

September 5, 2017 meeting,

The regular meeting of the Franklin Town Council was held on Tuesday September 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, Billy Mashburn, Brandon McMahan and Barbara McRae were present.

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

Adoption of the September 5, 2017 Town Council Agenda

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – I spoke with Council Member Joe Collins and there are a couple of items we would like for the board to consider adding. The first item if we happen to get to it is the discussion on Main Street Parking Studies and that would be 6 (P). The second item is the Franklin ABC Store which would be item 6 (Q).

Council Member Collins – If we are going to have a continuation meeting of this meeting we could probably discuss it at that meeting but I did want to go ahead and get them on this main agenda.

Motion was made by McRae, seconded by Kimsey to add items 6 (P) and 6 (Q). Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – Also under 7 (A), under Contract for Engineering Services for the Water Treatment Plant I would like to ask the Board to postpone this discussion until our September 18 meeting as well.

Motion was made by Kimsey, seconded by Mashburn to postpone item 7 (A) to the continuation meeting on September 18, 2017. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Motion was made by McMahan, seconded by McRae to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Approval of the August 7, 2017 Town Council minutes

Motion was made by McMahan, seconded by Abel to approve the August 7, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Public Session

No one from the public spoke.

New Business: Proclamation for Constitution Week 2017

Mayor Bob Scott presented this item.

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by McMahan to adopt the Proclamation declaring September 17, 2017 thru September 23, 2017 as Constitution Week. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. Resolution is attached.

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New Business: Presentation of Whitmire Proposal

Deny Martin – WR-Martin – The proposal says that we would collect all of the information specific to the property, look at economic development in the community, recreational activities and plans and try to gain a feel for the history of the property, the limitations and uses. We would like to work with each member of the Town Council and get your opinions. We would like to talk to your planner and anybody on the Planning Board that could possibly shed some light on what the community sees as potential uses for the property.

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by McRae to allocate funding and enter into contract with WR-Martin for Market Study on Whitmire Property. Motion carried: 6 to 0.

New Business: Street Closing Request for Centro Comunitario

Town Manager Summer Woodard presented this item.

Motion was made by McRae, seconded by McMahan to approve Iotla Street Closing on Friday September 15 from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

New Business: Presentation by Applicants for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Non-Profit Funding Pool

Betsy Gooder – the Arts Council – The Arts Council has been up for self-examination and we believe some exciting opportunities have come from this. In 2016 we began a community assessment program to better understand our community and how the arts can help local economic development. There was an assessment process. The council produced seven community concerns and four art workshops for young families last year. These events are free. Moving forward we will continue our most popular programs. We are expanding our reach and visibility with more partnerships. Thank you very much.

Barbara Taylor - Community Care Clinic- We provide free healthcare to people without insurance. We are requesting \$5,000 to buy flu vaccines and also medication for our patients.

Alisa Ashe – KIDS Place – Over the last 26 years this has become a very technical field. We appreciate your confidence in us to continue to provide these technical services to children in our community who have been abused, provide medical examinations to children who have potentially been abused. We appreciate your continued support.

Don Capaforte – Macon County CareNet – Thank you for supporting our backpack program. CareNet serves about 500 families per month. As of today we have distributed 177,000 pounds of food. That's an average of about 44 pounds of food per family. This is an integral part of the community. In order to qualify you must be 200 percent below the federal poverty level.

Mack Bryant – Macon County Historical Society Museum – In the last few years we've started doing a lot of physical upgrades on the building. We have to fix the roof. We have \$6,000 and we're requesting \$5,000 to augment the total of \$12,000.

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Bob Burke – Macon New Beginnings – We're requesting funds to pay the rental fee at the JC Park. We provide a hot meal 50 weeks out of the year. Any resident is welcome to join us. We sit down and talk about the issues people have. We try to instill a sense of community. On average we have about 30 to 40 clients show up per week.

Mike Barres – Men's Teen Challenge of the Smokies – Drug and alcohol addiction is a real problem right now. We're a 12 month addiction recovery program for men. We have classes on anger, relationships, temptation, attitude, etc.. We do a work detail in the afternoon. Long term recovery has the highest success rate.

Loraine Williams – Mountain Mediation Services – We provide mediation and conflict resolution services to the community. We spend a lot of time in justice court. Restorative justice is especially beneficial to youth. Instead of a judge deciding an outcome a lot of times the victim and the offender work out together what the punishment may be.

Diane Cotton – Read2Me – This started a number of years ago when people in the community saw that kids were starting school and didn't have a clue of how to even hold a book. There are about 95 children in the town limits that receive books each month. We believe that this interaction between children and parents makes a lasting impact on lives. Being literate helps with the poverty issue. These children turn into more productive citizens.

