

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 1, 2015**

Call to Order

Mayor Merrifield called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall.

In Attendance

Councilor Dzujna, Councilor Giunta, Councilor Wells, Councilor Desrochers, Councilor Feener, Councilor Barton, Councilor Starkweather, Councilor Boyd, Councilor Clarenbach, Mayor Merrifield and City Manager Dragon.

Councilor Desrochers advised that Franklin lost a member of the Greatest Generation in May. Mr. John Fuller past away at the age of 93. Mr. Fuller and his wife served in the US Navy in World War II and were interned in the NH Veterans Cemetery May, 2015. Councilor Desrochers requested a moment of silence for all veterans and render a military salute during the pledge to the flag in honor of Mr. and Mrs. John Fuller.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor Desrochers.

Public Hearings

Open Enrollment Plan for the Franklin School District pursuant to the provisions of RSA 194-D

Mayor Merrifield stated he believes no other school district in New Hampshire has adopted Open Enrollment so the Mayor commented he will attempt to explain open enrollment. The Mayor stated open enrollment provides for a district to declare they have open enrollment schools to allow students, with parental permission, from other school districts to enroll in the open enrollment of that school at 80% of the cost of the sending district's costs as calculated by the Department of Education. The Franklin School District would like the City Council to accept this open enrollment plan and are required to hold a public hearing.

Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing. Supt. McKenney addressed the Mayor and Council stating the scheduling of the public hearing is the semi-final step in declaring two of our schools as open enrollment schools. The plan has

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been approved by the School Board and now requires the approval of the City Council. That declaration states that the Franklin High School would be open enrollment; 4 through 8 grades in the Middle School and Grade 8 which will be housed at the High School next year which would also be open enrollment grades. What prompted the School District to do this was the loss of Hill students. The total loss was over \$600,000; however, 24 students have elected to stay in Franklin which reduced the cost 50% to \$300,000. Once this is approved by the City Council, a form for open enrollment will be prepared and July 1, 2015 open enrollment can be offered.

Each student that comes to Franklin from open enrollment would offer about \$10,000 addition to the school budget. Supt. McKenney stated they hope in two weeks they will have all the programs in their budget and if this is the case Franklin will be able to hopefully attract students. He advised that he has had 3 people tell him they would like to send their son or daughter to Franklin. He has heard there are others out there but has only been told by 3 people. Currently in the budget they are only planning for 5 students but are hoping for many more. The final decision as to who is accepted rests with the Franklin School District. Some have asked about special education students and open enrollment does not have to accept anyone but if a special ed student is accepted all costs would be paid by the district he or she is coming from. Once a student is accepted, they do not have to apply each year, they stay until they complete the years to the school they were admitted. There is no obligation to provide transportation; however, if there were 20 students from one town they might want to look into transportation.

Councilor Barton asked how many schools in New Hampshire have open enrollment and Supt. McKenney responded none, Franklin would be the first. Mr. Leigh Webb spoke in favor of the open enrollment plan stating anything that will improve Franklin's schools is a good thing and as long as it does not create any additional expense which has been addressed that there is no additional expense. Representative Horn commented he is very excited about the open enrollment plan. No one else came forth to speak; the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Discretionary Preservation Easement, 2 Punch Brook Road – Request for Discretionary Preservation Easement was withdrawn.

Street Light Energy Project – This project may present a possible 50% savings to the City and would pay for itself in 5.33 years. Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing. Mr. Leigh Webb asked if the company that was hired, was it hired as a consultant to guide the City in finding energy solutions and are the same company the City is paying now to remove and replace boilers, etc.? Manager Dragon responded it is the same company that put the package together for the City. Subcontractors will be doing the actual work. The company the City hired is the one that is going through the buildings doing energy audits, applying for different rebates for the City, and investigating different financing options.

Mrs. Annette Andreozzi stated her concern is with the technology involved and stated she would like an investigation into a municipality in New England that has done this with lighting for some period of time. She stated she is concerned what if in a few years problems begin to happen and the company that made all the guarantees is no longer in existence and will they pay you the money they have guaranteed to the City. Mayor Merrifield advised there are representatives of the company here tonight so when the Council takes up this project on the agenda those questions can be answered and any other questions. Mr. Leigh Webb noticed that the agenda states the project would pay for itself in 5.33 years and then generate revenue for the City. He asked if revenue is being confused with savings. Manager Dragon stated it would be described more accurately as savings. Mr. Webb also asked are there any other municipalities that have done this lighting. Mayor Merrifield advised when we get to this project on the agenda those questions can be answered.

