

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 2, 2014**

Call to Order

Mayor Merrifield called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor Giunta. Mayor Merrifield apologized for the late start of the meeting. He introduced Lucas Gagne who played the National Anthem on his guitar.

Public Hearings

Ordinance #06-15 – this ordinance concerns eliminating the language “at the discretion of the tax collector” as brought forward during the July City Council Meeting. Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing; no one came forth to speak; the public hearing was closed.

Ordinance #07-15 – this ordinance changes the sewer code to match the late payment fee in the water code as adopted by the City Council and removes the language “at the discretion of the tax collector.” Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing; no one came forth to speak; the public hearing was closed.

Choose Franklin

Mrs. Sarah Stanley, Co-Chair of Choose Franklin informed everyone that Candidacy Night will be held on Monday, September 29th at City Hall, doors open at 6:00 p.m. with the forum beginning at 7:00 p.m. and at the next Choose Franklin meeting discussion will be held on what questions to ask the candidates. Anyone is welcome to submit questions and if unable to attend the Choose Franklin meeting at 8:00 a.m. Thursday, September 4th you may forward questions to a Choose Franklin member. On Wednesday, September 10th at 4:00 pm in the Franklin Library Mr. Richard Towne, Franklin High School Principal will address what skills businesses need for successful job placement and how can those skills be best acquired through a vocational track at the high school. He is hoping to find ways within the school to assist students so they will have skills to offer the local businesses. This is a real opportunity for the school and businesses to work together for a mutually beneficial outcome.

Mr. Mark Lorenze with the Webster Lake Association advised that the Pavilion has been completed and Code Enforcement made an inspection which passed without any problem. He advised that the Webster Lake Association will be responsible for the care of the Pavilion and if someone wishes to have a gathering at the Pavilion they are to contact the Franklin Parks and Recreation Department.

Mrs. Christine Dzujna announced the Animal Shelter will hold their Walk for Paws Saturday, September 27th. Registration is at 10:00 a.m. and walks will begin at 11:00 a.m. and you have a choice of a 1 mile walk or a 3 mile walk.

Mr. Paul Morsette, business owner in Franklin addressed the Mayor and Council expressing his support for the things Mr. Workman is trying to bring forth in Franklin. He stated that the downtown area continues to deteriorate and nothing is being done and he stated he blames the Council for some of this. He stated the downtown continues to lose businesses, so many empty spaces and he further stated between him and Mr. Workman they own 75% of the downtown area. He strongly stated we need to support Mr. Workman's project.

Chief LaChapelle invited all to the Open House at the Franklin Fire Department on Saturday, October 4th 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Fire Department will be celebrating Fire Prevention Week.

Senator Hosmer addressed the Mayor, Council and guests and offered information on some of the issues taking place in the Senate. He commented on the poor condition of roads and bridges. He advised he is involved in the issue of healthcare as one plan does not fit all.

Representative Leigh Webb commented that the City has a real gem in the Welfare Director Sara Tracy and that she does a great job with the Welfare Department but also does countless other things for the City.

City Council Acknowledgement

Councilor Dzujna thanked the Franklin Fire Department for their performance in helping two patients who had gone into cardiac arrest, due to their quick reaction

both patients survived. He also commented that Concert in the Park with Music with the Mayor was great and he also thanked Councilor Barton for his presentation at the Liaison Committee Meeting concerning Junior Achievement for the school.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Councilor Desrochers that the Franklin City Council approves the minutes of the August 4, 2014 City Council Meeting and the June 17, 2014 Budget Workshop Meeting. Motion seconded by Councilor Feener.

Mayor Merrifield pointed out that on Page 2 of the August 4th minutes; Mr. Lorenze's name was misspelled.

All in favor; minutes approved as corrected.

Consideration of Grant Application for a Pedestrian and Bicycle Pathway in the Mill District

Councilor Giunta recused himself as his firm would be interested in making a proposal on this project. Mr. Workman discussed the project and stated that rather than going forth with the entire project, it is proposed to have it in phases and Phase I would be a \$200,000 project and he would offer to incorporate \$25,000 out of the Buell Block. Phase I would take the path to Memorial Street.

Motion was made by Councilor Clarenbach and seconded by Councilor Boyd to create a committee to research the project and provide a letter of support for TAP. All in favor, motion passes.

Presentation by Lori Shibinette, RN, NHA concerning creating communities for Senior Citizens

Ms. Shibinette reported that annually it costs over \$100,000 for a person to live in a nursing facility and the number of elderly continues to increase. She stated they are hoping to work with communities to develop elderly housing units, perhaps a

building that could offer scaled down rent or land where housing could be built for the elderly. This type of housing offers independence for the elderly.

