



City Council Meeting July 25, 2016

Call to Order

Mayor Merrifield called the meeting to order in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall at 6:01 p.m.

In Attendance

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

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor Giunta.

Mayor Merrifield recognized Tyler Arnold as a graduating senior from Franklin High School who is joining the military. He is a three (3) year varsity baseball athlete, named to the second team all-state with a team leading batting average of .436. He is also an honorable son of a Marine. The Mayor proclaims Monday, July 25, 2016 as Tyler Arnold Day.

The Mayor had a similar honor for Mike Morang as well who was not in attendance.

Public Hearings

Resolution #01-17: A Resolution regarding the approval of the FY17 Budget for the City of Franklin.

Several people spoke to the Council about this Resolution but mainly focused on funding of the schools, the state appropriation to the schools, tax cap, the school appropriation and they included: Jennifer Weaver, Glen Feener, Leigh Webb, Charlie Chapple, Jaclyn Clark, Jen, and Jeff Savary.

Comments from the Public

Persons wishing to address the Council may speak for a maximum of three minutes. No more than thirty minutes will be devoted to public commentary.

A gentleman spoke about cable tv LRPA and not having it anymore but would like to have it return. There are several elderly people who can't get around or don't have vehicles so they don't have access to information of what is going on in the City or with the government of the City and would like to have access to that. Mayor Merrifield stated that the cost was around \$20K and at that time the Council felt that for such a high cost the value wasn't there and the money was needed for other things like the school and roads. City Manager Dragon also stated that the new Metrocast contract separated out all the towns/cities so you could now only view what was going on in your community only. Since then the City has made great strides in getting the word out via the website and the

newsletter and continues to look at other ways they can communicate with the community. Leigh Webb spoke, as he was on the LRPA board, and stated it was a lot of money for the value received and you could only get it if you were a cable subscriber. They are looking at reaching a greater number of people and that is probably going to happen over the internet.

Leigh Webb spoke about the Withdrawal Committee and what is happening and why it is on the agenda. It is in the hands of the State Department of Education and if any changes need to happen it will have to come back to the Withdrawal Committee to make those changes. Their term of office was to end in August so that is the reason for the extension.

A woman from Riverside Housing spoke that there are several people in that housing area not being able to afford cable or the internet and what other ways would you help them get that. Mayor Merrifield stated that they would have to investigate every way they can. She then stated that if they can't get that then they would not be able to have the information. They also can't afford the paper. The LRPA was nice for those who can't get out of their homes to see some things that they can't normally see elsewhere like a church service.

Legislative Comments – None

City Council Acknowledgements – Councilor Desrochers wanted to acknowledge Jennifer Weaver's husband who is on his fourth (4th) deployment and that is such a sacrifice on her and her husband's part and wanted to thank her for that and her husband for his service.

Mayor's Update – Mayor Merrifield wanted to update about the State's obligation to fund education under the constitution. He has been in contact with the Mayor of Nashua, the Mayor of Dover and the Chair of Selectman of Northfield and that there is a letter that is being funded by the City of Nashua with comments from Franklin, Northfield and the Mayor of Rochester who has also joined the effort. This letter is aiming towards litigation or legislative action and the chances of succeeding are a lot better if it is not one community alone.

Agenda Item I.

City Council to consider the minutes of the May 23, June 13, & June 14, 2016 City Council Budget Workshop Meeting, June 20, 2016 Joint City Council and School Board Budget Workshop Meeting and June 6, 2016 City Council Meeting.

Motion: Councilor Clarenbach moved that the Franklin City Council consider the minutes of the May 23, June 13, & June 14, 2016 City Council Budget Workshop Meeting, June 20, 2016 Joint City Council and School Board Budget Workshop Meeting and June 6, 2016 City Council Meeting. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

All in favor; motion passes.

Agenda Item II.

School Board Report – School Board Member Burns spoke and thanked the Council for their help through the process. He stated they are working on their strategic planning and their Mission for Vision and they will vote on that next month and present to Choose Franklin on Oct 6. He is working with NH Public Policy who is working to get some grants from NH Charitable Trust Foundation and hoping that will help create their scorecard. School Board Member Hallett-Cook is working with her communications and community engagement and will be reaching out to communities to get that going. There is a liaison meeting on Aug 8 to look outside the box and work on ways to get an EOL Coordinator that was cut from the budget.

Agenda Item III.

City Council to consider adopting of Resolution #01-17, a Resolution regarding the FY17 Budget for the City of Franklin.

Motion: Councilor Dzujna moved that the City of Franklin adopt Resolution #01-17. A Resolution regarding the FY17 Budget for the City of Franklin. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

Roll Call:

Councilor Clarenbach	<u> X </u>	Councilor Dzujna	<u> X </u>	Councilor Barton	<u> X </u>
Councilor Starkweather	<u> X </u>	Councilor Wells	<u> X </u>	Councilor Boyd	<u> X </u>
Councilor Desrochers	<u> X </u>	Councilor Giunta	<u> X </u>	Councilor Zink	<u> X </u>

All in favor; motion passes.

Agenda Item IV.

City Council to consider tax deed repurchases.

City Manager Dragon explained that there are two properties for repurchase. Notices were sent out to property owners, required under the statute to be able to purchase the properties back, and these property owners have provided the funds to repurchase them. This is to approve the transfer back and have City Attorney Fitzgerald create the documents to do the transfer.

Motion: Councilor Clarenbach moved that the City of Franklin deed back 422 Salisbury Road Map/Lot #058-005-00 upon receipt of all back taxes and interest and penalties (minus the 15% of assessed value penalty). Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

All in favor; motion passes.

Motion: Councilor Clarenbach moved that the City of Franklin deed back 377 New Hampton Road Map/Lot #128-006-000 upon receipt of all back taxes and interest and penalties (minus the 15% of assessed value penalty). Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

All in favor; motion passes.

Agenda Item V.

City Council to consider granting the SAU Withdrawal Committee a 90 day extension of their term.

City Manager Dragon stated there was a change and she is requesting the extension to be one additional year and that is because that is what is allowed under the statute and also added “upon completion of their work whichever comes first” was per the guidance of City Attorney Fitzgerald.

Motion: Councilor Clarenbach moved that the City of Franklin extends the term and reappoints the current members of the Franklin SAU withdrawal planning committee for one additional year or upon conclusion of their work whichever comes first. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

All in favor, Councilor Giunta and Councilor Dzujna recused themselves; motion passes.

Agenda Item VI.

Other Business

- Committee Report** – Councilor Dzujna reminded everyone about the August 8 Liaison meeting downstairs. He wanted to thank the dept. heads of the City, City Manager Dragon and Finance Director Milner for their hard work on putting the budget together this year. He understands that this is something that we have to work together on but we also have to look closely at the administration at the school and not the teachers.

Councilor Boyd stated that he has lived here for many years and having been the police chief for many years and on the council for many years what Councilor Dzujna just stated is absolutely correct. The City Council is going to work closely with the School Board, the principals, and the new superintendent as it is extremely important that the schools be taken care of and that we think about that very much.

Councilor Giunta stated that he wanted the Finance Committee to know starting in August we will begin meeting monthly probably on the date that is normally reserved for the Council which is the fourth Monday of each month but will confirm.

2. **City Manager's Update** - None

3. **Late Items** - None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Giunta and seconded by Councilor Clarenbach. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauraine G. Paquin