Representative Horn asked what is the scope of the project and was informed \$165,200 for 500 lights. Representative Horn asked if that would cover the entire community and Manager Dragon responded yes it will. Mrs. Andreozzi asked if the lights downtown that are fairly new would be changed and she was advised they are not part of the project.

No one else came forth to speak; Mayor Merrifield closed the public hearing.

Comments from the Public

Mrs. Tam Feener, Ward II advised the Mayor and Council that they are still having problems with power outages on Evergreen Avenue. The power was out on March 26th-27th, April 9th and May 27th. She stated she has called the Public Utilities Commission concerning this issue.

Councilor Desrochers stated a resident inquired as to what is being done about the Rowell Auction House building on Route 11. Another resident wants to know what is being done about Prospect Street and a resident wants to know why people are allowed to park in front of St. Mary School both sides and why the snow was not removed in the flats this past winter.

Legislative Comments

Representative Horn asked if there are any questions for him. Mayor Merrifield asked if Rep. Horn is aware of what the Senate might have done with Adequacy Aide and if they have changed anything in the House version of Adequacy Aide. Rep. Horn stated that his understanding is they have not changed anything which calls for 10% reduction in the money coming out which is the best plan they can come up with the Superintendents Association.

Councilor Boyd asked Representative Horn if he is in favor of the Northern Pass Project and Rep. Horn responded he is absolutely in favor of Northern Pass.

City Council Acknowledgements

Councilor Feener expressed his appreciation to Shop Express for removal of the signs advertising cigarettes on their fence. Mr. Bob Lucas and Councilor Feener went and talked to the owner of Shop Express and they were very cooperative and removed the signs. Councilor Feener stated it is nice to have a business downtown that is willing to cooperate with the City and Drug Task Force.

Councilor Desrochers stated he received a call from a resident complimenting the Municipal Services Department on the great job they did with the plowing of snow this winter. Councilor Desrochers also advised he does not know the person's name that is writing these notes but for the past two years when visiting the Holy Cross Cemetery where is Father is buried (he was in World War II) and a

Great Uncle (who was in World War I) and on their stones is a small American Flag placed with a note attached which says "thank you for service, fighting for my freedom, fighting for my future, taking the risk of death to save and protect us. I love you veterans for all the battles you have fought and the soldiers you have lost." Councilor Desrochers stated he wishes to thank whoever this is for their thoughtfulness and patriotism.

Councilor Dzujna thanked Manager Dragon and all the Department Heads for the terrific job they did with Youth Government and thanks to the Elks for their great job.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council approve the minutes of the May 4, 2015 City Council Meeting. Motion seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

Councilor Starkweather stated on Page 8 it reads Director to see, and should read Director to sell for the best price. Mayor Merrifield pointed out on Page 1 where it state May 25th is Memorial that Day was left out and should read Memorial Day.

All in favor; minutes approved as corrected.

School Board Report and Report on Scholarship Funds Raised

School Board Chair Tam Feener suggested a thank you note be sent to Shop Express for taking down the tobacco signs. Open Enrollment is moving forward and it is hoped Franklin can market their schools in other communities. School Board Meeting and Public Hearing on the budget are scheduled for June 15, 2015. The new Superintendent Dan LeGallo will begin July 1, 2015. Next Liaison Meeting is scheduled for June 23 at 6:00 p.m. and Supt. LeGallo will attend. Paul Smith School Ukulele Club performed at the Fisher Cats Baseball Game on Thursday, May 28, 2015. And, finally the little Brown Shed has been removed. Detailed information concerning the report and important dates is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Bob Lucas, Co-Chair of the Scholarship Program stated they have been doing lots of things to raise money so that the School Board itself can award a \$500 scholarship. It is planned to award one scholarship to a student that is seeking a career in education. Requirements area 3.0, and an essay and the scholarship will be awarded after the completion of the first semester. \$500 has been raised.

Resolution #13-15 – this resolution concerns the Street Light Energy Project

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council approves Resolution #13-15 concerning the Street Light Energy Project; motion seconded by Councilor Boyd.

