

August 1, 2016 meeting,

The Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday August 1, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Robert S. Scott presided. Vice-Mayor Patti Abel, Aldermen Joe Collins, Adam Kimsey, Billy Mashburn, Brandon McMahan and Barbara McRae were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was done

Adoption of the August 1, 2016 Town Board Agenda

Mayor Scott – I would like to make an appointment to the Eclipse Committee if that's alright. I would like to appoint Alderman Brandon McMahan. He has shown interest in that.

Motion was made by McRae, seconded by Kimsey to adopt August 1, 2016 Town Board Agenda with the addition of another item to appoint a representative to the Regional Eclipse Committee. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Motion was made by Kimsey, seconded by McRae to appoint Alderman Brandon McMahan to the Regional Eclipse Committee. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Approval of July 5 and July 19, 2016 Town Board minutes

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by Abel to approve to the July 5 and July 19, 2016 Town Board minutes as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Public Session

No person spoke during the public session.

New Business: Tax Releases

Jessie Wilkins – Tax Collector – This release is for the Woodlawn Cemetery Burial Association property. Richard Lightner of Macon County made the decision to release these based on plots that were sold and were not taxable.

Motion was made by McMahan, seconded by Kimsey to approve the Woodlawn Cemetery Tax Release as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy of the tax release is attached.

Jessie Wilkins – Tax Collector – The next tax release is for the vehicle tax. On July 12, 2016 Macon County Commissioners released uncollectable motor vehicle taxes for years 2008 through 2014. I need Board approval to release the below listed amounts for our tax receivables.

Motion was made by McMahan, seconded by McRae to release the specified vehicle tax receivable amounts from 2008 through 2014. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy of the tax releases are attached.

August 1, 2016 meeting continued,

Jessie Wilkins – Tax Collector – The next release involves our ordinance. We need to release 132 minimum 2016 tax bills of \$5.00 or less in the amount of \$301.78. I have a detailed list of taxpayers available if you wish to review. The next tax releases involve billing errors. They include releases for Orchard View Apartments, Macon Housing Development and Smokey Mtn. Healthcare PA.

Motion was made by McRae, seconded by Kimsey to release 132 minimum tax bills of \$5.00 or less for 2016 for a total amount of \$301.78. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Motion was made by Abel, seconded by Kimsey to release taxes for Apartments at Orchard View for \$3,780.92, Macon Housing Development for \$4,935.62, and Smokey Mtn. Healthcare for \$150.76. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

New Business: Budget Amendments

Kyra Doster – Finance Officer – You will find the attached budget amendments. One is for the appropriation of \$12,800 for the North Carolina Bike and Pedestrian Grant. The next one is for \$18,884 for Memorial Park Restoration. The other three are insurance settlement checks.

Motion was made by Abel, seconded by McRae to approve the presented budget amendments: to appropriate \$18,884.00 for Memorial Park Restoration grant funds into the 2016-2017 fiscal year; to appropriate required match in the amount of \$12,800.00 for the North Carolina Bike and Pedestrian Grant; to appropriate \$14,879 from 2011 Caprice Police car total loss into Police Vehicle Maintenance; appropriate \$1,363.00 from Fund Balance into Fire Vehicle Maintenance; appropriate \$4,811.00 from retained earnings into Water and Sewer Equipment Maintenance. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy of the budget amendments are attached.

New Business: Street Closing Request for Candlelight Vigil for Suicide Awareness and Prevention

Motion was made by McRae, seconded by McMahan to close Iotla Street on Friday September 9, 2016 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. for the Candlelight Vigil for Suicide Awareness and Prevention. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

New Business: Resolution to authorize Tax Collector to collect 2016 taxes

Motion was made by McRae, seconded by Abel to authorize Town of Franklin Tax Collector to collect 2016 taxes. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy of the resolution is attached.

New Business: Town of Franklin Water Treatment Plant Project

Town Manager Summer Woodard presented the Water Treatment Plant Project schedule. A copy of the schedule is attached.

August 1, 2016 meeting continued,

New Business: Lakeside Drive Sidewalk Project

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – This is a portion of the sidewalk at Lakeside Drive by the new brewery. This is an update. I know the Board really wants to address our sidewalk needs. We are looking at replacing this section of the sidewalk beginning at the brewery and ending at Duke Energy's new access point. You can see in the PowerPoint at how dilapidated the sidewalk is. It's heavily utilized and in dire need of upgrading. We did bid this project out and we will do some of it in-house. Our Public Works Director talked to the U.S. Postmaster to relocate six new mail boxes. This is good news because I know in the past that hasn't happened. This is just one project where we wanted to show you what we have been working on. Next week the contractor will begin additional work and I know our crews will begin some demolition work on the sidewalk. So this is how we are using some of our Powell Bill funds.

New Business: Traffic Calming Solutions

Alderman McRae – I moved onto Harrison Avenue about seventeen (17) years ago. It's changed a lot. Now there are a lot of families living there. What I hear a lot from my neighbors is that they love living in town and being able to walk, but they want us to do something about the speeding. I know that's the perception, whether speeding is a problem or not. I did some research and found some traffic calming solutions, which I first discovered when I participated with the Main Street Program when it was founded. I like some of the ideas about barriers. I like the idea of not spending a lot of money on something before knowing it is going to work. A lot of these are European ideas. It's just trying to get people to slow down. They explain that narrower streets slow people down. Which is exactly what happens when you think about it. I do exactly this when I'm driving on Bidwell Street. It's a psychological thing. For Harrison Avenue I like the idea of building the sidewalks out, and moving the parking spaces to one side.

Alderman Collins – I'm just curious. It's a state road correct?

