



City Council Meeting Minutes Monday, February 5, 2024 - 6:00 p.m. Franklin Lodge of Elks

Council in attendance: Mayor Desiree McLaughlin, Councilor Susan Hallett-Cook, Councilor Leigh Webb, Councilor George Dzujna, Councilor Ted Starkweather, Councilor Ed Prive, Councilor Valerie Blake, Councilor Vince Ribas, Councilor Olivia Zink and Councilor Timothy Johnston

Absent: None

Others in attendance: City Manager Judie Milner, City Department Heads, and members of the public.

Mayor McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and the Salute to the Flag commenced.

Councilor Prive asked for a moment of silence for the following veterans that passed away last month; Andrew John Surette (US Navy, served on the USS Saipan), Sgt. Robert M. Theriault (US Army 1969-1975 Vietnam, cause of death: Agent Orange), and Maynard Elton (3 years US Army, Mechanic, served in Germany). He also mentioned the three veterans that lost their lives in the Middle East recently.

Mayor McLaughlin stated that she would be moving agenda item #6 before comments from the public.

Agenda Item VI.

Council to consider public trail permission agreement with Lakes Region Snowmobile Club.

Motion – Councilor Dzujna moved that the Franklin City Council grant the Lakes Region Snowmobile Club permission to provide public snowmobile access to multiple City owned street/road crossings 5 years from landowner approval. Seconded by Councilor Ribas.

Mayor McLaughlin asked if there was any discussion.

Jason Grevior spoke on behalf of the Lakes Region Snowmobile Club and stated that they have been crossing these roads for years and haven't had any issues and the club tries to improve the trails regularly. No new roads have been added to the list.

The council had a small discussion and agreed to continue to allow public snowmobile access to multiple city owned road crossings.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Legislative Update:

Representative Jason Gerhard did not have any specific updates for the council and stated that he prefers people come to him with questions.

Comments from the Public:

Mayor McLaughlin stated that persons wishing to address the council may speak for a maximum of three minutes, give or take. No more than thirty minutes will be devoted to public commentary. Reminder that public comment is welcome and will be taken under advisement by the Manager & Council. Ongoing requests for status should be addressed to the city manager or her designee during regular business hours. The council is a public body required to conduct the business before it on the agenda that has been vetted through the City's professional staff.

Public comments opened at 6:13 p.m.

Many residents approached the council with comments and they are outlined below:

- Tim Morrill, VP of Mill City Park, read a letter from the president of MCP and that letter is attached to the end of the minutes.
- Judith Ackerson, Ward 3, read from a letter that she wrote and this letter can be found at the end of the minutes.
- Sam Jacobson, Ward 2, stated that he moved to Franklin and bought a house because of the White-Water Park. It is a great resource and hopes that the city continues to support it. He urged the council to support agenda item #4.
- Scott Clarenbach, Ward 3, stated that on agenda item #7 regarding a bid limited to city employees only is a problem and should be extended to the public as well.
- LeAnne Fifield, Ward 2, stated that she is in support of agenda item #4 and #5. She also recommended a workshop on how grants move through the city.
- Mike Lombardo, Ward 3, thanked MSD for patching all of the potholes recently.
- Kaitlyn Shaw, Ward 1, let the council know that she was still waiting on answers from the council on questions that she sent on January 8th and is hoping to hear back on those questions. She stated that she is also in support of agenda item #4.
- Thomas Boyce, Ward 2, read from a packet that he handed out to the council, which is attached to the end of the minutes.
- Mike Lombardo, Ward 3, mentioned that he did not believe that resident, Thomas Boyce, has any qualifications for being appointed to the Planning Board.
- Kathy Rago, Ward 3, stated that she is on the Planning Board and does not have specific qualifications either. Therefore, this is not always a factor.
- Christy Mank, Ward 2, stated that she is in favor of agenda item #4 and #5.
- Sam Jacobson, Ward 2, made a comment about the packet that was given to the council by resident, Thomas Boyce, and did not think it was fair that the public was not able to view this as well.
- Jule Finley, Ward 1, stated that she had a conversation with the mayor off of Facebook because of the number of inaccuracies on social media and she was unable to keep up with it. Due to not being on social media anymore, she let the council know that she is happy to speak with anyone in person.

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- Sam Godbois stated that there are better issues to be discussing than Facebook. She would prefer that everyone discuss real problems in the city.
- Al Warner, Ward 3, expressed appreciation for the council, past and present. He stated that if a constituent writes a considerate email, the councilors will respond. He encouraged the community to reach out to their councilors.
- Councilor Hallett-Cook let everyone know that her city email is not working at the moment and she is working with IT on the issue.

Letters/emails were read into record by Councilor Blake, Councilor Zink, and Mayor McLaughlin. These letters are attached to the end of the minutes.

Public comments closed at 7:13 p.m.

City Council Acknowledgement:

Councilor Zink thanked all of the elected officials and the City Clerk's office for a wonderful election.

