

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 7, 2022**

**THE FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL** held a regular meeting on Monday, February 7, 2022, at 6:00 pm. in the Town Hall Board Room located at 95 East Main Street Franklin, NC.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Mayor Jack Horton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:** Vice Mayor Joe Collins, Council Members David Culpepper, Stacy Guffey, Mike Lewis, Adam Kimsey and Rita Salain.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Joe Collins.

**3. RECOGNITION AND AWARDS**

- A. Captain Danny Bates was recognized for his 30 years of service to the Franklin Police Department; his retirement is February 28, 2022. Chief Bill Harrell provided a list of Captain Bates' accomplishments during his career.
- B. Jason Hopkins, Wastewater Treatment Operator received his Grade 4 wastewater certification. Bill Deal, Interim Public Works Director presented him with his certificate. His family was in attendance.
- C. Jake Slagle, Wastewater Treatment Operator received his Grade 2 wastewater certification. Mr. Deal presented his certificate as well and his family was also present.
- D. Justin Setser was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief (volunteer) of the Franklin Fire Department. His wife, Kara and daughter Andi were present and added his bugles to his uniform. Fire Chief Ben Ormond applauded Mr. Setser's accomplishments and congratulated him on his promotion.

Mayor Horton congratulated all of the individuals recognized and thanked them for their service to the citizens of Franklin.

**4. ADOPTION OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 2022 TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA**

***Council Member Rita Salain made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mike Lewis to adopt the Town Council Agenda for February 7, 2022. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6 to 0.***

**5. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 7, 2022**

- A. Approval of January 3, 2022 Town Council Minutes
- B. Budget Amendments
- C. 2022 Tax Report including request for delinquent notice publication in newspaper April 2022
- D. Personnel Policy Updates
  - 1. Article VI – Employee Benefits – Section 1 – Group Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance
  - 2. Article VI – Employee Benefits – Section 2 – Hospitalization and Medical Benefits
  - 3. Article VI – Employee Benefits – Section 12 – Overtime Pay Provisions (Compensation Time)

- E. Resolution for Declaration of Service Side Arm for Retiring Member of a Municipal Law Enforcement Agency and Recognition of Service – Captain Danny Bates

***Vice Mayor Joe Collins made a motion, seconded by Council Member Adam Kimsey to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote 6-0.***

## **6. CALLS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS**

***Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rita Salain to call for a Public Hearing to consider amendments to Chapter 154 – the Wireless Communications Ordinance to be held on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 6:05 p.m. or as closely thereafter as possible in the Town Hall Board Room located at 95 East Main Street, Franklin. The motion carried unanimously. Vote 6-0.***

***Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Stacy Guffey to call for a Public Hearing to consider amendments to Chapter 92 – Fire Prevention – Section 92.04 Maintenance and Placement of Fire Hydrants to be held on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 6:10 p.m. or as closely thereafter as possible in the Town Hall Board Room located at 95 East Main Street, Franklin. The motion carried unanimously. Vote 6-0.***

## **7. PUBLIC SESSION**

Tim Shaw, representing Sk828, provided an update related to fundraising for the skate park including the development of a “Go Fund Me” page which has already amassed greater than \$6,400. This is in addition to the already collected \$3,200 which has been given to the financial holding group - Region A Foundation. He explained that the group is applying for various grants and has approached the Macon County Board of County Commissioners with a \$50,000 funding request. Mr. Shaw indicated that there are other partners who would like to provide some in-kind services once the construction begins such as public art or signage.

## **8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

- A. Elaine Eisenbraun, Executive Director, Nikwasi Initiative provided the Council with information related to a potential bylaws change resulting in equal representation by all partners, updated the Town Council related to the EDA grant application process, and asked for a letter of support.

The Mayor and Council members asked questions of Ms. Eisenbraun and thanked her for her time and for the information.

***There was no action taken by the Council.***

- B. Fire Chief Ben Ormond provided the annual report from the Franklin Fire Department including various statistics related to number of calls, types of calls and plans for the future.

