over when they get off, or when school is out. But that's county property.

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – I'm not aware of any contract.

David Adams – Police Chief – Since I've been here anything after hours that is not a school event we will respond to. Just like we do at the court house after hours. But football and basketball games are events the sheriff's department works.

Mayor Scott – We will look into it.

Howell Derrick – They put up no loitering signs on the telephone poles around that parking lot. He said the police department would be enforcing it?

David Adams – Police Chief – We have issued warning citations.

George Aveill – 31 Sherril Lane – My concern is the clock tower. The clock tower was by the courthouse, and the Town had a wonderful set-up there. The tower made this Town unique. I kept asking people what was wrong with the clock tower and nobody seemed to know. I called the city and was told that the county owns the tower. I tried to call the county manager and he said there was nothing wrong with the system, but that the county cut it off at the request of the town government, because it interfered with their festivities. I'm here to see if I can find out who is responsible for turning it off, and who can tell the county to turn it back on. I'm also wondering if we need to establish a committee. Thank you.

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Summer Woodard – Town Manager – I have looked into that and I'm not sure who made that request. I have spoken to the county manager and expressed to him that the Town no longer wishes to hold that request. But I'll be glad to follow back up with Mr. Roland.

Downtown Parking Study

The Board considered three proposed parking studies, including a previous parking study conducted by J.M. Teague. McGill Associates and Vaughn & Melton were also proposed studies that the Town reviewed. The Board reached a consensus to review all proposals and consider them for discussion at future meetings prior to next year's budget implementation. The J.M. Teague study along with the two proposals are attached.

Littering

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – We have reached out to Edna Morgan with the District Attorney's Office to see if they could provide a list of members who are needing some community service hours. And maybe we could, at least once a month, have those members go out with some of our staff members to pick up trash. That's one approach we could look at.

Mayor Scott – Alderman Collins I know this is something you pointed out. What do you think about this?

Alderman Collins – Kim Poteet has always been in charge of community service and she has always expressed a willingness to make something happen. It looks like now would be a good a time as any, and I know they are looking at creative ways to provide community service hours. I think it's a great idea.

Mayor Scott – I think if you get just about everybody that's in trouble with the courts to pick up litter the problem would go away.

Speeding

David Adams – Police Chief – We have three officers working on most days. Some days we have two officers working. We try to target certain areas. A couple of studies that I have seen show that speeding is not excessive, so I think it might just be the perception. I think this is true on Main Street.

Mayor Scott – We don't get any funds back from issued speeding tickets do we?

David Adams – Police Chief – I think \$1.00 per ticket comes back. The majority of it goes back to the court system.

Mayor Scott – Well the Department of transportation shut down my speed bump idea.

Alderman McRae – I still think traffic calming measures are something we should look at.

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Alderman McMahan – People are already ignoring speed limit signs. We are doing what we can in terms of enforcement. Anything that will make them less comfortable, and force them to be more cautious. And it may be my perception, but I think speeding on Bidwell Street is a problem. Maybe narrowing lanes.

Alderman McRae – Maybe we should make Bidwell Street a two way street. It used to be that way. I think it would slow traffic down. I'm not sure if it would increase traffic. It might cut down on the Green Street cut through.

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – If the Board wishes to look into making Bidwell Street suitable for two-way traffic you will need to forward it to the Planning Board for them consider at their November meeting. We can place this on the agenda to do at your regular scheduled meeting in November.

Sidewalks

The Board would like to look into establishing a sidewalk repair/construction crew, and look into a cost comparison of contracting out and doing sidewalk projects in-house.

Portable Restrooms

The Board would like to direct Town Manager Summer Woodard to seek prices on portable restroom(s) for the Town to purchase and utilize prior to next year's budget discussions

Gazebo

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – What we can do between now and the end of the year is approach the county and let them know we would like to make some upgrades/modifications to the Gazebo and ask for their blessing. We will also need to explore a new lease agreement with them.

Whitmire Property

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – I can give an update and we can begin discussing this item. The Town Board budgeted funding for a cleanup of the property. That has been completed. The entire home has been removed and the hole has been filled. It is safe and it looks really nice.

Alderman Collins – I believe if we remove the trees at the lower end of that property by Crane Circle we will be able to showcase it better. Right now it's hidden. That will at the very least allow us to market it better, if we wanted to. That's my take on it.

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Other Considerations/Discussions

The Board expressed their desire to look into pursuing a full-time professional engineer to join Town staff.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by McMahan to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Robert S. Scott, Mayor

Chad B. Simons, Town Clerk