Councilor Webb thanked MSD Director Hanscom for getting the traffic lights on Central Street fixed.

Councilor Dzujna acknowledged David Sabo, Andrew Perkins, Jason Jenkins and Anthony Roberts from the fire department who worked on a gentleman that was in cardiac arrest in early January. The survivor came back to the firehouse with his family to thank them.

Mayor McLaughlin called for a 10-minute break at 7:17 p.m.
The meeting reconvened at 7:26 p.m.

Mayor's Update:

Mayor McLaughlin stated that she has been very busy with answering many questions and she has been meeting with the city manager weekly as well. There was a city council workshop meeting where the councilors were able to have a meet and greet with the department heads, which was very informative. It has been a very full month and she stated that she looks forward to continuing her service as mayor.

She asked the public to use email or the mail to reach out to her and the councilors for suggestions or comments.

Agenda Item I.

Approval of Minutes.

Council to consider the minutes of the January 8th, 2024 City Council meeting and the January 29th, 2024 City Council Workshop meeting.

Motion – Councilor Zink moved that the Franklin City Council approve the minutes of the January 8th, 2024 City Council meeting and the January 29th, 2024 City Council Workshop meeting. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

Mayor McLaughlin asked if there was any discussion.

Councilor Ribas stated that page 4 of the January 8th meeting minutes there were corrections to the ordinance. He would like the revisions to be shown in the minutes.

Motion – Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council approve the amendment to the minutes of the January 8th, 2024 City Council meeting to include the corrections to the ordinance voted on that is shown on page 4 of the minutes. Seconded by Councilor Webb.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Mayor McLaughlin called a vote on the original motion to approve the minutes of both meetings as amended.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item II.

City Manager's Update

- Contingent Grant Line Activity – \$100.71 for the sex offender compliance grant, and \$75 from an anonymous donor for the recreation scholarship program.
- Trust fund for school funding – \$277.22
- Committee Meetings – February:
 - Legislative Committee – 2/15 @ 6pm in the library
 - City Finance Committee – 2/21 @ 6pm in the library
 - Joint Finance Committee – 2/22 @ 5:30pm in the library
- Council Workshop – February:
 - This is scheduled for 2/26 @ 6pm at the Lodge of Elks and this will be on Assessing 101.
- Upcoming Council Educational Workshops:
 - Looking for topics for educating the council and the public. So far, the has had requests for Budget 101, TIF 101, Grants 101, and Capital Improvements 101. Please email the her any other suggestions for workshop meeting topics.
- City SPIRIT – Save the Date & Facilitator Recruitment:
 - April 6th from 9am – 3pm at the Bessie Rowell Community Center. Looking for people to help facilitate with group discussions at this event.
- City Hall Update – The 2nd draft of the architects' drawing was received and are available for inspection at City Hall. The 3rd draft should be received in another week or so.
- Shout Out – Firefighter Mike Dery for receiving his EMS certification.

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- Recognition – To a shift that was recognized by the Concord Hospital for an amazing cardiac arrest save in January. This shift consisted of David Sabo, Andrew Perkins, Anthony Roberts, and Captain Jason Jenkins from the fire department.
- Welcome – To the PD: Nikolas Ballentine, Mariah Gage, Christopher Samiya, and Taylee Wolfe.
- Clarification – There has been some confusion between the City Calendar and the Community Calendar on the website. There are login users from different nonprofits in the community that do update the calendar. Sometimes mistakes entered are not always caught before going out.
- Stanley Mill Update – The RFP was released for the qualified engineering professional to manage the entire cleanup project, including the demolition. This is due on March 14th at 4pm.
- City Offices Closed – Monday, February 19, 2024 in observance of Presidents' Day.
- Misconception clarification from 1/8/24 – From 2013-2024 the public comments were located in the new business section of the inaugural. So, this was not changed this year.
- Merrimack County Community Power is rolling out a program to all residents of Merrimack County to purchase power from Solar Array, instead of from Eversource. More information will be coming.
- Bus Route – The Concord Laconia Connector is new and is a free bus route with two stops in Franklin. One is on Memorial Street and the other is in the Industrial Park. The bus route/stops can be found at City Hall or on their website at www.concordareatransit.com.
- Franchise Agreement Updates:
 - Breezeline – Need consensus on requiring them to have a regional office.
 - Comcast – They already have a regional office in Gilford.
 - There was no objection with pushing Breezeline to require a regional office as well.
- Senator Innis – Put in a late bill to rename the state portion of Route 127 as Chief Bradley Haas Memorial Highway/Road. That is going through the legislature. He is trying to get the signage funded by the state, but it may go back to the community to fund that.
- The community college tuition reimbursement system for 1st responders is for Firefighters, EMS, Police Officers and Corrections.
- Grants-
 - Received IT grants – MFA tokens; cybersecurity training; .gov migration.
 - Submitted Franklin Woods CDBG application on 1/29/24.
- House Bill 1479 – There is a public hearing on that at the House Legislative Administration Committee this Wednesday, 2/7, at 11am. Without objection she is going to send the letter that the council signed at the last meeting again to that house committee. Councilor Johnston asked to have his name removed. Milner stated she would send the letter out with that one name removed.

