

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 4, 2024**

**THE FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL** held a regular meeting on Monday, November 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. 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 Stacy Guffey, Council Members: Joe Collins, David Culpepper, Mike Lewis, Robbie Tompa, and Rita Salain

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Stacy Guffey.

**3. ADOPTION OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2024 TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA**

*Council Member Rita Salain made a motion, seconded by Council Member Robbie Tompa to adopt the Town Council Agenda for November 4, 2024 as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6 – 0.*

**4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 4, 2024**

- A.) Approval of the September 19, 2024 Special Called Meeting and the October 7, 2024 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
- B.) Change in term for ABC Board Member Alton Sutton
- C.) Refer rezoning requests to Planning Board for Consideration - 3 parcels -1660 Bryson City Road; 1646 Bryson City Road and 1716 Bryson City Road -change from Residential R-1 to Secondary Commercial C-2

*Council Member Joe Collins made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mike Lewis to approve the consent agenda for November 4, 2024 as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6 – 0.*

**5. RECOGNITION**

- A.) Jason Hopkins, Water Treatment ORC/Supervisor-Physical/Chemical Operator 1 Certification presented by Bill Deal, Public Works Director

**6. PUBLIC SESSION**

No one signed up to speak

**7. PRESENTATION**

- A.) Annual Audit Presentation - Lutchia Johnson, Senior Staff Accountant - Martin Starnes and Associates, CPAs, P.A .

Lutchia Johnson presented the annual audit report for the Town’s FY 2023/2024. They have issued a clean, unmodified opinion with no findings. The report has been submitted to and accepted by

the Local Government Commission (LGC) with no comments. She noted that the Town's Fund Balance has increased 33% from prior year. She went over the increases/decreases of revenues and expenditures for FY 2023-2024 in comparisons with FY 2022-2023. She thanked the Finance Department for all their work on the audit.

Mayor Horton thanked the Finance Director and staff for all their work and also thanked Martin Starnes for their work in completing the audit. He said that the Town was in sound, financial shape and Ms. Johnson agreed.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

A.) Request approval of Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement for the Town of Franklin -Justin Setser, Town Planner

Town Manager Amie Owens presented this item in the absence of Town Planner Justin Setser. The Town is not currently a part of the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement. She noted that the NCLM is encouraging communities to sign up. The agreement will allow for potential reimbursement from FEMA if the Town were to send resources (employee time and equipment used) to other areas in the State.

Councilman Mike Lewis asked if Town law enforcement has been asked to help in other areas in the State. Town Manager Owens noted that they have not.

Councilman Tompa asked if this agreement was the one Town Attorney John Henning, Jr. had previously mentioned. Mr. Henning said it was not, but felt it was a necessary agreement.

***Council Member Joe Collins made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rita Salain to approve the execution of the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreements for the Town of Franklin as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0.***

B.) Request approval of street closures -Amie Owens, Town Manager

- 1.) Iotla Street on Monday, November 11, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. -Veterans Day Celebration
- 2.) Rolling Closure for Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 1 – will impact Church Street, Main Street and Iotla Street

***Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Joe Collins to approve the street closures request as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0.***

3.) Request approval of holiday bonus for employees – Amie Owens, Town Manager

Town Manager Owens stated that the Town is doing financially well and expenditures are staying within budget. The holiday bonus last year was \$1,000 and she would like to do the same this year. The budget amendment would be for \$32,999.45.

***Council Member Mike Lewis made a motion, seconded by Council Member Robbie Tompa to approve the additional funding for employee holiday bonus as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0.***

## 9. DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

- A.) Public Works -Bill Deal, Public Works Director gave an update on capital improvement projects, in-house tire and oil changes, SOP for sewer system, street lights on Main Street, water meter replacements (869 meters) and Wilkie Street sewer line project.
- B.) Water Treatment -Kyle Pocquette, WTP ORC Supervisor gave an update on the new generator (used during power outage from Hurricane Helene), cleaning of bulk tanks, and cleaning brush from water intakes, completed testing, and clear well bid process will start in January.
- C.) Wastewater Treatment -Jason Hopkins, WWTP ORC Supervisor gave an update from Hurricane Helene impact, Bill Allen received Bac-T certification, Cody Cabe working on Grade 2 wastewater certification, Jake Slagle working on Lab 1 certification, aerator conversion and grease trap inspections.
- D.) Streets -Chris Waldroop, Streets Supervisor gave an update on daytime street sweeping, snowflake bulb replacement, Christmas decorations, and new winter banners.

## 10. ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

- A.) Request approval of Resolution Pledging to Practice and Promote Civility in the Town of Franklin- Mayor Jack Horton  
Mayor Jack Horton read the Resolution Pledging to Practice and Promote Civility in the Town of Franklin.

***Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mike Lewis to approve the Resolution Pledging to Practice and Promote Civility in the Town of Franklin as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0.***

Mayor Horton stated that there was 100% participation from the Town Council in the 2-hour training session that was held on October 17.

Marcus Abernathy with North Carolina League of Municipalities was in attendance. He congratulated and thanked Town Council for their commitment and said that Franklin was the second municipality in the State to adopt the Resolution Pledge for Civility.

## 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A.) Next Town Council Meeting is Monday, December 2, 2024
- B.) Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2024
- C.) Town offices will be closed on Monday, November 11 in observance of Veterans Day per the NC Holiday Schedule
- D.) Veterans Day Celebration - downtown - Monday, November 11, 2024 - parade starts at 10:45 a.m. at Town Hall
- E.) Special Called Meeting - Macon County Housing Study Presentation - Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Town Hall Board Room
- F.) Town offices will be closed on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 in observance of Thanksgiving per the NC Holiday Schedule
- G.) Winter Wonderland- Saturday, November 30 and Saturday, December 7, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

**12. CLOSED SESSION**

**A.) Enter into Closed Session under NC General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(5) to discuss acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange or lease**

*Council Member Mike Lewis made a motion, seconded by Council Member David Culpepper to enter into closed session under NC General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(5) to discuss acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange or lease at 6:52 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6- 0.*

The Town Council entered Closed Session at 6:52 p.m.

The Town Council returned from Closed Session at 7:38 p.m.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

*Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mike Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6- 0.*

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C. Jack Horton, Mayor

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Nicole Bradley, Town Clerk