

Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen  
Agenda

February 1, 2016 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order- Mayor Bob Scott
2. Pledge of Allegiance- Vice Mayor Patti Abel
3. Adoption of the February 1, 2016 Town Board Agenda
4. Approval of the January 4, 2016 Town Board minutes
5. Public Hearing 7:05 p.m. for Text Amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance Regarding Tasting Rooms
6. Public Session
7. New Business
  - A.) Board Action on Text Amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance Regarding Tasting Rooms
  - B.) Update from Macon New Beginnings- Bob Bourke
  - C.) Proclamation for Hunger Awareness Month- Mayor Bob Scott
  - D.) Resolution Regarding Wilderness- A.) Bill Vanhorn - B.) Jim Gray
  - E.) Set Public Hearing for Re-Zoning Petition for Carolina Mountain Drive- Land Use Administrator Justin Setser
  - F.) Adoption of Proposed Town of Franklin Hazard Mitigation Plan- Land Use Administrator Justin Setser
  - G.) Town Board Authorization for the Advertisement of Real Property Tax Liens for Current Year 2015- Tax Collector Jessie Wilkins
  - H.) Purchase Contract for Franklin Fire Department FEMA Grant- Finance Officer Kyra Doster and Franklin Fire Department Personnel
  - I.) Set Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Town of Franklin Budget Schedule- Town Manager Summer Woodard
  - J.) Utility Agreement for Town Bridge Replacement Project- Town Manager Summer Woodard and Town Attorney John Henning Jr
  - K.) Street Closing Request for 2016- Town Manager Summer Woodard
  - L.) Depot Street Extension Lighting Project- Land Use Administrator Justin Setser, Town Manager Summer Woodard and Town Attorney John Henning Jr
8. Adjourn

## **February 1, 2016 meeting,**

The regular meeting of the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen was held on Monday February 1, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Robert S. Scott presided. Aldermen Patti Abel, Joe Collins, Adam Kimsey, Billy Mashburn, Brandon McMahan and Barbara McRae were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was done.

### **Adoption of the February 1, 2016 Town Board Agenda**

**Motion was made by McMahan, seconded by Kimsey to adopt the February 1, 2016 Town Board Agenda as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

### **Approval of the January 4, 2016 Town Board minutes**

**Motion was made by McRae, seconded by Abel to approve the January 4, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

### **Public Hearing 7:05 p.m. for Text Amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance Regarding Tasting Rooms**

Mayor Scott opened the hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Justin Setser – Land Use Administrator – In your packets you will see the text amendment application from the Town of Franklin to amend our Unified Development Ordinance, adding tasting rooms as a defined use. The sample ordinance with the definition is included, along with the districts in which this use will be allowed. You will also see an alternate option, which the Planning Board decided not to recommend to adopt at their December meeting.

John Henning Jr. – Town Attorney – That section in red Mr. Mayor is a bit more restrictive, saying the only way to operate a tasting room is to operate it on the premises of your own vineyard, or distillery basically. If you go with the option the Planning Board recommended it will be less restrictive.

Justin Setser – Land Use Administrator- You will also the consistency statement for the text amendment with the set sections that will be amended, and the findings of fact adopted by the Planning Board with their recommendation for approval.

No person signed up to speak during the public session.

Mayor Scott closed the public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

### **Public Session:**

Sharon Van Horn – Nantahala Hiking Club, 45 Pine Hill Road – I'm here tonight to support the Forest Service wilderness management process. I obviously support wilderness, but that's secondary to the process in which this takes place. Everyone should speak, not just me who supports wilderness, but everyone. Personally, I can say that I did speak to my daughter yesterday. She's a social worker in British Columbia and she is concerned about having less areas to hike here.

## **February 1, 2016 meeting continued,**

Sharon Van Horn – I have a grandson who is 7 1/2, and that concerns me to. I also personally met the wounded warriors, and I got to see them in 2014. They were able to walk off the war because of the Appalachian Trail. To paraphrase John Lennon, all we are saying is to give the forest service process a chance.