Agenda Item III.

School Board Update

Superintendent LeGallo was not present to give an update this month.

Agenda Item IV.

Council to consider setting a public hearing on Resolution 13-24 authorizing the City Manager to apply for CDFA Tax Credits up to \$625,000 to match federal funds for feature 2 of the whitewater park.

Motion – Councilor Dzujna moved that the Franklin City Council set a public hearing for 6pm on Monday February 26, 2024 regarding Resolution 13-24 authorizing the City Manager to file an application not to exceed \$625,000 with Community Development Finance Authority Tax Credit Program for the purposes of partially funding white water feature #2 and to sign all the necessary paperwork thereof. Seconded by Councilor Blake.

Mayor McLaughlin asked if there was any discussion.

Milner stated that the City previously received tax credits of \$500,000 to support the construction of the White-Water Park feature (#3), currently under construction. This application for nonfederal tax credits will net the match needed for the \$500,000 federal Land & Water Conservation Fund grant applied for in December 2023 for funding feature #2 upstream from the newly constructed feature #3 adjacent to Trestle View Park.

As a reminder, the permitted White-Water Park consists of 3 separate features in the water, as well as a slalom course between the 2 upriver features of which feature #3 is constructed to date.

The city has already received pledges from businesses to purchase tax credits under this application process. As a reminder, the city will be required to sell the tax credits after award.

If the City is approved for the tax credits, the council will have opportunity to appropriate the funding. The timeline could line up with the FY2025 budget process for appropriation.

There was a lengthy discussion about this resolution. Some of the councilors stated that they would prefer to see proof of pledges and a full application filled out and brought to the workshop meeting. Milner did let the council know that this would not be a very efficient use of employee time before the application for the grant is approved by the council.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Mayor McLaughlin read the resolution to the public:

RESOLUTION #13-24

A Resolution Relating to an application to Community Development Finance Authority's Tax Credit Program.

In the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin authorized the city manager, at its regularly scheduled city council meeting on December 4, 2023, to apply for a grant in the amount of \$500,000 through Land & Water Conservation Fund for the purposed of partially funding feature #2 of the white-water park, **and**;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin recognizes the Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant requires matching funds in the amount of \$500,000, **and**;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin recognizes that the Tax Credit Program administered by the Community Development Finance Authority is an effective tool that helped fund the construction of the white-water park feature #3, **and**;

WHEREAS, the City wishes to utilize the Tax Credit Program administered by the Community Development Finance Authority again to match Land & Water Funding and partially fund the construction of white-water park feature #2 upstream of the newly constructed feature #3, **Now**;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that at their regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council on Monday, February 26, 2024, the City Council of Franklin New Hampshire does hereby adopt resolution 13-24, authorizing the City Manager to apply for up to \$625,000 in Tax Credits under the Tax Credit Program administered by the Community Development Finance Authority and sign and take action on all relevant documents pertaining to the application for tax credits.

Agenda Item V.

Council to consider authorizing the City Manager to apply for a grant through the US Department of Agriculture for a Food Coop feasibility study.

Motion – Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council authorize the City Manager to submit a Rural Business Development Grant to the USDA Rural Development Office for funds to support a feasibility study for a food co-op within the City of Franklin. A letter indicating this authorization and support by the Mayor and Council will be sent with the application. Seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

Mayor McLaughlin asked if there was any discussion.

Milner explained that the city received grants, under this program, from the USDA Rural Development office in 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2020. All of the grant funds awarded were focused on general economic and downtown redevelopment projects. For the first two years, the grant supported the work of Niel Cannon, the Downtown Business Coordinator; in 2018, the funds supported the White-Water Park and Mill City Park; in 2020 the funds supported how to best utilize the Opportunity Zone designation in Franklin.

The city is looking to submit another application under this USDA program. This application would fund a consultant to produce a feasibility study on whether or not the region could support a food co-op located within Franklin.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item VII.

Council to consider disposition of city property in the police department.

Motion – Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council authorize the Franklin Police Department to sell, via a bid process open to anyone, for the best possible price, a 2002 John Deere Gator. Seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

Mayor McLaughlin asked if there was any discussion.

The City of Franklin participates in the Military (1033) Surplus Program. The program consists of Controlled Property and Non-Controlled Property at no cost to the City of Franklin Police Department.

Controlled Property consists of military items that are provided via a conditional transfer or “loan” basis where the title remains with the government. This includes items such as small arms/personal weapons, demilitarized vehicles and aircraft and night vision equipment. This property always remains in the Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) because it still belongs to and is accountable to the Department of Defense. When a law enforcement agency no longer wants the controlled property, it must be returned to the Department of Defense for proper disposition.