School Board Report

School Board Chair Tam Feener announced the new Athletic Director is Danny Sylvester. School Board will meet September 15th at the Middle School. An ice Cream Social to meet and greet Superintendent McKenney will be held in the cafeteria. School has started without any problems.

Ordinance #06-15

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council adopts Ordinance #06-15 changing Franklin Municipal Code, Chapter 289-21E which eliminates the language “at the discretion of the tax collector.” Motion seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

Roll Call Vote:

***Councilor Boyd – Yes
Councilor Clarenbach – Yes
Councilor Cournoyer – Yes
Councilor Desrochers – Yes
Councilor Dzujna – Yes***

***Councilor Feener – Yes
Councilor Giunta – Yes
Councilor Starkweather – Yes
Councilor Barton – Yes***

All in favor, Ordinance #06-15 is adopted.

Ordinance #07-15

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council adopts Ordinance #07-15 concerning Franklin Municipal Code, Chapter 245-16J which the late fee charge for the sewer from \$5.00 to \$10.00 and eliminates increases the language “at the discretion of the tax collector.”

Roll Call Vote:**Councilor Boyd – Yes****Councilor Clarenbach – Yes****Councilor Cournoyer – Yes****Councilor Desrochers – Yes****Councilor Dzujna – Yes****Councilor Feener – Yes****Councilor Giunta – Yes****Councilor Starkweather – Yes****Councilor Barton – Yes****All in favor, Ordinance #07-15 is adopted.****Review of 1015-2016 Legislative Policy Recommendations**

Manager Dragon had requested the Council review these policies and advise of any that the Council does not wish to support.

Mayor Merrifield stated on Page 15, No. 5 Site Evaluation Committee and Local Input. The Mayor also commented that school funding to support the issue of not changing formula after adopting.

Disposition of Surplus City Equipment

Motion made by Councilor Starkweather that the Franklin City Council authorizes the Municipal Services Director to sell, for the best possible price, all items referenced on the attached "2014 City of Franklin, Surplus Equipment List" using the State of New Hampshire, Department of Administrative Services White Farm Auction, to be held on October 18, 2014. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers. All in favor; motion passes.

Motion made by Councilor Starkweather that the Franklin City Council authorizes the Municipal Services Director to transfer ownership of the Kobota L175 Tractor, Serial 10919, from the Transfer Station to the Ski Area, under the control of the Franklin Outing Club. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers. All in favor; motion passes.

Other Business

Committee Reports – Councilor Dzujna advised that November 10th will be the Joint City Council/School Board Meeting. He also advised at the last Liaison Committee Meeting a Walk Around was discussed for both the City and the School.

City Manager's Update – Manager Dragon advised the City Staff participated in another webinar at the Fire Station to preview a program called Govqa that could assist with Code Enforcement. She stated they are waiting to learn if the program can be integrated with the City's GIS Mapping Program. The initial cost is \$3,500 which is for set up and then a subscription monthly charge of \$350. For an additional charge the building permit program could be added to the system.

Choose Franklin will meet September 10th at the Franklin Library and High School Principal will be the guest to discuss a high school curriculum that could be partnered with businesses.

The Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Plan for Lakes Region has been revised and a copy is available at City Hall.

Watts a few months ago issued a No Smoking Policy on all their property. They have now rescinded that policy and are providing containers for garbage/cigarettes at certain areas on their property.

City Council Reappointment to the Lakes Region Planning Commission TAC

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council reappoints the City Manager as a Member of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). Term of Service to August, 2015. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers. All in favor; motion passes.

Mayor Reappointments to the Franklin Conservation Commission

Mayor Merrifield reappointed Donna Liolis to the Franklin Conservation Commission. Term of Service to September, 2017.

Mayor Merrifield reappointed Nita Tomaszewski to the Franklin Conservation Commission. Term of Service to September, 2017.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II a, the dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Cournoyer – Yes

Councilor Barton – Yes

Councilor Feener – Yes

Councilor Starkweather – Yes

Councilor Giunta – Yes

Councilor Desrochers – Yes

Councilor Dzujna – Yes

Councilor Clarenbach – Yes

Councilor Boyd – Yes

All in favor. Everyone took a short break and then entered into non-public session at 8:35 p.m.

During the non-public session Municipal Services Director Sullivan requested approval to upgrade one of three Water Department Light Equipment Operators to a Heavy Equipment Operator. If approved, the Water Department would have two Light Equipment Operators, one Heavy Duty Equipment Operator and a Working Foreman.

Motion made by Councilor Giunta that the Franklin City Council approves the upgrade of one Water Department Light Equipment Operator to a Heavy Equipment Operator. Motion seconded by Councilor Feener. All in favor; motion passes.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Feener, seconded by Councilor Desrochers. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sue E. May