

**July 6, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen was held on Monday, July 6, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Joe Collins presided. Aldermen Jerry Evans, Joyce Handley, Billy Mashburn, Carolyn Pattillo and Bob Scott were present. Alderman Verlin Curtis was absent.

**Approval of the minutes**

**Motion was made by Pattillo, seconded by Curtis to approve the minutes for the June 1, 2009 meeting as presented with the following addition: “as well as The Franklin Press.” Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

**Approval of Alderman Verlin Curtis’ absence**

**Motion was made by Evans, seconded by Mashburn to excuse Alderman Verlin Curtis’ absence. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

**Public session**

Howell Derrick – The town hall is a public building. The public needs to be able to come and go like they did at the old town hall. We need unrestricted access. Also, we need access to the parking lot. There is a gate blocking the driveway. The remodeling cost a lot of money. This was taxpayer’s money. Sam Greenwood said the parking lot in the back is for employees only. Mayor Collins said there are safety issues. He said we feel the restrictions are reasonable. Alderman Scott said I would like to see the gate gone.

Sandra Crownover – My neighbor needs to cut her grass. I called Raleigh. John Henning, Jr. said the county has to declare it a health nuisance before the Town can get involved. Ms. Crownover said there is still a stray dog problem. The ditch on West Boulevard needs to be cleaned up.

Dan Williams – The sidewalk outside the town hall needs to be fixed. Sidewalks in Florida are in pristine condition. Sam Greenwood said this is not a new sidewalk.

Colin Gooder – I live at 130 Hayes Circle. You need to put speed bumps on Phillips Street. That would be cost efficient. There is no rail on Phillips Street.

**July 6, 2009 meeting continued,**

**Request from Fontana Regional Library – Randolph Bulgin**

Randolph Bulgin said the Fontana Regional Library is requesting \$12,000.00 to support the Reading Rover. He said this is a bookmobile. He said the yearly cost is \$95,650.00. Alderman Pattillo said I am all for the library. She said what has been contributed? Mr. Bulgin said \$50,000.00 in grants. Karen Wallace said we are taking the library to the children because of transportation problems. She said Bryson City has given us \$11,000.00 contribution, but it is not for the Reading Rover. She said there are three hundred children in the program. Sam Greenwood told the Board that your contribution criteria does not allow this type of contribution. He said this is a county function. He said you should not fund other governmental agencies. He said this is above you dollar cap. He said if you give this amount you will have to change your policy. Mayor Collins said we will take it under advisement for now. Information copies are attached.

**Request from the Arts Council of Macon County – Bobbie Contino**

Bobbie Contino said all the Arts Council programs would be inside town. Information copies are attached. **Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Handley to approve the \$2,000.00 contribution to the Arts Council of Macon County. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

**Discussion of previous board action regarding longevity policy – Alderman Scott**

Alderman Scott said we need to revisit the longevity policy. He said there is a policy where the Town pays health insurance after retirement. Sam Greenwood said the employee needs to be able to transfer his years of retirement from one employer to the current employer. Alderman Pattillo said this is not the same policy. Mr. Greenwood said you need to be consistent on your policies. Mayor Collins asked Janet Anderson if there was a policy. Ms. Anderson said the policy had been passed in 1999. She said if you want to recess for a few minutes I can get copies of the policy for everybody. Mayor Collins said we will wait. Alderman Evans said the policies can be separate. He said we need to be consistent after the policies are adopted.

**Other business**

Alderman Scott said we need a policy for the Memorial Park. He said the police needs this support when enforcing the rules.

Alderman Handley said we need to use the dance floor for Pickin' on the Square. Alderman Evans said it takes over an hour to set it up.

Alderman Mashburn said we need to get an accurate count on the census. He said our state funds are based on our population.

**July 6, 2009 meeting continued,**

Department reports are attached.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Collins adjourned the meeting at 8:25 P.M.

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Joe Collins, Mayor

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Janet A. Anderson, Town Clerk