Non-Controlled Property consists of common items Department of Defense would sell to the general public, such as office equipment, first aid kits/supplies, hand tools, sleeping bags, computers and digital cameras. The “Gator” in this CAR falls under Non-Controlled Property. After one-year, non-controlled property becomes the property of the law enforcement agency. It is no longer subject to the annual inventory requirements and is removed from the LESO database. This general property should be maintained and ultimately disposed of in accordance with provisions in state/territory and local laws that govern public property.

The vast majority of property issued to law enforcement agencies each year is non-controlled. In 2019 for example, 92 percent of property issued was non-controlled. Normally, small arms weapons make up about 5 percent and less than 1 percent of property issued is tactical vehicles.

The “Gator” attached has been owned by the Franklin Police Department since 2019 and has not run for the past 2 years. If approved, the Franklin Police Department will oversee the sale of this Non-Controlled Property. Any proceeds from Military Surplus Program will be deposited back into the City of Franklin General Fund Police Department Miscellaneous Revenue budget per the agreement of the program.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item VIII.

Council to discuss city council meeting schedule policy.

Mayor McLaughlin stated that Milner had included the meeting schedule, the charter and code, since there was a bit of back and forth on the creation of the packet.

Milner stated that the City Council meeting schedule with closing dates is what city staff uses for getting information to her office for the agenda and then the packets on the Wednesday before the council meeting. In the code it states that the mayor will approve the content of the agenda and also the order of business for the meeting. She had a discussion with the mayor about not approving the agenda until receiving the packet items so she wanted to run this by the council to see if they wanted to change the policy that was put in place on May 5th, 2008.

The policy that can be changed by the city council is the meeting schedule. With the City Charter, the council has to ask the public to change that and for the City Code/Chapter 50, an ordinance would need to be done by a public hearing.

The council is referring the policy for review to the Legislative Committee along with the Social Media policy and the Master Plan.

Agenda Item IX.

Other Business:

1. Mayor & Council Appointments:

Mayor McLaughlin appointed Thomas Boyce to the Planning Board Committee, seat PB4, term of service to January 2027.

Mayor McLaughlin appointed Donald Gagnon to the Planning Board Committee, seat PB6, term of service to January 2027.

Mayor McLaughlin appointed Denis Duquette to the Planning Board Committee, seat PB7, term of service to January 2027.

Mayor McLaughlin appointed Stephen Donahue to the Conservation Commission, seat CC7, term of service to September 2026.

Mayor McLaughlin appointed Scott Godbois to the Conservation Commission, seat CC6, term of service to September 2024.

Motion - Councilor Johnston moved that the Franklin City Council appoint Robert Warner to the Supervisors of the Checklist, Ward III, seat SCW32, term of service to October 2, 2024. Seconded by Councilor Ribas.

All in favor. Motion PASSED

Motion - Councilor Dzujna moved that the Franklin City Council accept the

resignation from David Liberatore from the LRPC Commission as an Alternate, effective immediately, with regret. Seconded by Councilor Zink.

All in favor. Motion PASSED

2. Committee Reports:

Councilor Webb stated that the Legislative Committee would be meeting on February 15th @ 6pm at the Franklin Library. The agenda items will be approving the minutes from the October 11th, 2023 meeting, Customer Aggression Policy Review, review Ordinance 04-24 on Groundwater Protection, review Ordinance 05-24 regarding parking revisions, review Ordinance 07-24 regarding Flood Zones, follow-up on commercial solar, and scheduling a meeting for Charter Review.

Motion - Councilor Johnston moved that the City Manager direct staff to proceed with filling out the application for the CDFA tax credits, but not submit the application, so that it can be brought to the February 26th, 2024 meeting for City Council review before the final vote regarding Resolution 13-24. Seconded by Councilor Prive.

Councilor Blake asked if he was asking to have city staff spend their time on completing an application that may never be submitted and he said that was correct. There was a discussion about this not being an efficient use of staff time.

6 opposed; 3 in favor. Motion FAILED.

A blank application will be provided at the public hearing at the February 26, 2024 City Council workshop meeting.

Councilor Ribas stated that he will be using the same form for the City Manager's review, as done in April. He will be sending it to the council to review. It is an annual process typically done in April.

3. Late Items:

There were no late items.

4. Nonpublic Session Needed:

Milner stated that they were ready to enter into a nonpublic session.

Motion – Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council enter into nonpublic according to RSA 91-A:3, II (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse

to those of the general community. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Councilor Blake yes Councilor Hallett-Cook yes Councilor Starkweather yes

Councilor Webb yes Councilor Dzujna yes Councilor Prive yes

Councilor Johnston yes Councilor Ribas yes Councilor Zink yes

All in favor. Motion PASSED

Entered into nonpublic at 9:08 p.m.

Motion – Councilor Zink moved to leave nonpublic session and return to public session. Seconded by Councilor Ribas.

All in favor. Motion PASSED

Public Session reconvened at 9:50 p.m.

Motion — Councilor Zink moved to seal the minutes. Seconded by Councilor Ribas.