Evy Brow – 871 Weaver Cabe Road – Good evening. I am one of the notorious Floridians that have moved up here. I just want to thank you for serving and for giving me the opportunity to speak. I too am here to support the Forest Service and their process. My feeling today in this political atmosphere our individual voices aren't heard for many, many reasons. The Forestry process gives everyone a chance, regardless of where you stand on the issues. That's the most important thing. I'm urging you to support this Resolution because it gives everyone the chance to offer input.

Brent Martin –Wilderness Society – Thank you for entertaining this resolution tonight. We were here last month. I've worked with the Forest Planning Process since it began, so I know how messy and contentious this process can be. As the previous two speakers have said, this should be an open, honest public process. It's before you tonight because we have not experienced this in the county thus far. The anti-wilderness resolution that was passed in 2014 was passed with no public input, based on the interest of one particular group and their interest. It's hard to take a county where only 4 percent of its public land is wilderness, and make those a scapegoat to say that's the problem for all of these other things. It's simply not true. Forest Service budgets have been cut drastically this past decade. Their road budget has been decimated, and there is a \$30 million backlog in road maintenance. I think the county should support the public process, and do what we are asking you to do tonight, which is to support all of our participation in the Forest Service process, without having groups go before counties to get anti-wilderness resolutions passed where everyone else is marginalized. I'm simply before you tonight to ask you to respect Wilderness, and at the same time, we don't oppose timber cutting on National Forest Lands. We support groups who advocate for timber and game management, so I really don't see what the problem is with us having a process where our interest can be represented as well. Thank you for hearing us. I think it's important to make a statement in the county, that the Town at least, after being named a top outdoor town in Blue Ridge Magazine, that we support Wilderness and the process.

Michelle Ruigook – I'm also here to support the Democratic process. I just want to address one issue related to Wilderness directly. That's the payment the county gets for timber harvest and mineral extraction on public lands. And so in 2000 the Secure Rural Schools Act was passed. Before this Act, rural counties like Macon County received 25 percent of the revenues generated from timber sales in our national forests. And as we all know, the timber industry has declined the last two decades. So this formula was not good for our communities, and we depend on the Forest for drinking water, long term restoration, stewardship jobs, and outdoor experiences. So given all of that, Congress changed the funding system with the passage of the Act. It replaced revenue sharing with a guarantee level of payments that was no longer tied to timber sales. So wilderness doesn't impact those payments. In addition Macon County still received payments in lieu of taxes from the Federal Government, which supplements our local government. Thank you.

## **February 1, 2016 meeting continued,**

Kristina Lynn Moe – 261 Pat Rogers Road - I know most of you, so I shouldn't be nervous. I've heard that those of us that support Wilderness are the elite. I'm here to say that I'm not elite. I attended, graduated from, and worked in the public community college and university locally. I continue to work in public health here in Macon County, and the public library. I'm not elite. I'm a part of the Appalachian Trail Community Council. We are not elite. I can afford to go hiking in the wilderness. I just want to go on record and say that I support more Wilderness, and that I support the public process. Thank you.

Olga Suzanne Lampkin – 136 Bee Tree Lane – I recently moved here from California with my eight year old, in large part because I love what Macon County has to offer – particularly our wilderness. I love the Wilderness. I love eating things that other people shoot in the wilderness, and I think both can be done. I want to go on record to support the resolution to support the public process. I don't think it needs to be one or the other. It can be both. I don't think setting aside land for Wilderness prohibits other land needs. It's been done for years. The Florida Keys is a good example of this. Fishing is thriving there because they have designated protected areas. Thank you.

Rob Gasbarro – Outdoor 76 and Co-Chair of Appalachian Trail Committee Board – I'm here tonight representing the Franklin Appalachian Trail Committee Council. I just want to run over a few things that are a little overdue. In November Matt Bateman and I drove down to West Virginia and spent three days there, at the first ever Appalachian Trail Committee Summit. They had roughly 20 communities show up in one location for three days. As representatives of the Town, we were the few that weren't actually town employees. I've brought you 3 pages worth of notes from the Summit, and a lot of these are written thoughts that I hope bring some good ideas. This can help outdoor communities like ours tap into our resources, showing success stories. I'm not asking you guys to do anything. I'm just asking for support. There are a lot of people out there that want to take this on. Just help support us. Open some doors. We need that here. We've had dialogue with a Town Manager in Virginia, who showed us that a \$10,000 grant was available for a hotel feasibility study. Now they are on their way to getting a really cool hotel in town. There is so much stuff out there. We spent three days away from our jobs, lives and kids to go represent our Town and community. We took it seriously. Anything you can do to help would be appreciated. For the record my favorite places to play in this county are in the wilderness.

