

April 7, 2008

The regular meeting of the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen was held on Monday, April 7, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Joe Collins presided. Aldermen Verlin Curtis, Jerry Evans, Joyce Handley, Billy Mashburn, Carolyn Pattillo and Bob Scott were present.

Approval of the minutes

Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Handley to approve the minutes for the March 3, 2008 meeting as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Proclaim April as Alcohol Awareness Month 2008

Mayor Collins proclaimed April as *Alcohol Awareness Month* in Franklin. A copy of the proclamation is attached.

Public Session

Dan Williams said I have twenty things growing in my yard. He said the squirrels get cooked on the power lines. He said it takes the power company four to eight hours to get the power back on. He said I told them a wire basket would prevent this problem. He said they are not interested. He said we have had a dispute for over two years. He said you did damage to my property. He said you have a million dollar insurance policy to cover these damages. Mayor Collins said that will be all for tonight. Mr. Williams said you will not talk to me. Mayor Collins said your time is up on this subject.

Dr. Daryl Gossett said we have problems with the adjacent property causing flooding on West Main Street. He said they are doing regrading on this property. He said we need shielding of the automobiles. Alderman Scott said the thing that upset me is the Corps of Engineers did not look at the project. He said there is a violation of the pipe in linear feet. He said we are losing part of the parking lot at the Jaycee Park because of erosion. Michael Grubermann said we are limited to what we can do. He said this business was there prior to the passing of the UDO. He said I have talked to Mr. Messer about the situation. Alderman Scott said I would like to see the Town write a letter to the Corps of Engineers about this culvert. He said the diameter is too small. **Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Pattillo to write a letter requesting that the Corps of Engineers do an on site inspection of this property. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Narelle Kirkland said I am with Macon Pride. She said this organization is trying to do away with litter and encourage recycling. She said there will be a brown lunch on April 22, 2008 from 12 noon to 2 P.M. Mrs. Kirkland said Alderman Scott is our liaison with this group.

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Shirley Ches said I am also part of Macon Pride. She said there is a problem with litter. She said there are large junkyards inside Town. Mrs. Ches said there is a possibility of working with Macon County on this ordinance. She said the problem is that people don't want to hear about zoning. She said we are living closer together.

Tommy Nicholson said Crawford Branch is a problem for my parents. He said their house almost flooded in July. He said I appreciate what you have already done.

Sandra Crownover said the vehicles on the old creamery property park too close to the road. She said stray dogs need to have tags and collars. She said cars are coming down Bidwell Street on the wrong side. Ms. Crownover said why are you putting the sewer line on private property on Green Street? Mayor Collins said we have easements. She said I have been putting dirt on Lyle Street so that the school buses can use the road.

Consideration of rate increase request – Bonita Hamstra, J&B Disposal

Bonita Hamstra said I am asking for an increase for residential garbage pickup rates. She said I am requesting a rate increase from \$6.00 to \$8.00 per month for road side service and from \$9.00 to \$11.00 per month for house service. Mrs. Hamstra said the last increase in residential rates was in April 2003. A copy of her letter is attached. Alderman Scott said this rate increase is well deserved due to the high cost of fuel. **Motion was made by Handley, seconded by Scott to approve the rate increases as was requested by Mrs. Hamstra. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Request for municipal water and sewer service – Joan Navarre

Joan Navarre said I recently purchased property on Lake Emory Road. She said I am asking for sewer service. She said I am planning to replace the old trailers on this property. Ms. Navarre said I am planning to put additional trailers on this property. She said the lot size would be 80 x 100 feet. Alderman Evans said we need to look at this property. Alderman Curtis said would this be a mobile home park? Michael Grubermann said you could with a special use permit. Sam Greenwood said it was our understanding from the county health department there were failing septic tanks. He said I would suggest we table this request for now. The Board did not take any action.