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Councilor Blake yes Councilor Hallett-Cook yes Councilor Starkweather yes

Councilor Webb yes Councilor Dzujna yes Councilor Prive yes

Councilor Johnston yes Councilor Ribas yes Councilor Zink yes

All in favor. Motion PASSED

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Zink and seconded by Councilor Ribas.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Jones
Executive Secretary

February 5, 2024
City Council
Franklin, NH 03235



Dear Mayor and City Council,

This morning, two Board Members of Mill City Park sat down with the Mayor to introduce ourselves, discuss our organization, our successes and challenges, and our upcoming year and events.

We thank the Mayor for her time and appreciate our positive conversation about the park; how she enjoys it frequently with her dog and how she recognizes the positive benefits the park and movement have already had for the Franklin community.

As always, we are open to truthful and honest dialog, and we look forward to further collaborating to move Franklin forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Laucks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Laucks
Board President,
Mill City Park at Franklin Falls

To: Madame Mayor
From: Judith Ackerson
Re: Public Comment
Date: February 5, 2024

Good evening, Madame Mayor. I have some concerns about recent bills that have been proposed in the NH House of Representatives. There are several but I will focus on just two for tonight, **regardless of whether these bills have progressed in the Legislature. I would like to know if you are personally tracking these bills.**

HB1652 is a local school voucher bill. It proposes that instead of covering the state cost of education under the current program, each municipality would have to add their share of cost per pupil to the student's scholarship fund administered outside our district. This amount would be equal to twice the per pupil adequate education grant under RSA 198:40-a. These vouchers would apply to students who are not or have never been enrolled in Franklin school. This bill will throw our budgets into disarray and significantly raise property taxes.

HB 1691 requires that schools emphasize teaching only reading, math, science and social studies. All other subjects would become optional, such as: technology (a must to survive in today's world), languages, arts and music which teaches multiple skills and motivates students to keep up academically, and physical education and sports, so vital to our youth's health. Property poor towns would have to eliminate these important subjects or greatly increase taxes to keep these programs, thus widening the education gap in NH.

Madame Mayor, do you see these as pressing matters for our community and, if so, what are your plans to address these concerns? Do you have regular discussions with our state representatives, Messrs. Testerman, Gerhard and Mason, to raise concerns about issues that directly impact this community? My observation is that they have not introduced any bills that advocate in any way for Franklin's public schools. How do you plan to address this?

What are your plans to have open lines of communication with our school board and staff to learn what the effects of these bills, and others, will have on the health and future of our youth?

I would appreciate a written response to the above concerns well prior to our next City Council meeting, scheduled for March 4th. Thank you for your attention and consideration of these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Ackerson, 3 Morning Glory Drive (Ward 3), email: ackerjack45@gmail.com Tel. 603-369-0574

**CONCERNING
PUBLIC
COMMENTS BY
CERTAIN CITY
LEADERS.**

The City Manager, members of the Economic Development Team, and some sitting council members complain that there is a lot of "misinformation" posted on social media lately. And the city manager and some council members seem to want a social media policy. Yet it seems that some of the same individuals have no problem when a member of the Economic Development Team, Marty Parichand, shares a post on social media that that misrepresents himself to be the "owner" of Mill City Park at Franklin Falls. Councilor Blake herself was a board member of MCP and knows full well that Marty does not own MCP, however based on the attached screenshot, she seems to have no issues with this social media misrepresentation.



Outdoor New England - ONE
Dec 6, 2023

Headed to York on Saturday to hang with Grain Surfboards and talk Mill City Park at Franklin Falls and Franklin Falls NH community!

Hope to see you there! ❤️ 🇺🇸



Grain Surfboards · Follow
Dec 5, 2023

Join us this Saturday for a conversation with @mahhhty

As the owner of @outdoornewengland and @milcityparkatfranklinfalls, Marty has a wealth of knowledge on all things small business, outdoor recreation, and community.

Tap the link in our bio to learn more about Marty and his projects as well as event deets!

🔗 in bio or 🌐 <https://grainsurfboards.com/blogs/grain-stories-2/surf-re-evolution-mini-series-marty-parichand-outdoor-new-england>



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Marty and his projects as well as event deets:

🔗 in bio or 🌐 <https://grainsurfboards.com/blogs/grain-stories-2/surf-re-evolution-mini-series-marty-parichand-outdoor-new-england>



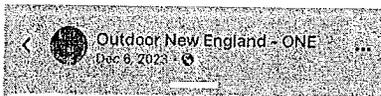
2024 Mini Series

Featuring: Marty Parichand

A conversation on outdoor businesses and their impact on local communities.