Matt Bateman – Appalachian Trail Committee Board – I just want to thank each of you to allow me to do this. Thank you for your service. I'm excited about this Board, and what I see coming from it. I know it's a thankless job most of the time, probably 99 percent of the time actually. I think it is safe to say that what we are hearing tonight is that we are all thinking of ways to improve our Town. It's all positive. I just want to make a suggestion. Based off of the Town of Franklin's recent top town award, and my suggestion would be to utilize the banner space over Main Street to put up that Franklin is a top town, and a winner of this award. We should be shouting this from the rooftops. It can be generic, having a Franklin logo. We can discuss that later. It would be beneficial in several ways. Education in our local community. Fishing, gem mining, hiking is all about what we have to offer. People will be educated about what we have to offer. A concern is that this is a time sensitive award. So let's grab it now and take advantage of it. We have great momentum. I'm not advocating for a permanent banner. It can just fill in the holes when there is not a banner up. Let's utilize the space to advertise special events and other things that we have to offer. Thanks for your time.

**February 1, 2016 meeting continued,**

John Culclasure – 14 Grover Road – I just want to talk about some misconceptions about wilderness, and presenting it as a false choice between destroying our wilderness and saving our wildlands for the future. I'm very much a multi-use recreationalist. Franklin is a great outdoor town. But if you support wilderness, that prohibits mountain biking. I grew up in Henderson County and that is a tremendous asset to that area. So if you support wilderness over here, you limit another important asset. Now 46 percent of our land is Forest Service land. They do a tremendous job in managing timber. It takes seven years to go through one environmental analysis of a timber harvest. I would encourage you to keep an open mind to trust our Forest Service. People come to Macon County and they go to outdoor shops and other places. What do they say? They might say they want to go to Siler Bald. Siler Bald is not wilderness, and is a popular spot for hikers and a lot of other people. It would limit that, limiting habitat burns, search and rescue, habitat improvement projects, fire management, and maintaining an iconic bald like Siler Bald. Do we need more lands off-limits to where we couldn't improve wildlife? The wilderness argument is presented as a false choice. The Wilderness Act was passed in 1964 because of timber harvesting, but a lot has changed since then.

Olga Pader – 2629 Valley Trail. This is really funny to me. I just met John. I liked him when I met him. Right now I don't know how I feel about him. But I told John, hey, we can disagree but we don't have to be enemies. This is what the public process is about. A lot of things simply aren't true. We should co-exist and live together. We are not preventing people from doing other things. I want everyone here to support wilderness resolution to stand up. We are here not just to say we want Wilderness, but we are here to say to let Democracy prevail. The county resolution was passed with no public input. You can be the leaders with what democracy is about. Everybody has a voice, a chance to participate. If the Forest Service knows what they are doing, and John says they do, let them make the choice. That's all we want. Everyone has an opportunity to write to the Forest Service our recommendations. We specifically excluded Siler Bald to be designated as wilderness. I'm not an elite. I've worked my entire life. I spent a lot of time in wilderness. I appreciate wilderness. Mountain biking, in a memorandum of understanding, we wanted it to be allowed in certain places. Fishing and hunting are allowed in wilderness. Wilderness does not exclude a rescue. Those are all false notions. Please let Democracy rule. Trust them to do their job. Wilderness is for all.

**New Business: Board Action on Text Amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance Regarding Tasting Rooms**

Mayor Scott – Anything from the Board on this item?

Alderman Collins – Given that the reason for this consideration is no longer present, and no person was here for or against, does the Board want to decide on this today or table it for a situation whenever it means something. But I'm not sure we need to add regulations for no good reasons.

Mayor Scott- Counselor, can we hear the motion first and then see if we want to proceed?

John Henning Jr. – Town Attorney – The motion would simply be to approve the Text Amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance as recommended by the planning board, accepting the findings of fact. That was the less restrictive version.

