

February 18, 2008 meeting,

The Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen had a special called meeting on Monday, February 18, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall Board Room. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the following items: (1) two public hearings, (2) application for taxicab, (3) preliminary drawings of Burrell Building interior renovation, (4) Depot Street sewer line easements, (5) update on Church Street sidewalk and (6) closed session. Mayor Joe Collins presided. Aldermen Verlin Curtis, Jerry Evans, Joyce Handley and Bob Scott were present. Aldermen Billy Mashburn and Carolyn Pattillo were absent.

Public hearing on proposed charter amendment ordinance regarding adoption of the council-manager form of government

Mayor Collins opened the public hearing on the proposed charter amendment ordinance regarding adoption of the council-manager form of government at 7:02 P.M. The following persons spoke at the public hearing:

Dan Williams – I have a couple of questions. Are you getting a new person or is a current employee getting a promotion? Have you decided to advertise the position? Mayor Collins – We have not decided yet. Advertising may be the second step. Mr. Williams – Nobody is hired yet? Mayor Collins – That is right.

Colin Gooder – What is the Board's goal by changing to this type of government? Alderman Handley – There are six bosses for the employees. We need to do this. We have no rules or regulations. The Town is a business. It will be more organized. Mr. Gooder – You will lose the autonomy of thought of six persons. The manager will be over the personnel. I hope you are putting in safeguards to check the reports. The personnel will not answer to the Board. You need to put in checks and balances. A manager has so much control. Alderman Evans – I will still base my decisions on information. Alderman Scott – I am having second thoughts. We have no say so over the personnel; only policy. We may be able to restructure the town administrator duties. We are changing from elected officials to a paid person. Since we are still under five thousand in population we may not be big enough. I am not inclined to change. Mr. Gooder – You need to advertise the job. Mayor Collins – It is a little too premature to decide. Mr. Gooder – The board can't make a good vote if they do not know. Mayor Collins – We are not trying to shirk our duties. Mr. Gooder – I am a taxpayer.

Bob Schmidt - I thought that you had a town manager before now and called him another name. How do you get rid of the manager after he is hired? Mayor Collins – We can fire him. Mr. Schmidt – Why did you run for this office? Mayor Collins – Since I ran for public office changing to the manager form of government has always been my platform.

Mayor Collins closed the public hearing at 7:20 P.M.

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Public hearing on proposed room occupancy and tourism development tax

Mayor Collins opened the public hearing on the proposed room occupancy and tourism development tax at 7:21 P.M. The following persons spoke at the public hearing:

Margaret Ramsey – I live outside Town. Tourism is a major industry. We need to go after tourists interested in our history. We need the right kind of events. This tax money will go toward these festivals. We will try to be self supporting.

Pam Forshee – I support the tax. It will benefit the biking events and benefit the Town.

Linda Schlott - The Franklin Main Street Board is in support of the tax. It will help support the festivals.

Mayor Collins closed the public hearing at 7:25 P.M.

Recess

Mayor Collins recessed the meeting at 7:26 P.M.

Mayor Collins reconvened the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Consideration of application for convenience and necessity to operate a taxicab – Larry Jacobs

Mike Decker said the proper notice was published in the newspaper. He said we received no responses. **Motion was made by Evans, seconded by Scott to approve the application for convenience and necessity to operate a taxicab to Larry Jacobs. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 0.**

Preliminary drawings of Burrell Building interior renovation – Tom Ritter

Tom Ritter said I have drawn two preliminary plans of the Burrell Building. He said the difference in the two plans is the elevator. Alderman Scott said do we have to have the elevator due to ADA regulations? Mr. Ritter said no since you have access from both levels. Alderman Scott said we need to be sure the vault is big enough. Alderman Curtis said we may need to do the elevator for the benefit of the handicapped.

Authorization to negotiate regarding Depot Street sewer line easements – John Henning, Jr.

John Henning, Jr. asked to discuss this matter in closed session. The Board agreed.

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Update on Church Street sidewalk – Michael Grubermann

Michael Grubermann said I have talked to the North Carolina Department of Transportation about the sidewalk on Church Street. He said we need an approved plan and bids of this project. He pointed out the details of the sidewalk in pictures. He said we are trying to match this sidewalk to the other intersections. He said during the meeting with Alderman Pattillo and Larry Buchanan we decided to use stamped concrete. Mr. Grubermann said I need authorization to proceed with doing the sidewalk. He said we will need to get some engineering done, some plans done and ask for bids. **Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Handley to give Michael Grubermann the authority to proceed with the work on the sidewalk. Motion carried. Vote: 3 to 1. Voting yes: Curtis, Handley and Scott. Voting no: Evans.**

Closed session

The Board went into closed session at 8:00 P.M., on motion made by Curtis, seconded by Evans to discuss personnel and to discuss land acquisition. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 0.

The Board came out of closed session at 9:00 P.M., on motion made by Handley, seconded by Curtis. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 0.

Open session

The Board took no action.

Adjournment

Mayor Collins adjourned the meeting at 9:02 P.M.

Joe Collins, Mayor

Janet A. Anderson, Town Clerk