Alderman McRae – It is. It's not 28 anymore. I just thought this would be something good to look at.

Mayor Scott – There are portable speed bumps, which might work. If we get a lot of complaints we could put a portable speed bump out and put a sign by it. They are not expensive. I'm not sure. I haven't talked to Chief Adams about it, but I would like to ask the Board if you would be willing to allow us to pursue this further, and maybe spend about \$2,000 on the portable speed bumps. They come in 10 and 12 foot sizes. I would just hate to start writing tickets because it cost so much. It's \$400 or \$500 to go to court, and insurance expenses as well.

Alderman Mashburn – We do have some liability issues with this. What's the speed limit on Harrison Avenue?

David Adams – Police Chief – It's 35 mph.

August 1, 2016 meeting continued,

Alderman Mashburn – I did notice that you placed the police speed trailer out there. What have you seen? Have you had any accidents?

David Adams – Police Chief – We watch it most of the time. Usually they are going about 40 mph. I don't recall any accidents in the last couple of years. We might have had a few by Sunset where the speed limit is 45 mph.

Alderman Mashburn – I can't recall any accidents either. And the speed limit throughout town is 35 mph?

David Adams – Police Chief – It's 35 mph unless otherwise posted?

Alderman Mashburn – Would we not be better off asking the state to change it from 45 mph to 35 mph? I mean sometimes they aren't going as fast as we might think.

Alderman McRae – I think that's probably true. But I will say we have had at least four telephone poles completely destroyed on Harrison Avenue because they are right there on the curb.

Alderman Mashburn – I think we need to look at this a little closely. I'm not for putting anything on Harrison Avenue. And we are talking about a state road and not a town road.

Alderman McRae – The state wants to be about pedestrians and bicycles. So maybe they would be for this.

Mayor Scott – I serve on the RPO for the state Department of Transportation and they are beginning to rethink traffic control. We do a great job of moving vehicles, but we don't do a good job of moving people. They are putting in a lot of roundabouts. But if there is no objection I think we should move on this for further study.

Alderman Collins – What do you mean by we?

Mayor Scott – The Police Chief, the Fire Chief, this Board.

Alderman Collins – I mean are you going to establish a committee? Because you are talking about a real comprehensive approach. First we have city streets we control and we have state streets and highways with which we have less control over.

Mayor Scott – Let's start gathering some information. We have a Streets Committee, Fire and Police Chiefs, the Town Manager.

Alderman Collins – But is there a suggestion that we take this money and buy \$2,000 worth of things and start putting them out in the streets?

Mayor Scott – That was a suggestion that I had.

Alderman Collins – I'd like to think that we would be a little deeper into the plan than that.

August 1, 2016 meeting continued,

John Henning Jr. – Town Attorney – Let me suggest a starting point because there are liability concerns with this. Let me look into this more and come back next month for an additional report.

Mayor Scott – If that's aggregable with the Board I don't have a problem with that.

Legal: Tyler Technologies Software License and Services Agreement

John Henning Jr – Town Attorney – This is a model program that I've adapted for our Town. This is about maintaining the personal identifying information of our utility customers. We need to consider adopting this because of the other two documents I have before you, which are the South Data Services Agreement. Please approve this so we can transmit this data to the two companies. I'll be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Abel to approve the Resolution adopting an Identity Theft Prevention Program. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy of the Resolution is attached.

Legal: South Data Services Agreement

John Henning Jr. – Town Attorney – I did look this over and I am okay with its contents.

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – This will allow the Town to go with a third party billing contractor. It will be more professionalized and allow our customers to be billed and pay online. It will look more like a Duke Power bill. We are hoping this program will be live by October 1.

Alderman Collins – Is this in our budget?

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – Yes it is.

Motion was made by McRae, seconded by Abel to adopt the South-Data, Inc. Billing Service Agreement. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Legal: Tyler Technologies Software License and Services Agreement

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – This is what we discussed during the budget process. We are going to transition to a new software provider, and we have met with them several times to start the conversion process. We want to go live July 1. They will be replacing our current software provider.

John Henning Jr. – Town Attorney – You don't need to vote on this since it was part of the budget process.

August 1, 2016 meeting continued,

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by Kimsey to enter into closed session at 7:36 p.m. Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5), to establish or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease, being that property located at 196 West Palmer Street. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Motion was made by McMahan, seconded by McRae to enter back into open session at 8:05 p.m.

No action was taken.

Announcements:

Mayor Scott announced that applications for the fiscal year Non-Profit Funding Pool are available at Town Hall and online at www.franklinnc.com. All applications are due Monday August 22, 2016 by 5 p.m.

Mayor Scott announced that Public Safety Day will be Saturday August 27, 2016 at the Town Gazebo from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Mayor Scott announced that Town Hall offices will be closed Monday September 5, 2016 in observance of Labor Day, and the Town's next regularly schedule meeting will be Tuesday September 6, 2016 at 7 p.m.

Mayor Scott – Does anyone have anything they want to discuss?

Alderman Collins – As things come to our minds let Summer know so we can start a sheet. Sometimes when you don't write it down you forget about it, and next thing you know you miss your opportunity to discuss it. There is a lot of camaraderie on this Board. I think we really need, like Mayor Scott suggested earlier, to get some plans on future trafficking. As ideas come to us get Summer to write those down so we don't forget.

Alderman McRae – Has anyone seen the plans for 441 South?

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – I have not.

Mayor Scott – We did discuss it at RPO, but I haven't seen it.

Motion was made by Abel, seconded by McRae to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Robert S. Scott, Mayor

Chad B. Simons, Town Clerk