Mr. Mike Davey, EEI who has been doing the energy improvement in the buildings for the last year and half offered the following information. The proposal tonight is to change the current lights throughout the City with the exception of downtown. All the lights are currently owned by Eversource and ownership of the lights will be transferred to Franklin. About one year ago the Public Utilities changed the pricing structure because they had so many complaints from many municipalities on the cost of street lighting. The City of Franklin's cost for electricity to operate the street lights is about \$67,000 yearly. The Commission introduced a new pricing structure that allows LED lighting conversion which reduces your wattage by about 50% so the pricing structure reduces your rate by 50% when you go to LED as well as rebates are being offered on a first come basis to encourage municipalities to convert to LED. Currently there is only one City in front of Franklin and that is the City of Manchester so Franklin will be second in line to receive this rebate which will be approximately \$49,000+. The City of Boston has converted many of their lights to LED beginning in 2009 and is using the same product line that is being proposed for Franklin which is Phillips. All Phillips products carry a 10 year warranty and the life of the lights if not hit my lightening can extend over 16 years. Mr. Davey stated this project will pay for itself in 5.2 years and he showed everyone a sample of the proposed light fixture. The fixture is called a road view but there is also a smaller light that would save about \$15,000 from the project and change the 5.2% 2-year payment to 4.96%. The annual energy savings have already been approved by PSNH and have confirmed that the City would save over \$30,000 per year and with a 6-year lease

from CDFA it would be about \$1,000 more than the lease payment with the road focus and with the smaller light it would average about \$4,600 per year, the savings would be about \$4,600 more than the lease payment with the smaller light and a \$1,000 with the road focus. The City will own the lights, however, in the agreement labor for maintenance is included so if one of the lights breaks, the City is responsible for the cost of the light and Eversource will supply the labor but for 10 years the City is covered for any faulty products and the labor is covered in the rate. EEI is also responsible for a one-year warranty on the lights and labor. Councilor Clarenbach asked how bright are these lights and Mr. Davey stated they provide equal light and a more even distribution light and a wider light. Councilor Desrochers asked what the total cost of the project will be and Mr. Davey stated it depends upon which fixture is selected. The road focus which is the wider profile would be \$216,000 and the smaller light would be \$200,000. The rebate is \$49,000. Councilor Starkweather asked if the City could request a lower wattage on these LRD light and Mr. Davey yes you can but what he would propose to do as the first step is to do a lighting audit to determine what is actually out there in the way of numbers of lights. He further stated you wouldn't want to request the lowest wattage everyone, it would depend on the location and what you are trying to do and then work with the engineering staff to create a layout that is best for the City. Councilor Starkweather stated there are lights in the City that serve no purpose and could be eliminated and Mr. Davey stated that can be addressed in the layout. Councilor Giunta commented that in 10 to 16 years the lights will have to be replaced so a capital reserve fund should be set up for the replacement. Mayor Merrifield commented that if the Council wants to set up a capital reserve fund, they can do that.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Clarenbach – Yes
Councilor Boyd – Yes
Councilor Feener – Yes
Councilor Wells – Yes
Councilor Dzujna – Yes

Councilor Starkweather – Yes
Councilor Barton – Yes
Councilor Desrochers – Yes
Councilor Giunta – Yes

All in favor of Resolution #13-15, the Street Light Energy Project

Amateur Radio Repeater Site Lease with the Central New Hampshire Amateur Radio Club

Motion made by Councilor Clarenbach that the Franklin City Council approves the one-year non-exclusive lease with the Central New Hampshire Amateur Radio Club beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016. Motion seconded by Councilor Dzujna. All in favor; motion passes.

Other Business

Committee Reports – Councilor Dzujna reminded everyone that June 23rd is the Liaison Committee Meeting and the new Superintendent will be in attendance.

Manager's Update – in the contingency grant line \$109.06 received from Join the NH Clique Grant and \$660.70 a donation for Canine Officer Max from Lion's Community, May Garden and Virginia Snell. Manager Dragon reminded everyone that this Thursday, June 4th is a budget workshop, one on June 9th, June 18th the School is scheduled to present their budget, June 22nd is outside agencies and June 25th is the wrap up workshop. Manager Dragon mentioned that as of late the Fire Department has had a real spike in EMS call and fire calls. The Police Department is also seeing a spike in calls.

Late Items

US Cellular Lease Amendment #2

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council approves Amendment #2 of this current lease with NH #1 Rural Cellular, Inc. and authorize the City Manager to sign the Amendment. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers. All in favor, motion passes.

Presentation and Announcement from CATCH

Ms. Caite Foley advised that she is here tonight to talk about a proposed development that CATCH Neighboring Housing has been exploring. She is joined

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by the President of CATCH Ms. Rosemary Hurd as well as Kyle Barker from Orange Street Architects who has been doing the design work for this project. Ms. Foley turned the presentation over to Ms. Rosemary Hurd.

Ms. Hurd advised they are all very excited to be here this evening. She stated she was reminded that she was here eight years ago for a design charrette and now we have the next generation of CATCH ably assisted by our Vice President Ms. Foley of real estate development. Ms. Hurd stated they are a 25 year old, non-profit group that was set up to serve Merrimack County and the affordable housing needs of Merrimack County. She stated they are a little different than most non-profit group; they are very businesslike in their approach to their service that is provided to all of their residents and the cities and towns with whom they do business. She stated they are a very present landlord and they make a huge commitment to the cities and towns they serve. She stated they are very eager to create a long term relationship with Franklin.