## **February 1, 2016 meeting minutes,**

Alderman Collins – I'm not hugely one way or the other. It seems like an odd point to be making tonight, whenever the reason it was brought to us is not there anymore.

Alderman McRae – I thought they were going to move somewhere else?

Mayor Scott – I think that's what they were going to do.

Alderman McMahan – I was thinking that it might make this area more attractive if we adopt it as proposed, and also I feel like we should take care of it just so this never happens again. I'd hate to think we would have to go through this again should it come up. They left because it lacked this language. Let's be proactive and get this taken care of tonight. We've gone through the process with us and the Planning Board, and I'd hate to have to start over.

Alderman Mashburn – Would we have to start over?

John Henning Jr. – I would have to research that question. I don't know.

Alderman Kimsey – As the owner of an ABC establishment, it seems like a very standard and fair regulation. When it does come up we will just be looking at the same thing again.

**Motion was made by Kimsey, seconded by McMahan to adopt the Text Amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance Regarding Tasting Rooms. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy of the text amendment and the findings of fact are attached. Vote: 6 to 0.**

### **Update on Macon New Beginnings**

Bob Bourke – Macon New Beginnings – Good evening. I want to thank you for getting us on the Agenda. Thank you for your leadership and support in the community. It's probably not mentioned enough. I'd like to thank the community for their support for Macon New Beginnings. Over the past year I've been extremely humbled with community support. Lastly, I'd like to praise the Lord with his provision in all of this. We are a 501(c)3 organization registered here in North Carolina. We got this designation very quickly, as quick as I've ever seen, and I'm a Certified Public Accountant. We take our responsibility to our clients, the community and to the Lord very seriously. That's why we're here tonight, to let you know about what's happened since our inception in April 2015. We have five Board members, and several volunteers. We've tried to help the homeless in every way we can, and we are motivated and based on Christian principles. Prevention is the best medicine. The other area is affordable, efficient shelter. The last category is our building of backpacks for homeless folks, compiled of food, water, hygiene products, etc. One of the things that is very humbling is how children are impacted in homeless situations. And we want to transition someone into a new home as quickly as possible. We actively helped our first homeless folks in September 2015. We helped 92 people between September and December, preventing 60 people from using a shelter. That's either through helping them with their rent, security deposit, and other situations. We had a woman come to us whose child had pneumonia. She was working, but couldn't because she had to take care of her child. Now she is not homeless and still has a job. Our next step is to continue the services we have. Thank you again.

**February 1, 2016 meeting continued,**

**New Business: Proclamation for Hunger Awareness Month**

Mayor Scott read the Proclamation for Hunger Awareness Month.

**Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Collins to approve the Proclamation for Hunger Awareness Month. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy of the Proclamation is attached.**

**New Business: Resolution Regarding Wilderness – A.) Bill Van Horn – B – Jim Gray**

Mayor Scott – Is it okay if each of you get four minutes? That's what we will do.

Bill Van Horn – Appalachian Trail Committee – Mr. Van Horn spoke in favor of the wilderness resolution before the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen.

Jim Gray – 84 Soaring Eagle Drive – Mr. Gray spoke against the wilderness resolution before the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen. A copy of his statement is attached.

Mayor Scott read the Resolution.

Alderman McRae – I attended one of the meetings that the Forest Service had, and I was impressed with the number of people that showed up, their level of enthusiasm and passion. A lot of groups were represented, and so much comprehensive work was done and I support and trust in the outcome.

Alderman McMahan – I would just like to say, and I'm not going to bring my opinion into it, but it boils down to supporting the Democratic process. I think that it is our jobs to support that, community involvement and public input. We should endorse that anytime we can.

Alderman Kimsey – I would just like to personally thank everyone that came out to speak this evening. A lot of people from several groups came here tonight, and it's much appreciated. It makes our job a lot easier.

Alderman Collins – A lot of counties have voted on this. I haven't heard of any towns voting on it, and I don't think we have any Forest Service land in Town. What I sense is had the county voted the other way this would not be here before us. I feel like those of you in support, your passionate support, you feel like you got a bad deal from the county and desire to come in through us and in some way litigate what was not done properly at the county. And I heard a lot about the Democratic process, but I'm not sure what that means. I think I understand that the government doesn't have enough money to spend on, so therefore if they can designate more wilderness, they don't have to spend the money on it. Seems like that's what it is coming down to. So that's my thoughts on it.

