

August 1, 2005

The regular meeting of the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen was held on Monday, August 1, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Joe Collins presided. Aldermen Verlin Curtis, Billy Mashburn, Bob Scott and Jim Williamson were present. Aldermen Edwin Hall and Charles Roper were absent.

Approval of the minutes

Motion was made by Williamson, seconded by Curtis to approve the minutes for the July 5, 2005 and July 26, 2005 meetings as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 0.

Persons to be heard

Kathleen Costa said I live at 176 White Oak Street. She said Rebecca Crawford sent me a letter stating that I needed to shut down my dog grooming business. She said I have been in business for three years at this location. She said I received a privilege license every year. Mrs. Costa said when I moved into this house it was condemned. She said I have done a lot of work to the house including electrical work and painting. She said I run my business from the garage instead of the house. She said I would do more work on the property if I owned it. Mrs. Costa said my income is being taken from me. Mayor Collins said you need to attend the Board of Adjustment meeting on August 9, 2005 and state your case. Mrs. Costa said I wanted to introduce myself to everybody. Mayor Collins said you need to go before the Board of Adjustment.

Rick Andrews said I own a shop downtown with my wife. He said the 150th Anniversary Celebration was wonderful. He said there is a speeding problem on Main Street. He said the police needs to actively work this problem.

Ben Brown said I am the chairman of Macon Tomorrow. He said you need to have a comprehensive plan for the Town. He said there was a meeting with over two hundred persons in attendance concerning a development on Cowee Mountain. He said you need to take a wider look at downtown. Mr. Brown said you need to look closely before moving town hall off Main Street. He said there are steps that other communities have gone through. He said I would love to be involved. He said you need to think bigger picture.

June Hernandez said I am with the Streets of Franklin. She said we have been working closely with the Town. She said our main concern is the town hall move. She said you need to go slower. She said town hall needs to stay downtown. She said more planning needs to be done. She said I am for keeping town hall downtown. She said I would love to be involved. Alderman Scott said about six months ago we talked about moving town hall to the Burrell Building. Mrs. Hernandez said there is support for that idea. She said there is support for the Chamber relocating to that building or it being used for retail space. She said I think there should be more planning.

August 1, 2005 meeting continued,

George Paulson said I live at 105 Summerhill Drive. He said I am speaking for the residents on Tennessee View Street. He said the street is in poor condition. He said the Town needs to pave the street. He said there are four person paying town taxes. Mayor Collins said after looking at current maps, the residents are not technically in the Town. He said we have annexation petitions tonight. He said we need to get the system in place so we can spend Powell Bill funds for this project. Mayor Collins said we may need some additional easements from the property owners for drainage.

Shirley Robes said I want to give an update on the sewer line we are installing on U.S. 441 North. She said this line has been paid entirely by the property owners. She said it will be maintained by us for one year before we plan to turn it over to the Town. She said our businesses bring economic growth. Mrs. Robes said the construction on the line was started in April 2004. She said we had inspections done every other day. She said on February 9, 2005 we were given a punch list. She said every item on the list has been addressed. She said we are waiting for a final walk through on the line. She said I have a calibration test report on the flow meter. A copy of the report is attached. Candy McNamara said we own the Gem and Lapidary Wholesalers. She said we have been coming to Franklin since 1974 with our show. She said our goal is to have our business grow. Mrs. McNamara said this year we had over four hundred exhibitors and over five thousand buyers. She said this is a large economic impact to this area. She said we want to get the sewer line up and running. Mayor Collins said it is my understanding our engineers are waiting on as-built plans for the sewer line. Jeff Bishop said after we did the walk through with their engineer we have had no correspondence from him. He said during the inspection there were several man holes that could not be inspected due to debris. He said the North Carolina Department of Transportation punch list has to be addressed since the state considers the Town the permit holder. Mayor Collins said we will try to have a final inspection when we get the as-built plans. He said the line may not pass at that time; but he said we will work to resolve those problems at that time.

Annexation requests

Mike Decker said we have received annexation petitions from the following property owners: Thelma M. Jackson and Jacquelyn A. Brown. **Motion was made by Williamson, seconded by Curtis to have Janet Anderson as town clerk check the sufficiency of the annexation petitions. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 0. Copies of the petitions are attached.**

Departmental reports

Police Chief Terry Bradley gave the police department report. A copy of the report is attached. He said we have been giving citations for speeding. He said we may need to do studies. He said North Carolina is very strict on how radar is run. He said part of the problem is the increased traffic flow. Alderman Scott said I want to publicly commend the police chief and the sergeant for being at the right place and catching the house breakers. He said we need a traffic enforcement officer for the downtown area.