👤 Leanne + 36

5 shares



All 37 📷 31 🗣️ 5 📌 1



Christine Dzuljna
83 mutual friends



Nancy Gero
1 mutual friend

Add friend



Emma Erler
1 mutual friend

Add friend



Vicki Eff



Will Clark
1 mutual friend

Add friend



Deb Vasko



Central NH NEMBA



Johannah Brown
2 mutual friends



Alicia Young



Valerie Blake
12 mutual friends

Add friend



There is also concern that board members of Mill City Park, a non profit organization registered through the Charitable Trusts Unit, have also misrepresented the reason for their grant denials (on social media), telling the public that grants were denied because Franklin is no longer economically disadvantaged and because of the public and private partnership as seen below. Mr. Fournier also publicly stated that the bond was an effort for their nonprofit to finish the work they haven't been able to complete. The City Manager, board members of MCP, including Councilor Blake, been all have been asked to provide proof of Mr. Fournier's public statements about grant denials on several occasions. Not one person is willing to do so. There should be no reason the City Manager doesn't provide proof of his statements, unless what the public was told was an intentional misrepresentation on social media by a member of this nonprofit, that is overseen by a member of the Economic Development Team. Perhaps is time for the Right to Know Ombudsman to be notified of these concerns so an answer can be provided to the community.



Stacey Marsland

Andrew Fournier as a board member of MCP, I think it's time that the Board tells citizens WHY grants were denied in 2022. Can you please provide a copy of those denials for the public to see?

3w Like Reply



Andrew Fournier

Stacey Marsland grants were denied because Franklin is no longer economically disadvantaged to qualify. And since it is a public/private partnership we didn't get them. Also, Mill City Park is a non-profit, we share the same name as the park and land, which are all owned by the city of Franklin.



Andrew Fournier

We applied for many grants and one of the denials was for the reason I stated above. I am a board member of a non profit and not a city of Franklin official or public employee. I have tried to explain some of the details of this park and project. No matter what I say or provide you obviously won't change your minds, it seems like it's only provide the next gotcha. So I will excuse myself from this now.

3w Like Reply

Jonathan's post

...



Andrew Fournier

Jonathan Bowers ok, you didn't explicitly say it, but it is implied ad nauseum. So, if we're really going to do this, here goes: we (the non-profit mill city park) are not behind on ANY BILLS and we have never missed a payment. Our primary funding was through economic grants, grassroots donations, support from local businesses like FSB and much to our surprise, Franklin (despite your best efforts to sell doom and gloom) is

Jonathan's post

...

Jonathan's post

...

and gloom) is actually doing well enough economically that they no longer qualify for some of these programs. So we went into this project thinking we'd get all the funding needed through EDA grants and others. That's no longer the case. We found out about this about a year ago. We have continued to explore and exhaust all of our funding options. The bond is an effort to finish the work we started and keep building this park.

As you stated, Marty is part of a TEAM of people that have far more economic data and insight than most. It's not some secret cabal with off shore accounts. These are people with deep ties to Franklin working for its betterment.

Sometimes things change, forecasts don't always pan out, pandemics happen the economixd of an entire city improve and we adapt, hence the bond.

What we plan to do if

Jonathan's post

...

Jonathan's post

...

the bond.

What we plan to do if the bond fails: we plan to keep doing grassroots fundraising. We plan to get camping going and continue the work to improve the beautiful walking trails and resources that are FREE to anyone, resident or visitor. We plan to continue to exist and continue to work on the park because it's something we believe in.

I have spent countless hours working along side

I have spent countless hours working along side Marty, board members and people from the community on this park (cant say ive ever seen you there). Ive donated equipment time, my time and resources to working on it. We've held fun events free of charge and continue to plan more.

Iw like Park

Board members of the Opera House (another nonprofit organization now asking for taxpayer dollars) have also made public statements on social media about the reasons for grant denials for the waterpark, yet they, too, seem unwilling to provide proof of their statements. The same board members tell Franklin residents to move. It was also discovered that board members of the Opera House were misrepresenting the safety of this building on their enrollment forms for the summer 2023 program which they shared on their own webpage.

REGISTRATION -- FACT programs are for children entering Grades 1 through 8.

You can also register and pay online —
<http://www.franklinoperahouse.org/F-A-C-T.php>

- I wish to enroll my child in the
2023 FACT Performance Camp (\$150)

Camp meets Monday through Friday, July 24 to Aug. 4
from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Franklin Opera House.
Performances are August 4 & 5 at 7:00 pm.

Child's name: _____

Child's birth date: _____

Parent/Guardian(s): _____

Mailing address: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact phone: _____

Medical information Please describe any medical issues that
we should be aware of: _____

**Release of Liability
for Class Participation**

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless Franklin Opera House (hereinafter referred to as Theatre), its Employees, Agents, Officers, Board Members, Volunteers or any other person against loss or expense, including attorney fees, due to any bodily injury, personal injury or property damage which may result from any and all activities while participating in classes or any other activity sponsored by or conducted by Theatre, or while visiting any facilities owned by, leased by, or controlled by Theatre.

Theatre guarantees that all equipment and facilities are in good repair and are appropriate for the purposes to which they will be put, and personnel are appropriately trained and screened.