Alderman Mashburn – I have to agree with Alderman Collins on this one. The Town doesn't have any jurisdiction. None of the property lies within sight of the city limits or the extra territorial jurisdiction. And I do feel like some of you feel like you got a raw deal from the county, and their not willing to go back and look at it. The resolution the town passed didn't have anything to do with wilderness. It didn't address wilderness or non-wilderness. We just don't have a dog in the fight. And I do think that if we are talking money, this is how the Forest Service can be more conservative with their budget.

**February 1, 2016 meeting continued,**

Alderman Mashburn - I do sympathize with the county somewhat in the respect that they don't have any idea what it will do with their funds that they get from the Forest Service. I don't know how it will affect them. That's not in my purview. But they don't understand it either. That's the way I feel about it.

Alderman McRae – Just one more thing. Since we have staked ourselves out as an outdoor town and as an Appalachian Trail town, which gives us the right to have an opinion on this matter, regardless if we don't have Forest Service land.

Alderman Mashburn – And I don't have a problem with promoting the Appalachian Trail. We would support that at any time.

Alderman Collins –And is there automatically an opinion that one way or the other will help either cause? I mean I don't know.

Alderman McMahan – I think I understand what Alderman McRae is saying and I agree with her. Because even if it is just making a statement or taking a stand, if we are going to be an outdoor town and a top rated outdoor town, I do think we need to say we were in favor of this proposition because whether or not this makes a difference in the outcome it will make a difference in the public eye. The way the public construes it does matter.

**Motion was made by McRae, seconded by Kimsey to adopt the Resolution to support the U.S. Forest Service Recommendations for Wilderness in the Final Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Management Plan. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 2. Voting Yes: Aldermen Abel, Kimsey, McMahan and McRae. Voting no: Aldermen Collins and Mashburn. A copy of the Resolution is attached.**

Mayor Scott called for a five minute recess.

**New Business: Set Public Hearing for Re-Zoning Petition for Carolina Mountain Drive**

Justin Setser –Land Use Administrator – We met with the Planning Board in January, and you will see their recommendations and staff report in your packet. This will set a public hearing for next month.

**Motion was made by Collins, seconded by McRae to set a public hearing for Re-zoning Petition for Carolina Mountain Drive for Monday March 7, 2016 at 7:05 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

**New Business: Adoption of Proposed Town of Franklin Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Justin Setser – Land Use Administrator – It's 410 pages. Back in January of 2015 I and other representatives of Clay and Macon counties, including Highlands, met to discuss updates to our hazard mitigation plan. Some surveys were sent out. This was adopted ten years ago, and we have to update it every five years. The draft after the meeting and surveys were sent back to FEMA in June of 2015. The county received the recommended draft that is before you tonight. Every town and county has to have a plan to get funds for FEMA, just in case anything happens. The county adopted this at their January meeting.

**February 1, 2016 meeting continued,**

**Motion was made by McRae, seconded by Abel to adopt the proposed Town of Franklin Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

**New Business: Town Board authorization for the advertisement of Real Property tax liens for current year 2015.**

Jessie Wilkins – Tax Collector – This is just a statutory formality. I have provided you with a list of the unpaid taxes as of today. That amount is \$178,788.00. People can continue to pay through February 29, 2016 by 5 p.m. and not be advertised. They will continue to accrue interest on a monthly basis. I'm just asking for the Board's permission to advertise anyone who has not paid.

**Motion was made by Collins, seconded by McMahan to authorize the Town Tax Collector to advertise real property tax liens for current year 2015. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

**New Business: Purchase Contract for Franklin Fire Department FEMA Grant**

Kyra Doster – Finance Officer – In September the Board voted to approve for the Fire Department to accept the funds awarded to them in a grant. After this process we appropriated those funds in October with a budget amendment. And the purchase contract that you have tonight is to purchase the equipment with those funds. We utilized our online bid purchasing program in HGACBUY, which exempts us from having to go through the formal bid process. So having said that we do have to come back to the Board and bring the contract back to the Board.

Tim Chavis – Interim Fire Chief – This is air packs that we need to update.

