

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
June 6, 2022**

THE FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL held a regular meeting on Monday, June 6, 2022, at 6:00 pm. in the Town Hall Board Room located at 95 East Main Street Franklin, NC.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jack Horton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Vice Mayor Joe Collins, Council Members David Culpepper, Stacy Guffey, Mike Lewis, and Rita Salain.

Adam Kimsey wasn't present and was excused by a motion by Vice Mayor Joe Collins and Council Member David Culpepper. The motion carried unanimously. Vote 5 - 0.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Joe Collins.

3. PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Horton presented a proclamation to representatives attending.

A.) Cherokee/Scottish Heritage Celebration

4. ADOPTION OF THE June 6, 2022 TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA

Council Member Rita Salain made a motion, seconded by Council Member David Culpepper to adopt the Town Council Agenda for June 6, 2022.

5. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR June 6, 2022

- A.) Approval of May 2, 2022 Town Council regular meeting minutes
- B.) Approval of May 9, 2022 special called meeting minutes
- C.) Budget Amendment – Fire Department Fire House Subs grant fund
- D.) Renewal Contract – Wayah Insurance
- E.) Application to Macon County July 4th Fireworks
- F.) Rezoning Request to Planning Board – 138 Sloan Street

Vice Mayor Joe Collins made a motion, seconded by Council Member Stacy Guffey to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote 5 – 0.

6. PRESENTATIONS

- A.) Franklin Police Department Assessment – Bill Hollingsed, Executive Director, NC association of Chiefs of Police. Mr. Hollingsed presented his originations assessment of the department after the request of the Town of Franklin. The report is organized into three levels of priorities that needs to be addressed at the police department. During this assessment Mr. Hollingsed and his staff interviewed the Chief of Police, supervisors, officers and staff. The presentation ended with

Mr. Hollingsed suggesting the Franklin Police Department look into being an accredited NC agency.

- B.) ADA Transition Plan – Keith Pugh, Client Success Manager, Withers Ravenel. Mr. Pugh went over the process for the formation of the plan. Which included public input, surveys, staff visits to town own buildings, public sidewalks and curb ramps. Mr. Pugh discussed policies, reporting procedures and guidelines created from the plan. Mr. Pugh then discussed an overview of issues in buildings and sidewalks that need to be addressed.

Council Member Stacy Guffey made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rita Salain to adopt the ADA Transition Plan and for Chris Waldroop ADA Coordinator to work to include our exciting Bike Walk Plan in upgrades to the ADA Transition plan. The motion carried unanimously. Vote 5-0

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A.) Town Planner Setser presented the initial zoning of property located at 3011 Georgia Road. This would be to provide an initial zoning designation for the recently voluntarily annexed property. The request is to zone the property C-2 as recommended by the Planning Board.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:43 p.m.

No one addressed the Town Council.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:46 p.m.

Council Member Rita Salain made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mike Lewis to approve the initial zoning of property located at 3011 Georgia RD to Commercial Secondary C-2. The motion carried unanimously. Vote 5-0.

B.) Town Manager Amie Owens presented the 2022 -2023 Fiscal Year Budget to the Town Council. The projected budget is requesting an ad valorem tax increase from \$0.32 to \$0.35. The total proposed balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023 is \$10,430,716. The Town Manager wasn't requesting a vote on the budget on June 6, 2022 because the fire department was requesting a tax increase from the Macon County Commissioners. The county hasn't made a decision on the \$0.070 tax increase from the previous \$0.0545 rate.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:47 p.m.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:57 p.m.

8. PUBLIC SESSION

No one signed up to speak at Public Session.

9. New BUSINESS

A.) Opportunity Appalachia Grant – Town Planner Justin Setser presented an overview of the Opportunity Appalachia Grant program. Mr. Setser then gave a history of the Scott – Griffin Hotel building in downtown Franklin. After discussing the history of the building Mr. Setser announced the Town of Franklin partnership with the Jacobs family. Together they have been awarded a \$65,000

Technical Assistance grant from Opportunity Appalachia to restore the building back into a boutique hotel with rooftop restaurant. It is projected the project will create 30+ jobs and cost between \$5 to \$7 Million dollars. Council Member Joe Collins said this is exciting. Mayor Jack Horton said this project can be a catalyst to downtown businesses and jobs. Mayor Horton asked Janet Greene if she had anything to say on behalf of her family. Janet spoke about how happy her father would be to see this project being completed. Council Member Stacy Guffey thanked Mr. Setser for working on this project and actively looking into grant opportunities like this. Council Member Rita Salain asked if there was any match associated with this grant. Mr. Setser replied yes the town would need to pay \$5,000 to the pay it forward fund as required by the grant.

- B.) Street Closure Request – Tim Shaw, SK828. Mr. Shaw requested to have a portion of Carolina Mountain Drive closed on July 2, 2022 for a music fund raiser from 3:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. July 3, 2022.

Council Member Stacy Guffey made a motion, seconded by Council Member David Culpepper to approve the closure. The motion carried with a vote of 5-0. After the vote Town Manager gave an update on the current status of the skate park project.

- C.) Request water and sewer line extension – Stuart Sloan, Owner and Bill Deal, Public works Director. Stuart Sloan came before Town Council to ask for a water and sewer line extension to the site of the old Summit Inn to build 10 new homes on the property. Stuart and Bill Deal said the lines would be built to town specifications so the town could assume owner ship of the lines once completed.

Council Member Mike Lewis made a motion, seconded by Council Member David Culpepper to approve the line extension. The motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

- D.) Metering Agreement – Scenic Ridge – Town Attorney John Henning and Bill Deal Public Works Director. The request by Town Attorney and Public Works Director was to convert the original plan of a master meter for the development and to go to individual meters for each homes site.

Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Joe Collins to approve the line extension. The motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

10. ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

A.) Council Member Stacy Guffey brought up regulating the use of Drones below buildings and at head height of visitors. Council Member Stacy Guffey would like the town to look into creating regulations so drone operators can't operate drones below buildings and at face height of people in the city limits. Town Attorney John Henning discussed various potential legal matters that can be created about this matter. ***Consensus was Town Attorney John Henning said he would look into what regulations that could be created.***

B.) Council Members Rita Salain is concerned about people parking on Main Street all day. It was discussed that Highlands has an ordinance and the Town of Franklin should look into doing something similar.

C.) Council Members David Culpepper is concerned about political signs in the roundabouts.

D.) Council Member Joe Collins is troubled about JE Dunn not helping more with the skate park.

Mayor Horton reminded the Town Council that their next meeting would be on Tuesday, July 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Mike Lewis made a motion, seconded by Council Member David Culpepper to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5 to 0.

C. Jack Horton, Mayor

Reviewed by: Amanda W. Owens, Town Manager
Acting Town Clerk

Prepared by: Justin Setser, Town Planner