***There was no action taken by Council; report provided for information only.***

## **9. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. The Town Council was presented information related to a proposed lease for a portion of property to the Root and Barrel for an outdoor dining area. Discussion followed related to potential rates for a three-year lease as well as potential considerations related to buffers.

***Council Member Rita Salain made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mike Lewis to instruct the Town Attorney and Town Manager to work on a proposed lease and per NC General Statutes, provide public notice when the lease terms are completed so that this item can be voted upon at the April 4, 2022 regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0.***

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Request Approval of Road Name Petitions**

Justin Setser, Town Planner presented information from two developers, Scenic Ridge Properties, LLC and Berg Homes, LLC, who had submitted road name petitions for approval by the Town Council. During discussion, it was suggested that it may be a good opportunity to name roads after historical figures or landmarks in the Town.

***Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mike Lewis to approve the road names as submitted by Scenic Ridge Properties, LLC. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0.***

***Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Stacy Guffey to approve the road name of Boxwood Trail for Berg Homes, LLC. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0.***

**B. Proposal for Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) payment of tuition and part-time status as recruits**  
Police Chief Bill Harrell presented information to Council related to payment for Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) as a consideration for recruitment purposes. The Franklin Police Department is having difficulty in recruitment of officers due to larger agencies paying sign-on bonuses or providing full training compensation. In order to be more competitive in expanding an applicant pool for officers, the request is for payment for BLET tuition and equipment costs, part-time non-sworn employment status with the Town with potential for full-time employment after successful completion of the program.

***Vice Mayor Joe Collins made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mike Lewis to approve the implementation of payment of candidates for Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program and part-time employment status with the Town of Franklin during such training. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0.***

### **C. Request approval of contracts with WithersRavenel for projects included in the current FY budget 2021-2022**

Town Manager Amie Owens explained that there were five (5) contracts for various water and sewer projects and related rate study for water treatment plant phase II that are necessary for design and engineering that were already included in the FY 2021-2022 budget. Two of these projects are time sensitive as they would need to correspond with the finalization of construction for the new Angel Medical Center.

***Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mike Lewis to approve the various contracts for design and engineering and the contract for the rate study for execution by the Town Manager. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0.***

### **D. Request approval of Budget Calendar for FY 2022-2023**

Town Manager Owens presented the proposed budget calendar for FY 2022-2023. There were no noted conflicts with the schedule.

***Council Member Rita Salain made a motion, seconded by Council Member Adam Kimsey to adopt the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget calendar. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0.***

#### **11. ITEMS FROM COUNCIL**

Mayor Jack Horton recognized Travis Tallent, Town Clerk/HR Director for his service to the Town and presented him with a certificate of appreciation. Mr. Tallent accepted a position in Greenville, NC and will be leaving on February 10, 2022.

With the departure Mr. Tallent's departure, someone should be named as the acting Town Clerk effective February 10, 2022. Town Manager Owens has experience as a Town Clerk and is recommended for this role.

***Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Stacy Guffey to appoint Town Manager Amie Owens as the acting Town Clerk effective February 10, 2022. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0.***

Council Member David Culpepper noted that there had previously been a Resolution of Support of the Bartram Trail as it could connect in town; he inquired if there was a copy that could be reproduced.

Council Member Stacy Guffey thanked Justin Setser, Town Planner for serving as a town representative on the Nikwasi Initiative board and for his commitment to its mission. Mayor Horton added that if the bylaws change was adopted by Nikwasi Initiative, then he would like to see Council Member David Culpepper as the second town representative. Council Member David Culpepper asked that someone speak with current serving town member Fred Alexander prior to accepting this appointment as Mr. Alexander has done a good job during his tenure.

#### **12. CLOSED SESSION**

***Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Joe Collins to enter into Closed Session under North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(3) – Attorney Client Privilege to discuss handling of settlement of a claim. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0.***

The Town Council entered Closed Session at 8:35 p.m.

The Town Council returned from Closed Session at 8:42 p.m.

#### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

***Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Adam Kimsey to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.***

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C. Jack Horton, Mayor

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Amanda W. Owens, Town Manager  
Acting Town Clerk