**Motion was made by Kimsey, seconded by Abel to approve the purchasing contract for the Franklin Fire Department FEMA grant. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

**New Business: Set Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Town of Franklin Budget Schedule**

Summer Woodard –Town Manager – I've put this in your packets. We can go over this really quick. All we are asking for tonight is the approval of that proposed schedule.

Ms. Woodard reviewed the schedule.

Alderman Collins – The department heads have their own meetings, what have you. This other area with different committees may have proposals for projects we would like to look at, but we won't get to look at the budget until it is proposed to the Board in May.

Summer Woodard – We can reschedule for this. Typically I've met with committees in the past throughout the process individually to see what needs you may have. I try to do that separately. But a scheduled work session is entirely up to you.

Alderman Collins – I'd like to have a session sooner rather than later. It will also educate us more about the budget process. A lot of years in my experience on the Board I've found that we don't really have much to do with the budget. The first ten years I never had much to do with that.

**February 1, 2016 meeting continued,**

Alderman Mashburn – I'd admit to that begrudgingly, but I don't think you have to worry about that with this administration. Everything as I saw it was up front. There is no questions we can't answer.

Alderman Collins – I'm not suggesting that at all. If I wanted us to consider a project on Town square, I'd like to know sooner rather than later if there will be funds to work with. Maybe it's all in the package and I'm not seeing it right. I just want to know early on.

Alderman Mashburn – Do you want another work session?

Alderman Collins – I would like to do this later this month if we could, maybe spend an hour and a half. There is a lot I don't know about. We have different people involved. I think it would be good for all of us involved.

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – Just pick a date.

Alderman McMahan – I would appreciate that opportunity. I think that's a good idea Alderman Collins. I will say that Ms. Woodard was really nice in sitting down with me after the election and going over this year's budget. That was so helpful.

Alderman Mashburn – Let me ask one question. They are meeting with department heads in March. Shouldn't we have it after that?

Alderman Collins – I'd like to do it before. As soon as the budget is on paper it doesn't change much. That's just how it is.

Alderman Kimsey – What would work best with Kyra and Summer?

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – Preferably April because forecasting is tough. Right now it would be tough to paint a true picture of what we have, but April will give us a better idea with what we have to work with.

Alderman Collins – Great. Anytime would work great.

Alderman Abel – It would be nice to take a look at some of the projects we discussed, and prioritize going into next year.

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – How about if we look at the week of April 11-14?

Alderman Collins – Well we don't have to decide tonight. The consensus is an hour or an hour and a half or something.

**Motion was made by Collins, seconded by Abel to approve the Town of Franklin 2016-2017 budget schedule with the contingency of adding one more meeting with the Board to discuss items before budget presentation. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy of the budget schedule is attached.**

**February 1, 2016 meeting continued,**

**New Business: Utility Agreement for Town Bridge Replacement Project**

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – Good news. There might be some money. In your Agenda packet you have a letter we wrote in 2014 for the Town bridge project. At the time they were looking at relocating current water and sewer lines down there, and they threw around some crazy proposals. They even proposed putting the lines under water. That creates a lot of problems. That cost would be over \$300,000. We petitioned the state transportation department for a hardship, which you will see in your packets. They have since come back and accepted our recommendations to go from an eight inch to a twelve inch line, and I've had our Town Attorney review the documentation before you. They are willing to pay some of the cost for us to relocate the water line and to increase the size of the line that we presented at a cost to the Town of \$7,346.50. That payment would not be due until the completion of the bridge project, which is set to be complete in 2018-2019. That's what we are asking for tonight.

John Henning Jr. – Town Attorney – We are paying for the difference in materials and they are taking responsibility for everything else. We looked at this last month.

**Motion was made by Kimsey, seconded by Abel to approve the Utility Agreement for Town Bridge Replacement. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy of the contract is attached.**

**Street Closing Request for 2016:**

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – We've tried to compile a list on some of the events organized with organizers, and to present that list tonight. The list is in your agenda packet.

Ms. Woodard reviewed the attached street closing list.

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – Mr. Tim Crabtree called me before the meeting, thanking the Board and Chief Adams for closing the street on New Years and handling the street closings. He wishes to make his request later this year. That's why he is not on the list.

