

September 18, 2017 meeting,

The Town of Franklin Town Council held a continuation of their September 5, 2017 meeting on Monday September 15, 2016 at 6:15 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Robert S. Scott presided. Council Members Joe Collins, Adam Kimsey, Brandon McMahan and Barbara McRae were present.

Vice-Mayor Patti Abel arrived at 6:30 p.m.

Adoption of the September 5, 2017 Town Council Agenda

Mayor Scott – I would like to modify the agenda for tonight so that we can reappoint Ms. McRae to the Economic Development Commission.

Motion was made by Kimsey, seconded by McMahan to add Reappointment of Barbara McRae to the EDC to the Agenda. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Motion was made by Kimsey, seconded by McMahan to Reappoint Barbara McRae to the EDC. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 0.

Motion was made by McRae, seconded by McMahan to excuse Council Member Billy Mashburn from the meeting.

Discussion on Non-Profit Funding Pool Applicants

Mayor Scott – Macon New Beginnings requested \$3,750 to pay rent on the JC Park. I think the issue was that we couldn't let them have the building every Thursday for a year. We can't allow a public building to be reserved whenever they need it. Basically you're asking us to waive the fee.

Bob Burke – Macon New Beginnings – No we're coming to you as a funding pool request. We're going to turn around and give it back to you but we're out here with the rest of the community asking for funds.

Mayor Scott – If we were to grant this, how do we get away from waiving the fees to anybody else who comes to us? And you are basically trying to reserve it for a year.

Member Collins – It's a matter of priorities. If I felt like I could get good use out of that building and it was to help people with a good meal then I'm okay with that.

Mayor Scott – It's up the board but I would like to remind you that we are setting a precedent.

Council member Kimsey – This is a one-time payment. The idea is that after year, we can't grant the same thing again. It's a one-time payment and they have to be self-sustaining next year.

Mayor Scott – Men's Teen Challenge is not located in the Town. It only serves men and I just don't know that is appropriate to give a \$5,000 grant to them.

John Henning Jr. – Town Attorney – I agree Mr. Mayor. I have some legal concerns as far as a grant to an organization that doesn't serve everybody regardless of gender.

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Mayor Scott – The next is Mountain Mediation. We don't fund positions.

Mayor Scott – Read2me and the Literacy Council is requesting money for the same thing and they are under the same umbrella.

Brittany Lofthouse – Read2Me – No they're not. We are asking for money for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and they are asking for money for tutoring. We have two different boards.

John Henning Jr. – Town Attorney – I can't find the Streets of Franklin on the nonprofit lookup. If the board wants to support that program its fine but traditionally you required 501c3 documentation.

Council Member McMahan – Admittedly that was the thing that I was the least enthusiastic about supporting. Everybody else really needed help and this one was decorative which is nice but in my mind it just seemed less important.

Member Collins – I would like to make a motion to deny funding for Men's Teen Challenge, Mountain Mediation, and Streets while awarding the rest of the organizations their grants based on a percentage including Macon New Beginnings.

Mayor Scott – I want to warn the board about setting this type of precedent on the JC Park. What do we do when some other group wants to reserve it for a year?

Council Member Collins – We're getting a return on our building.

John Henning Jr. – Town Attorney – I would like to steer away from anything looking like a continuous lease and have something on the basis of a reservation system.

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by McRae to deny funding for Men's Teen Challenge, Mountain Mediation and Streets of Franklin and awarded the rest of the organizations their grant based on a percentage across the board to utilize \$40,000. Macon New Beginnings will be awarded \$3,750 but must reserve the JC Park on a first come first serve basis. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Contract for Engineering Services for the Water Treatment Plant

Town Manager Summer Woodard presented this item.

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by Kimsey to approve the contract for Engineering Services for the Water Treatment Plant. Motion carried: 6 to 0.

Discussion on Main Street Parking

Council Member Collins – I do not like the current configuration of parking on Main Street. You can't see when you back out. You can't see pedestrians. It's very easy to put paint on the pavement. I think it's time we consider making the north side parallel parking and maybe even the other side. I'm just not satisfied with where we're at.

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Mayor Scott – We have to address the issue of business owners parking on Main Street and I would like to look at some loading zones on Main Street.

Nathanael Moore – Town Engineer – When we get a plan in place and everybody is agreeable, we want to get ahead of NCDOT to have the facilities set up the way we want before they come in an resurface the road. We need to have that done and in place before they do that. If we can get them to consider it a street improvement project we would only be on the hook for about 20% of the cost.

Council Member Collins – Maybe you can have us some construction costs in November.

Discussion on Franklin ABC Store

Council Member Collins – At the current location of the ABC store rent runs a little more than \$100,000 per year. The lease is through October 2018 and then there is a three year option. We can expect to get no better of a deal then we have right now. I submit to the board that paying over \$100,000 a year for space is way too much. You can get into a building a have it paid for in seven or eight years instead of spending a \$100,000 year.

Todd Mason – ABC Store Manager – The ABC Board is leery after the abuse they took following the deal when the new Walmart was built.

Council Member Collins – What if we got a committee together to work with the ABC Board.

Mayor Scott – We can't do that.

Council Member Collins – I just worry that if we don't get something going then it's not going to happen.

Mayor Scott – No board member has the right to go to them and tell them what to do.

Todd Mason – ABC Store Manager – Mr. Collins or any other member of the Board is welcome to attend any of the meetings.

Adjournment

Motion made by Abel, seconded by Kimsey to adjourn meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Robert S. Scott, Mayor

Travis Tallent, Town Clerk

