

Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen
Special Called Meeting
Agenda Monday April 18, 2016 5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order - Mayor Bob Scott
2. Projected Revenue for Fiscal Year 2016-2017
3. Debt Service for Fiscal Year 2016-2017
4. Discussion on Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017
5. Update on Crosswalk Project for Fiscal Year 2015-2016
6. Adjourn

April 18, 2016 meeting,

The Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen held a special called meeting on Monday April 18, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss revenue projections, debt service and the proposed budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Mayor Robert S. Scott presided. Vice Mayor Patti Abel, Aldermen Joe Collins, Adam Kimsey, Billy Mashburn, Brandon McMahan and Barbara McRae were present.

Projected Revenue for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Town Manager Summer Woodard discussed revenue projections for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. A copy of the revenue sheet is attached.

Mayor Scott – One comment I would like to make. On the occupancy tax the League of Municipalities is really lobbying the state to allow towns to use that money on infrastructure projects. So they are lobbying hard, and if that goes through we will be able to use a portion of that money for other things.

Alderman McRae – Do we have the same number of hotel rooms in town? I know Franklin Terrace just reopened.

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – That's excellent news. Every little bit helps.

Debt Service for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Town Manager Summer Woodard and Finance Officer Kyra Doster discussed debt service payments for 2016-2017 fiscal year. A copy of the debt service payment sheet is attached.

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – The Board does need to be aware of this. It does look like this will occur in fiscal year 2017-2018. The fire truck payment of \$177,615.00 does not close out this lease. There will be an additional buyout. What that will be is yet to be determined. Ms. Doster, Mr. Henning and I are working on this.

Alderman Collins – I think it was a buck is what we thought it was going to be. Have you thrown some numbers around? This was something we thought would be paid off for a \$1.00 this year.

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – Right now it is \$210,000. That's the number that's on the table and we have challenged that to get a separate appraisal.

Discussion on Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – We have broken it down where we are at debt wise, in both funds. We have met with department heads to see what we expect expenditure wise. We plan in the next couple of days to look at water and sewer revenue. With that being said there are some definite needs on the expenditure side in the general fund. The police department needs a generator, for example. Software is also something to consider. There are some needs to consider in addition to what we have budgeted. There are some water and sewer projects we need to look at, one is Forest Avenue and Fox Ridge.

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Alderman Collins – Did we balance last year?

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – You did balance last year.

Mayor Scott – We are coming along. I see it almost every day. I'm sorry, some of this is not their making.

Alderman McRae – Would new software help speed things along?

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – It would.

Alderman Collins – Is it too early to say if we are going to have sufficient revenues for next year?

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – I think on your general side you should have sufficient revenues to balance. I'm not so sure about water and sewer.

Alderman McRae – Will we see new tax revenues with economic growth?

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – It helps. But water and sewer tap fees have declined substantially in the last five years, but hopefully that is starting to come back. It is better than it was three years ago. But I'm not sure we will ever get back to where we were ten years ago when those tap fees were supporting your enterprise fund.

Update on Crosswalk Project for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Town Manager Summer Woodard discussed the proposition of using budgeted funds originally planned for updating seven existing crosswalks, and using those funds for resurfacing Franklin Memorial Park parking lot and installing mulch or rubber matting on all playground equipment, and revamping the basketball/tennis court.

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – If you didn't want to move forward with the existing crosswalks you could knock out three projects in one. You could do the parking lot, playground matting and the court. A conservative estimate would be about \$46,234.21. I throw this out because I know this Board is progressive and wants to knock out some projects.

Alderman Collins – Is there any money to look at the Town Gazebo?

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – That would be up to the Board. I would like for the Board to look at the contract. That contract is actually up for renewal in 2018. There is some language in that contract that I think the Board should consider allowing myself and the Town Attorney to renegotiate. One example is that no major improvements can be made without Macon County blessing those improvements. Also, if we put \$100,000 into this project the county can basically say they want it back and not be obligated to pay the Town anything. I'm just cautioning the board about funding this project next fiscal year.

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Alderman McRae – The clock tower was built by a private non-profit group. Maybe there is another group, along with the county, that will help us out.

Alderman Mashburn – What about owning it?

Alderman Collins – We should look at it.

Mayor Scott – Any objection to approaching the county about this?

Alderman Collins – I think we need to figure out what we want to do with it first.

Mayor Scott – I think we should take care of this first, and then decide what we want to do with it.

Alderman McRae – Historically, this is the heart of the town. I think it would be right and proper for the county to assist us. It's our square. It's been there since 1820.

Alderman Collins – I think this Board must decide on what we want to do with it, and we need to take the lead in doing that.

The Board of Aldermen discussed the possibility of funding other projects at length.

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – Can I get a preference on the projects?

Alderman Abel – How much revenue does it bring in, the Memorial Park?

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – It's about \$3,600. We charge \$50.00 for an all-day rental.

Alderman Collins – It appears the crosswalks are out.

Summer Woodard – The funding is for this year.

Alderman Collins – I think we need to go look at it, and then decide on it later.

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – Maybe we can make a formal vote at our next board meeting.

Mayor Scott – I was at a league meeting last year and all towns are in the same boat. The cuts from the state are very deep. I just worry sometimes about our infrastructure. I think we need to look at that. I just want to add this. The department heads and employees have worked really hard on this budget. The state is looking at getting rid of the Dillon Rule. The House Bill 2 was not about bathrooms, but more about home rule when you get down to it.

April 18, 2016 meeting continued,

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by McMahan to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Robert S. Scott, Mayor

Chad Simons, Town Clerk