It is understood and agreed that this Release of All Liabilities shall remain in force for not more than one year from the date of this Release.

_____. I am a parent/guardian acting on behalf of a child under 18 years of age.

Date _____

Signature _____

pay by check OR you can pay with credit or debit card by calling our office at (603) 934-1901

Please return this completed form with check payable to
"Franklin Opera House, Inc" by mail to:
Franklin Opera House, Inc., PO Box 172, Franklin, NH 03235

Judith Ackerson

 Everyone
has a choice. Sell and
move out if you want!

Judith Ackerson

Dear Marty, the whitewater park has been a major economic driving engine for downtown revitalization of businesses: Waterhorse, Kettlehead, Vulgar, Chinburg investment in apartments, e Bikes, Downtownn Crepes, just to name a few. Chinburg would not have invested here but for the progress of the

water park. I understand that thee reason you need \$2.5 M to finish the project is that granting organizations have told you that they have already contributed as much as they are willing until they see the City of Franklin put some skin in the game. I am

Over the last year, it has also been verified on numerous occasions that the City Manager's office is providing false information about meetings on the city website. This has happened many times, to the point that people are starting to question if this is being done intentionally to have less people show up at meetings where controversial topics are being discussed.

The City Manager's Office first told citizens that Candidates Forum was being held at the Franklin Opera House on September 25, 2023. This was inaccurate; the forum was being held at the Franklin Lodge of Elks on September 25th, NOT at the Opera House. It was then discovered that the City Manager's Office was then inaccurately telling residents that the candidates forum was being held on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, which was after the election. The City Manager's Office was telling citizens that the October 10, 2023, City Council meeting was being held at the Franklin Lodge of Elks. The location noted was false; this meeting was being held at the Franklin High School. And most recently, the City Manager's office told the public that the Inaugural City Council meeting was being held at 11:49 in the morning on January 8, 2024, when in fact it was scheduled to start at 6:00 that evening. These are just some examples of misrepresentations... made by the City Manager's Office.



Candidates Forum

Event Date: Monday, September 25, 2023 - 6:00pm to 7:30pm

The annual Choose Franklin Candidates Forum takes place the last Monday of September at 6 PM at Franklin City Hall / Franklin Opera House with school board and city council candidates invited to share who they are and why they are run-

[Home](#)

City Council Meeting

Location: Lodge of Elks

Event Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 - 6:00pm

City Calendar

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1			
5	6	7	8			
12	13	14	15			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- Candidates Forum
6:00pm to 7:30pm
- Zoning Board Meet
6:30pm

[Home](#) » [Community Organizations](#)

Candidates Forum

Event Date: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 - 6:00pm to 7:30pm



Home

City Council Inaugural Meeting @ Lodge of Elks

Event Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 -
11:49am

[View Event Details](#) | [View Event Details](#) | [View Event Details](#) | [View Event Details](#) | [View Event Details](#)

Emails obtained between the City Manager's Economic Development Team show a pattern or disrespectful behavior from almost all members. Neil Cannon calls Franklin residents' idiots, and also refers to members of a grant agencies dumb as sticks. In another email, Marty Parichand is thanking the City Manager and councilor Blake for a beautiful evening and fireworks. Can all three included in this email please explain the context of this to the public? The substance of this email is concerning and gives many in our community the perception that that some members of the Economic Development Team, including one who was asking for millions of taxpayer dollars his non-profit, think it's funny to start trouble in our community.

And Neil Cannon telling the City Manager that he can't wait to see her in her kilt? This is highly inappropriate, concerning, and raises concerns as to what kind of relationship this is, given that the City Manager is his supervisor. This should be explained. The City Council, now on record or being made aware of this behavior, should also be questioning and addressing this matter, along with the concerns being raised by the public about the content of these emails.

Chandler

Marty Parichand <marty@burlingtonnewengland.com>

Sent time: 12/05/2022 09:00:13 PM

To: City Manager <citymgr@franklinnh.org>; Valerie Blake <valblake@franklinnh.org>

Attachments: [v] ParichandTopic3.00

Judie & Valerie

What is Councilor Chandler's email address?

Thank you, for such a beautiful evening! I certainly enjoyed the fireworks. Sorry about starting them...

Marty

MARTY PARICHAND

Founder

174 Central Street | Franklin, NH 01215

shop: 603.671.7028

gear shop | QuiddysNewEngland.com

adventure | FISHONE.com

Sent: Monday, June 19, 2023 2:47 PM

To: 'Jim Aberg' <jaberg@franklinnh.org>; City Manager <citymgr@franklinnh.org>; Seth Creighton

<S.Creighton@franklinnh.org>; Marty Parichand <marty@burlingtonnewengland.com>

Subject: Tonight

Importance: High

Copy:

Looking forward to this evening (NOT!). Two things.