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Approvals/authorizations regarding new town hall renovations

Tom Ritter explained the proposed plans to the Board. Alderman Scott said I would like to have a horse shoe shape to the Board table. Mr. Ritter said the renovations should take about twelve weeks to complete. Sam Greenwood said we can ask for bids in two to three weeks. Michael Grubermann said we received four bids on the interior design work. Alderman Scott said I want the entire Board to help chose the interior design firm. Mr. Greenwood said we would need to do this at a regular meeting. Alderman Pattillo said at the library we had a committee. Mr. Greenwood said any Board member interested can be involved. **Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Pattillo to approve the current concept of the proposed plans for the new town hall. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 1. Voting no: Evans.**

Authorization for contract with the North Carolina Employment Security Commission

Sam Greenwood said by using the North Carolina Employment Security Commission during the hiring process the Town can meet all laws and requirements. He said they can do the initial screening of the applicants for us. He said there will be no cost to the Town. **Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Handley to authorize the contract with the North Carolina Employment Security Commission. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Appointments to the Franklin Tourism Development Authority

Alderman Pattillo said Alderman Handley and I have worked hard to get candidates for the Tourism Authority. She said they are all associated with some business inside Town. She said the candidates for appointment are: Dee Zaska, Deb Thompson – one year term; Bea Sanford, Chris Roesner, Tom Giegerich – two year term and Town Manager or designee, Kevin Bell, Tony Angel – three year term. She said we are recommending that Tony Angel be appointed as chairman. A copy is attached. Alderman Pattillo said we are still trying to get one member who will serve a one year term. **Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Handley to appoint the following persons to the Franklin Tourism Development Authority: Dee Zaska, Deb Thompson – one year term; Bea Sanford, Chris Roesner, Tom Giegerich – two year term and Town Manager or designee, Kevin Bell, Tony Angel – three year term and also to appoint Tony Angel as the chairman. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Consideration of change order on Highlands Road Water Line Improvements project

Sam Greenwood said McGill Associates is recommending a change order on the Highlands Road Water Line Improvements project in the amount of \$5,980.00 to do an open cut across Crane Circle. He said this cut will replace the bore included in the project. **Motion was made by Handley, seconded by Curtis to approve Change Order #1 on the Highlands Road Water Line Improvements Project in the amount of \$5, 980.00. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy of the change order is attached.**

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Consideration of town manager employment agreement

John Henning passed out the proposed town manager employment agreement. Alderman Scott said I want time to read the agreement. The Board did take any action. A copy is attached.

Request for refund from G&V Development LLC

Sam Greenwood said the county changed the total valuation on this property in September 2007. He said the Town can refund taxes only in cases when there has been an administrative error according to the statutes. He said since there was no clerical error on the part of the Town, I recommend not refunding these taxes. **Motion was made by Evans, seconded by Curtis to not refund these taxes. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Sawmill Village Water and Sewer Flow Allocations

Mayor Collins said Sawmill Village has requested a water and sewer allocation for their development. A copy of the request is attached. He said they will be annexed by the time the building is completed. After some discussion, the Board took this request under advisement.

Requests for funding to the Macon County Board of Commissioners

Alderman Handley said the equipment is outdated at the Memorial Park. She said we need to ask the county for funding. She said they gave the Town of Highlands \$500,000.00 for their park. Mayor Collins said I would like us to work with the county on doing an amphitheater on their property at the old drive-in movie theater site. Sam Greenwood said we can work on using the county's infrastructure in certain areas. He said some could be: (1) property taxes collection, (2) room tax collection, (3) communication repairs, (4) garage services, (5) telephone system, (6) cell phone system, (7) security, (8) IT and mapping, (9) purchasing and (10) vehicle tracking. Mayor Collins said what is the deadline to get these requests in the county's upcoming budget? Mr. Greenwood said in the next few days. **Motion was made by Evans, seconded by Pattillo to authorize Sam Greenwood to write letters of request to the Board of Commissioners. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Finance officer's report/budget adjustments

Janet Anderson explained the February 29, 2008 financial report to the Board. She explained the proposed budget adjustments. **Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Handley to approve the budget adjustments. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. Copies are attached.**

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Additional Committee and Departmental Reports

Alderman Scott said the plans for the Nikwasi Indian Mound celebration are going well. He said we may be able to get a \$20,000.00 grant from the Cherokee Foundation. Mayor Collins said I would like to see some type of museum be put in that area. Alderman Scott said there are plans to put a kiosk at the Nikwasi Indian Mound.

Departmental reports are attached.

Adjournment

Mayor Collins adjourned the meeting at 8:55 P.M.

Joe Collins, Mayor

Janet A. Anderson, Town Clerk