August 1, 2005 meeting continued,

Public Works Director Jay Gibson said the West Main Street water line has been started by the contractor. He said we need a little bit more property for the Wilkie Street water tank. He said we have had trouble with the pumps at the water treatment plant. He said we will be replacing a tile at the town park. Mayor Collins said we need to start looking at what projects we need to do out of the Infiltration/Inflow Study. He said we may be able to use some force labor. He asked the Water/Sewer Committee to look at prioritizing the projects. Mr. Gibson said the contractor doing the West Main Street water line could replace a portion of sewer line behind Macon County's Ace. He said it would be one hundred fifty feet of line with two manholes. He said the price would be \$14,000.00. Jeff Bishop said that would be a good price for the project. Mayor Collins said when Mr. Gibson gets a written proposal; Mike Decker can poll the Board.

Fire Chief Pete Haithcock gave the fire department report. A copy of the report is attached. He said the Department of Insurance inspection will be done this month. He said engineering plans need to be done before we do the two rear bay doors at the fire department. Mayor Collins said is keeping lower end equipment causing the need for the expansion? Chief Haithcock said no. He said we are working on getting a contract for the lease of the house. He said I have to go to court on August 3rd, 2005 for the Sizemore case. Alderman Williamson said we need to advertise for engineering proposals. **Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Williamson to allow Chief Haithcock to advertise for engineering proposals and get cost figures. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 0.**

Request for water allocation – Terry Dalton

Terry Dalton said I am requesting a water allocation of 30,000 gallons per day for a development off of Wide Horizon Drive. He said it is one mile from the fairgrounds. He said it will be a subdivision with seventy-five houses. He said the project will be finished over four to five years. Mayor Collins said we need to look at the size of the line to see if it will be big enough for growth. Mr. Dalton said I need a six inch line to provide fire protection. He said I will work with the Town if you decide to up size the line. **Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Scott to give preliminary approval of the allocation of 30,000 gallons per day to Mr. Dalton's development pending review of the final plans. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 0.**

Alderman Scott said we need to start looking for an alternative water supply. He said we are looking at a security issue. He said what would we do if there was some type of spill above the water treatment plant? Jeff Bishop said the in flow study shows the Cartoogechaye Creek could handle up to four million gallons per day. He said you would need to weigh the cost of operating two plants to your potential risk.

Recess

Mayor Collins recessed the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Mayor Collins called the meeting back to order at 8:30 P.M.

August 1, 2005 meeting continued,

Update on HB 635

Mike Decker said HB 635 has become law. He said it requires public boards to provide at least one period of comment at a regular meeting each month. He said since we already do this it will not change our meetings.

Consideration of funding for Macon Area Transit Services

Alderman Mashburn said I am supportive to some level for this service. He said one problem I have is the location of the transfer spots being at the Burrell Building parking lot and at the gazebo. He said the Burrell Building parking lot is not a good place because of the emergency calls of the police. Alderman Mashburn said I am not sure the gazebo is a good spot due to events such as Pickin'. He said we need to give our input on these transfer spots. Alderman Scott said I would like to see more of a shuttle service for the downtown area. He said there needs to be a continuous route. Mayor Collins said do we need to wait on acting on this request until we have the whole board present? Alderman Mashburn said we need to wait and act with the entire board. Mayor Collins tabled this request until a later meeting.

Consideration of paving quotes

Alderman Williamson said we did not get a quote for repaving South Patton Street. He said I would suggest we add the cost of repaving this street to the winning bidder. He opened the following bids:

Apac	\$31,175.12
Rhodes Brothers	\$39,786.15

Motion was made by Williamson, seconded by Curtis to accept the quote from Apac in the amount of \$31,175.12. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 0. Copies of the quotes are attached.

Consideration of audit contract amendment

Janet Anderson said the Town will have to have a Single Audit done this year due to receiving over \$500,000.00 in grant money. She said Dixon Hughes is charging an additional \$3,000.00 for these services. **Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Mashburn to approve the amendment to the 2004-05 audit contract in the amount of \$3,000.00. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 0. A copy is attached.**

August 1, 2005 meeting continued,

Recommendation from the planning board

Rebecca Crawford said the Planning Board recommended five parcels located on McCoy Street owned by the McCoy heirs be rezoned from Residential to Neighborhood Mixed Use. **Motion was made by Williamson, seconded by Curtis to set the public hearing on these rezoning requests for the regular meeting in September. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 0.**

Departmental reports

Town Planner Rebecca Crawford gave her monthly report. A copy is attached. She said there were a total of sixty-nine walk-in visits or phone calls in July. She said I attended the following meetings: Streets of Franklin, Macon Transit Advisory Board, County Planning Board, Town Planning Board, Board of Adjustment and Town Board Planning Workshop.