- 1 I would recommend that we not talk about hotel specifics.... "we are still talking". It is one of several investment opportunities being looked at in the downtown, all spurred - at least in part - by the WWP! However, if we get too detailed it will open up the developers to negative trash from the idiots, and if the deal subsequently falls through it will be "I told you so". The Council has been briefed on the details and they are the ones that count for now.
- 2 I talked to Jim and he is going to talk about the facts that:
 - We can no longer base our community's future on "hope" that some economic or political marvel will come to our fiscal rescue
 - Anheiser-Busch, Exit 21, and the proposed PSN/Eversource transformer station were all hoped-for economic "miracles" that never happened and were governed by decision-makers outside of our control. Decades of this has got to stop.
 - What's the lesson here? We need to govern our own future. We believe the WWP is key to that future. Yes, it is difficult to understand the impacts. It is not as simple as saying that "a new company is coming to town; it will create 150 new jobs and pay

4 01 14

From: Niel Cannon <nielcannon16@gmail.com>
Sent time: 06/20/2023 12:13:30 PM
To: City Manager <citymgr@franklinnh.org>
Subject: Bond Calculator
Attachments: image001.jpg Bond Calculator.xlsx

Here you go!



I can't wait to see you in your new kilt!

It's also been noted that a member of the Economic Development Team (Marty Parichand) is allowed to have his personal "for profit" business (Outdoor New England) advertised on the City Website as a "community organization". It should be explained publicly why the City allows this "for profit" business use the City website to promote his business. Are all "for profit" businesses in the city granted this right?



- FBIDC Menu -



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Community Organizations

Organization Name	Contact	Address (Franklin, NH 03235)	Phone	Web Link
Choose Franklin	Katelyn Nash	P.O. Box 304	603-934-8222	Website
Community Action Program CAP		2 Industrial Park Drive, Bldg. 2, Concord, NH 03301	603-225-3295	Website
		P.O. Box		

AA

franklinnh.org



Outdoor New England	Marty Parichand	376 Central St	603-671-7028	Website
Peabody Home	Marylee Gorham	24 Peabody Place	603-934-3718	Website
Red Oak Montessori School	Karen Darling	241 Sanborn St	603-934-1002	
Riverside		681 1st	603-	



Another big concern is how our City Manager and elected officials talk about and treat members of our community, on record in public. Yet, many of these same people complain about social media.

Current City Councilor Ted Starkweather is on record at a public meeting referring to residents as "oddballs".

Current City Councilor Valerie Blake is on record at a public meeting calling a Franklin Resident a "thug".

City Manager Miller is on record at a public meeting calling a Franklin resident "psychotic".

This leads me to the City Spirit program. There is concern that the city manager, some current councilors, and the past mayor Jo Brown involved with this program have not been fully honest with the DOJ representatives as to WHY many in our community are upset with the way some elected officials and members of the Economic Development Team have treated residents, including the audios that have surfaced, over the last year. Transparency is very important.

Thank you for your time and attention to the above matters.

Thomas Boyce.

My name is Sandra Vasko and I am a Franklin resident. I am writing in regard to recent activity in the city with respect to the federal Point In Time (PIT) count of homeless and subsequent social media dialogue about this same subject matter. There appears to be a need for further information and understanding on this count and the importance of Franklin's participation and representation in the State's overall submission.

As noted in HUD's recent 2023 Annual Homeless Assessment Report the national number of unhoused people has risen a stunning 12% in the last year with individuals over 55 and those 13-29 as the hardest hit. In addition, the report indicates that New Hampshire was one of the states with the largest percentage increase (52%) between 2022 and 2023¹. It appears cities, like Franklin, could see benefit from future federal plans and financial decisions regarding housing and treatment and support services. It would be helpful if we could have a future workshop regarding the national PIT count and the potential impact and outcome of Franklin's numbers on the State's overall picture. Franklin residents could profit hearing from local/city of Franklin contracted providers and state experts on homelessness, housing affordability and accessibility, treatment services and supports and the current financial picture in the state for this population. Not only would this increase overall awareness within the city but may answer questions for those in the community who are concerned about our city's "health". This information might also assist planners in formulating adequate responses and solutions for impacted Franklin residents.

As a concerned citizen and neighbor, I appreciate the opportunity to present this request and look forward to future presentations and discussions to encourage more positive debate on this apparent issue.

¹ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development.

The 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2023-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

Lisa Jones

From: Olivia Zink <councilorzink@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 7:10 PM
To: Lisa Jones
Subject: Fwd: Roads

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rosalie <rosalie8@myfairpoint.net>
Date: January 28, 2024 at 8:54:31 AM EST
To: ozink@franklinnh.org
Subject: Roads

I know it's not the time of the year for paving roads, but I think we need to get back on track and get all our city streets paved. Some of them are horrible to drive on. I would think that some of the bad holes could be patched, even though it's a temporary fix, until Spring when paving could be done. I have lived in Franklin since 1964. Bought our first home in 1987. Our second, in 1971. I have never seen the streets in Franklin deteriorate to the level they are now. Please bring my concerns to your next meeting.

Rosalie Philibert