CATCH is looking at approximately a 45 unit development that would be a ten million dollar project, one and two bedrooms. They would apply for historic tax credits as they are very committed to restoring historic resources. The project would include the low income tax credit, home fund, community development block grant and some neighbors work American funding. The rents would be \$700 to \$925 monthly and CATCH has their own property management company so they manage their own projects. Maintaining the property and maintaining a safe environment is important to CATCH. Councilor Desrochers asked what income level you will target. Ms. Foley advised they will be targeting 50% to 60% of the area median income, 20% will be designated to those earning 50% or less of the area median income which differs depending upon your household size, for one person at the very lowest 50% the most you can make is \$28,650. On the other hand, the least you can make to live in the building is \$24,000. A family of four can earn up to \$50,000 living in the 60% unit. Councilor Wells inquired if there would be a need to address a traffic issue and was informed that all kinds of traffic studies would be done. Ms. Foley advised their funding applications will be due around the end of August and will be awarded or not by the end of the year and construction would begin September, 2016. Manager Dragon stated CATCH Housing has been a terrific organization to work with and when the tour of the

building was done and learning of the possibilities she stated she was very excited. She stated the building is in a wonderful location near Odell Park and overlooks the river and CATCH has a great reputation and they have designed a very nice and tasteful project for Franklin.

Mayor Merrifield stated he is very excited about the potential with this project and very happy that CATCH chose this particular building and the thought of bringing families to this facility can only help Franklin's businesses in the downtown.

Councilor Giunta commented that some of us have seen these two ladies before and that was during the charrette concerning Franklin for a Lifetime and Ms. Foley and Ms. Hurd were a major part of that study and now here they are going forth with a project for the City. Ms. Foley commented that during the Lifetime for Franklin studies is where she met most everyone and have since seen many of you several times while visiting Franklin. Mr. Barker also was involved in the charrette 18 years ago so he has also been involved in the revitalization ideas for Franklin and Ms. Hurd participated 8 years ago. All this has been invaluable in getting to know the community and what is important and the types of things your residents stand behind.

Ms. Foley stated she has never gone into a City where people were more positive and more welcoming and saying yes, let's get this done, how can we do it together, what can we do, please come in with all of your ideas and let's make this happen. She stated after experiencing that she was very invigorated and believed that she could make it happen and encompass all of the ideals that came out of that, and the shared vision of what we all think the downtown will be and this is a great starting place. She stated she knows others smaller visions will happen in the meantime as there are some very motivated people here and she stated she is happy to be a part of it and is happy that the weekend was shared with her.

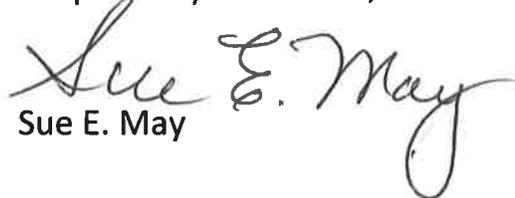
Mr. Barker stated they spent a fair amount of time listening to the people in Franklin and experts that came in during the charrette. One of the things that CATCH will be doing is focusing on the quality of the living spaces not just the quantity or the cost effectiveness and he stated it will not be just another affordable housing exercise but encompass the community aspect and be energy

efficient. He stated the design of the building is going to be a little bit different and will break down into 4 – 7 groups of units. Ms. Foley stated they are hoping to put their building permit application in for the June 24th meeting. City Manager Dragon thanked Mr. Workman for helping broker the deal with the Foresters and as part owner of the building with CATCH housing, it was an important step and Mr. Workman was a big part in brokering that arrangement. Mayor Merrifield also expressed his thanks to Mr. Workman.

Councilor Giunta commented on the problem of power outages and the frequency that they seem to be occurring often which makes you wonder what is going on up on Evergreen Avenue. It appears in that area they are not getting reliable power. Councilor Giunta asked what can the Council do as a group, can a letter be sent to Eversource? Manager Dragon stated she had received an email from Mrs. Feener concerning this problem and the email was forwarded to Eversource and Manager Dragon states she receives responses but just have to keep the pressure on. Councilor Feener commented that if you remember when Eversource came here in March they stated they had solved the problem but obviously they have not. What really is needed is a new line.

***Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Feener, seconded by Councilor Desrochers.
All in favor; meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,


Sue E. May