Petition for rezoning – Louise Hamilton

Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Williamson to pass on the Louise Hamilton's rezoning request to the Planning Board for a recommendation. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 0.

Planning issues – Rebecca Crawford

Junk cars draft proposal

Rebecca Crawford said we need some response from the public about the junk cars. She said I have been doing a lot of research. She said I would suggest that we try to get the cars removed voluntarily for a period of six months. She said after that we can look at doing code enforcement. She said there are issues with the following that will have to be addressed: title and ownership, towing companies, storage, taking bids from crushing companies. She said you will need to decide how much liability the Town wants to take on. Mrs. Crawford said I would like you to appoint a committee of local business men and citizens. Mayor Collins said we need to get a crusher in. Alderman Williamson said we could ask citizens to volunteer to remove their junked cars. He said we need a couple of board members on the committee. Alderman Curtis and Alderman Williamson agreed to serve on the committee.

Neighborhood Mixed Use

Rebecca Crawford said are you ready to look at other areas for the Neighborhood Mixed Use zone? She said we can ask the Planning Board to give a recommendation on the area you pick. The Board decided to look at Harrison Avenue. **Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Williamson to ask the Planning Board to look at Harrison Avenue for Neighborhood Mixed Use zone. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 0.**

August 1, 2005 meeting continued,

Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Rebecca Crawford said I would like you to appoint a steering committee to work on doing a Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The Board decided to think about possible members.

North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Program

Mike Decker said there will be a meeting at Western Carolina University on August 8, 2005 about the North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Program. He said if we do the mapping it will give us more information on whether the Town would want to adopt a floodplain ordinance.

Additional departmental and committee reports

Mike Decker said the Town has to have a Water Shortage Response Plan. He said there will be a workshop in Hickory on September 27, 2005 concerning this plan. He said we may need assistance from McGill Associates.

Mike Decker said Roy Davis with the state Division of Water Quality has requested the Town develop a Capital Improvement Plan in regard to our sewer system. Also, he said the state wants us to include a line item in our annual budget for sewer replacement cost. He said the Water/Sewer Committee, Jay Gibson and I are planning to meet with Jeff Bishop to prioritize the list from the Infiltration and Inflow Study.

Mike Decker said I approved relocating a sign pole along U.S. 23/441 as part of the Siler Road sewer project. He said by moving the pole at a cost of \$1,000.00, there should be a savings of \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00 according to Vann Waters with McGill Associates. A copy of the letter is attached.

Mike Decker said the Town's tartan has been registered in Scotland.

Mike Decker said the North Carolina League of Municipalities Conference will be held in Hickory on October 16 – 18, 2005. He said please let me know if you are planning to attend.

Mike Decker said the groundbreaking for the new Southwestern Community College campus will be on Wednesday, August 10, 2005 at 11:30 A.M. with lunch at the Whistle Stop.

Mike Decker said Jim Garner with Wayah Insurance sent a letter indicating the Whitmire house cannot be covered at this time because it is unoccupied. A copy of the letter is attached.

Alderman Curtis said Howell Derrick has asked us to put a sign on both ends of Wayah Street saying: no Jake brakes. The Board did not approve this request.

August 1, 2005 meeting continued,

Alderman Curtis said the High Impact Sewer Line is to the point that bids can be taken. **Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Williamson to push progress on the sewer line along. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 0.**

Mayor Collins said has there been any additional cost on the Duke's intervention? Alderman Curtis said no invoices have been given at this time.

Alderman Scott said I noticed in the League letter that the Court of Appeals has ruled that fiber optic is the same as cable. He said we need to develop a policy on fiber optic.

Water adjustments and payment of the bills

Water adjustments for July and payment of the bills were approved on motion made by Williamson, seconded by Scott. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 0.

Set date for called meeting in August (if necessary)

The Board did not set a date for a meeting.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Williamson, seconded by Scott to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 P.M. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 0.

Joe Collins, Mayor

Janet A. Anderson, Town Clerk