Jim Akins – Scottish Tartan Museum – We would like support for the expansion of the museum. I would like to request \$5,000 to renovate the museum that is downstairs. There have been very few updates since we moved to the building in 1999. The total project will be about \$30,000. We plan to ask for grants from other sources as well.

Martha Holbrook – Streets of Franklin Heritage Association – We are proud of our downtown. We are requesting money for the beautification of our streets. We would like to purchase seasonal metal and heavyweight twirlers. We would like to purchase fall and summer colors. We are looking at buying 12 twirlers for two seasons.

Bonnie Potts – Literacy Council of Highlands – We currently have tutors going into four elementary schools here in Franklin. We're serving 240 students per month.

Meeting recessed for five minutes.

New Town Engineer Nathanael Moore was introduced to the board and to the public.

New Business: Budget Amendments

Finance Officer Kyra Doster presented this item.

Motion made by Kimsey, seconded by Abel to appropriate \$4,611 for water and sewer and \$5,590 from the Solar Eclipse event. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

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New Business: Tourism Development Authority Budget Amendment

Town Manager Summer Woodard presented this item.

Motion was made by McRae, seconded by McMahan to accept the budget amendment for the Tourism Development Authority to increase their budget to \$129,000. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

New Business: Appointment to the Town Planning Board

Land Use Administrator Justin Setser presented this item.

Motion was made by McMahan, Kimsey seconded to approve the addition of Andrew Raby to the Town of Franklin planning board. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

New Business: Permission to Advertise Vacancy on Town Planning Board

Land Use Administrator Justin Setser presented this item.

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by Kimsey to advertise two alternate positions on the Town Planning Board. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

New Business: Discussion on Sign Placement for Civic Clubs

Town Manager Summer Woodard presented this item.

Motion made by Mashburn, seconded by McRae to grant permission to local civic clubs to seek property at Town Hall to erect signage for the local clubs. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

New Business: Adoption of Policy Authorizing Town Department Heads to Make Purchases

Town Manager Summer Woodard and Finance Officer Kyra Doster presented this item.

Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by McMahan to Adopt Policy Authorizing Department Heads to Make Purchases. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

New Business: Tax Bills for 2017

Town Manager Summer Woodard presented this item.

Motion was not necessary.

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New Business: Designation of Voting Delegate for NCLM Annual Conference

Town Manager Summer Woodard presented this item.

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by Kimsey to appoint Council Member Barbara McRae as a voting delegate to the North Carolina League of Municipalities Annual Conference. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

New Business: Tax Releases

Town Manager Summer Woodard presented this item.

Motion made by McMahan, seconded by Kimsey to release taxes as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

New Business: Appointment of Town Tax Collector

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – You have a resolution before you that would officially appoint Sarah Bishop as your Town Tax Collector.

Motion made by Collins, seconded by Kimsey to appoint Sarah Bishop as Tax Collector. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

New Business: Update on the Flood Insurance Program

Justin Setser – Land Use Administrator – We had some things that FEMA required of us and last week we got a notification saying the Town of Franklin has been reinstated back into the National Flood Insurance Program as of 8-8-2017. Anybody can purchase flood insurance inside the Town of Franklin or our ETJ. This is a big step when trying to build and get loans.

Legal: Discussion on North Carolina Bruch Bill

Council Member Adam Kimsey – There have been some local businesses come to me to ask if the Council would look at the change in North Carolina's law.

John Henning Jr. – Town Attorney – The one option that localities have is that you can allow sales of alcohol at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. It takes an ordinance to pass that. There is no time limit.

Council Member Mashburn – We could have a public hearing in October to hear from the public what they want.

Motion made by Mashburn, seconded by McRae to hold a Public Hearing concerning the Brunch Bill at 7:05 p.m. on October 2. Motion carried. Vote 6 to 0.

Legal: Update on Minimum Housing Code Enforcement

Town Attorney John Henning Jr. presented this item.

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Items from the Board

Council Member Abel – There was a good size crowd for the movie night even though it rained and there was a football game at home and a concert at the Performing Arts Center. I would like to revisit those trees in the backlot. They do take up a lot of space. I recommend we take them out and put in some small indigenous trees maybe up higher.

Board consensus was to allow Town Manager Summer Woodard to remove the trees using Town staff.

Announcements

Set continuation meeting for Monday September 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

NCLM Annual Conference is September 20-23, 2017.

Continuation

Meeting was continued until Monday September 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Robert S. Scott, Mayor

Travis Tallent, Town Clerk