Alderman McMahan – Saturday we were throwing the idea of doing a spring festival. We can amend this, correct?

Summer Woodard –Town Manager – Yes. Absolutely.

Alderman McMahan- We may not want to talk about it, but should we consider Main Street for Winter Wonderland?

Alderman Abel – I was going to bring that up. I got numerous comments from people wanting to close the streets for Winter Wonderland, especially for safety. Would that be a big deal Chief Adams?

David Adams – Police Chief – I spoke with Ms. Woodard recently. The first Saturday I think we should close Main Street. I was worried this past year with pedestrians because it was so crowded. The second Saturday the traffic wasn't that bad. We can handle that.

Alderman Mashburn – Should we take this under consideration?

**February 1, 2016 meeting continued,**

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – From a festival perspective we could live with either or. We can do this later on if you would like. It's up to the Board.

Alderman Kimsey – I see Winter Wonderland as a festival. We close Main Street for Pumpkinfest. I think we should close it for Winter Wonderland, especially if we want to continue to promote it and continue to grow it.

Alderman Collins – Let's just take this under consideration tonight.

Mayor Scott – Taste of Scotland – I sit on this committee, and there are some questions within the group about closing the street.

Alderman Abel – Pumpkinfest is our biggest and we are not closing the street until 5:30 p.m. Their Harp festival was the main reason, but I don't see how that has anything to do with the street closing.

Mayor Scott – Okay, we will take this under consideration tonight.

**New Business: Depot Street Extension Lighting Project:**

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – This is a project that Duke Energy has approached us about. Some of the pictures that you will see is a proposed street lighting project on the Depot Street extension, or the Veterans Memorial Highway. What Duke wants to do is this. The white flags in the pictures, about sixteen of them, are where the street lights could be located. If you'll notice there is a sidewalk there hidden by the guardrail. This area is heavily utilized by pedestrians at all hours of the day. What Duke was proposing is to pay \$11,000 to install street lights, with the understanding that the Town will take over monthly bills. The monthly bill would be about \$291.67. That's roughly \$3,500 annually. The only caveat is this. If we decide before the year is over that we don't want the lights, we will be obligated to reimburse Duke Energy for installing the lights. We also thought this would be a good test run to see what LED lighting would look like. These bulbs would be LED.

Justin Setser – Land Use Administrator – I met with Mr. Jeff Parrish of Duke Energy. They are proposing a 70 watt LED light, and this came about because they are fixing to do a mapping project where they will mark all of our lights, and what they are. There have been a lot of complaints about this spot, so we thought this would be a good test run. Duke is also doing away with mercury, and they're converting all of our mercury lights into LED lights at no cost. They are more cost effective and efficient. Generally where there is a sidewalk there should be streetlights. If we like it, we will do more of it. You can see in the pictures where they will be located.

Alderman Collins – Other than the monthly bill what other issues would prevent us from doing this, besides from aesthetics?

David Adams – Police Chief – There was a pedestrian killed there last year. It looks like Gotham City when you drive through there at night. It's very dark. It's not safe for pedestrians in my opinion.

Justin Setser – Land Use Administrator – Mr. Jeff Parrish measured them out, and they will be underground. They will be on wood poles, about six feet high.

**February 1, 2016 meeting continued,**

Alderman Mashburn – Would it be better for 10 or 16. I don't think we know. In residential areas they skip a pole.

Alderman McRae – I think on Harrison Avenue there are gaps. It's not good for pedestrians.

Justin Setser – Land Use Administrator – And there are no houses here. It's an entry corridor, like the Georgia Road, but not as wide.

Alderman Mashburn – Have you looked at this madam Manager?

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – Yes I have. I recommend going forward with this for safety reasons, and to see what it looks like. And we are not paying the \$11,000 unless we change our minds. We'll have to reimburse them if we take any down.

John Henning Jr. – Town Attorney – And the cost is not for electricity. It's basically for pole rental.

Alderman Collins – It will be \$291 until they raise the rates.

Alderman Abel – This might allow people to use a better route.

**Motion was made by Abel, seconded by McRae to accept the Depot Street Extension Project. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy of the presentation is attached.**

**Motion was made by Abel, seconded by McRae to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

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Robert S. Scott, Mayor

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Chad B. Simons, Town Clerk

