

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**

THE FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL held a regular meeting on Thursday September 19, 2024, at 5:30 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 5:30 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. CONTINUED BUSINESS

- A.) Request approval for updated Noquisiyi Mound signage- Bob McCollum, Nikwasi Initiative
Bob McCollum presented a plan for new signage at the Noquisiyi Mound at the August 5th and September 3rd Town Council meetings. Mayor Jack Horton said that Town Attorney John Henning, Jr. provided a proposed guide/suggestion for the Noquisiyi Mound signage, as directed by Town Council. The suggestions were sent to the Nikwasi Initiative Executive Committee and they are okay with the proposed suggestions. They said these suggestions are more along the lines of what they were looking for. They said it's more directive and not prohibitive. Town Manager Amie Owens noted that the actual signage would contain the seals of EBCI and Town of Franklin. Councilman Lewis said the verbiage was more subjective than directive.

Council Member Rita Salain made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Stacy Guffey to approve the proposed signage for Noquisiyi Mound and accept the plan as presented. The motion carried. Vote: 5 – 1. Councilman David Culpepper voted in opposition.

Councilwoman Salain pointed out a few grammatical errors.

Councilman Culpepper said he could live with the signs, but isn't certain that it is 100% factual.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Request approval of movement of water/sewer infrastructure for Franklin High School – Amie Owens, Town Manager
Todd Gibbs, Macon County Schools Auxiliary Services Director, stated that with the construction of the new Franklin High School on the practice football field there was a need for the water/sewer lines to be relocated, so that the lines do not get clipped during grading. He also noted that the water and sewer lines will be maintained during construction.

Mayor Horton asked if the cost to move the lines was included in the Franklin High School construction project and Mr. Gibbs said yes. Mayor Horton also asked if the moving of the lines would affect anyone else. Town Manager Owens said it would not and that Mr. Gibbs was already working with Public Works Director, Bill Deal and Utility Maintenance Supervisor Jim Zilbauer.

Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mike Lewis to approve the request for the water and sewer line relocation on the Franklin High School property as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6 – 0.

Public Works Director Bill Deal said there wouldn't be any problems with moving the lines from the Town's perspective.

B.) Request approval of purchase of two police vehicles- Amie Owens, Town Manager

Town Manager Amie Owens noted that her signature threshold is \$29,999.99. The two (2) police vehicles that are being purchased are \$40,000 each. Even though, the purchase of these vehicles is in the budget, Town Manager Owens had to bring this purchase back to Town Council for approval due to her signature threshold. At the October meeting, a recommendation will be presented to change the budget ordinance to state that Town Manager Owens can sign for vehicles/equipment if the vehicle/equipment is already approved in the budget.

Council Member Mike Lewis made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rita Salain to approve the purchase of the two (2) police vehicles and bring back the budget ordinance change to the October 4th meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6 – 0.

4. STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mayor Jack Horton reminded Council Members about the North Carolina League of Municipalities 2-hour video training session for the Commit to Civility Program on October 17 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Bob McCollum wanted to offer thanks to the Board for the Noquisiyi Mound Plan.

A.) Development of Mission and Vision- Town Council

Town Manager Owens stated the need to develop a mission and vision for the Town. If the Town does not have mission and vision, Town Manager Owens said she does not know how to strategically plan with the Leadership team. She has requested Town Council's direction so that she can then direct the Leadership team to meet the goals set by Town Council.

Mayor Horton read the mission/vision statement from the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Councilman Culpepper asked what was lacking in the current statements and asked if it could be polished up. Town Manager Owens said she felt it was a bit wordy, but that it could be polished up.

Councilman Tompa and Councilwoman Salain came up with ideas that were shared.

Councilman Culpepper noted the vision should say we want to create an environment with a healthy economy, honor our heritage, value outdoor recreation and natural resources- Best place to live, work, and play.

Additional discussion was held on developing a mission and vision for the Town. Town Manager Owens will bring back some samples based on the discussion.

B.) Development of Business Incentives- Town Council

Town Manager Owens went over potential economic development/business incentives and the cost associated with them. She noted that there were not any funds in the 2024/2025 FY budget for these incentives. These incentives are for existing businesses and newer/smaller businesses as well as for town beautification. Discussion was held about the Main Street Coordinator position and the time it would take to get back into the Main Street Program. Town Manager Owens said that current Town staff could start the process to become a Main Street Program once again. Councilman Culpepper asked if incentives could be non-monetary: Can rules be eased up to where existing structures can be used? Additional discussion was held about possible incentives and the benefit for Town business owners.

Mayor Horton asked Town Manager Owens to reach out to Tommy Jenkins, Macon County Economic Developer, about their economic incentives. Town Council will revisit incentives at the annual Town Council retreat in January 2025.

5. ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Councilwoman Salain would like Council to be supportive of not-for-profit organizations. She said she was amazed at all the Friends of the Greenway (FROG) does.

Councilman Joe Collins mentioned the Southwestern Community College Foundation event at Harrah's in Cherokee, NC on Saturday night and would like to sponsor.

Councilman David Culpepper said he wishes to resign from the Nikwasi Initiative Board effective October 4, 2024. Mayor Horton asked if any council member would be interested in filling his seat on the board.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Mike Lewis made a motion, seconded by Council Member Robbie Tompa to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6- 0.

C. Jack Horton, Mayor

Nicole Bradley, Town Clerk