

March 7, 2005 meeting,

The regular meeting of the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen was held on Monday, March 7, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Joe Collins presided. Aldermen Verlin Curtis, Edwin Hall, Billy Mashburn, Charles Roper, Bob Scott and Jim Williamson were present.

Approval of the minutes

Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Williamson to approve the minutes for the following meetings: February 7, 2005, February 10, 2005 and February 28, 2005 meetings as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Persons to be heard

Mike Norris with Wayah Insurance said I am requesting the Town Board reverse its previous decision and name me as the exclusive broker for the employee group medical and life insurance plan. He said it is my belief that the Board based its decision on incomplete and erroneous information. He explained the present situation and the proposed change. A copy of Mr. Norris' proposal is attached. Mayor Collins asked the Board to wait on making a decision until later in the meeting.

June Hernandez said Rick Andrews and I have come to the meeting to represent the Streets of Franklin. She said we have concerns about parking when Phil Drake opens his new building. She said it is our understanding there will be a lot of employees. Mrs. Hernandez said where are they going to park? Mayor Collins said do you have an educated guess on the number of extra employees? She said there will be eighty-five according to the *Franklin Press*. Alderman Scott said I agree there is a parking problem. He said I have talked to Chief Bradley and there is no ordinance in place about parking. He said people are parking on the sidewalks. Mayor Collins said I and two of the Board members will meet with Phil Drake. He said Mr. Drake may have a solution.

Ruth Williams said there has been talk about needing sidewalks in the *Franklin Press*. She said I would like to have curb appeal for our sidewalks. She said on Bidwell Street the postal carrier drives onto the grass area causing ruts. Mrs. Williams said we should have more pride in our Town. She said I take a great sense of pride in my neighborhood. She said I have personally resod this area three times in the past.

Jim Williams said I am the husband of Ruth Williams. He said stop signs were finally put at the intersection of Lyle Street and Bidwell Street. He said persons do not stop at these stop signs. Mr. Williams said somebody is going to get hurt. He said there are ruts in the grass and I have shoveled dirt in the ruts to fill them up. He said we may need to put up a sign indicating do not drive on the grass. Mayor Collins said we need to go to the postal officials with this problem.

March 7, 2005 meeting continued,

Departmental reports

Fire Chief Pete Haithcock gave the fire department report. A copy of the report is attached. He said it has been a very slow month. He said we received a check for \$5,952.00 for the damages to the fire truck. He said ten firemen will be attending the McDowell Fire School. Chief Haithcock said we will be doing the fire hydrant testing.

Public Works Director Jay Gibson reported the Macon Middle School sewer line is moving along; however, the contractor has broken the water line twice. He said we have been replacing water meters on Palmer Street. Mr. Gibson said the bid opening of the West Main Street water line will be at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 10, 2005.

Police Chief Terry Bradley gave the police department report. A copy is attached.

Presentation by Barbara Boyle of the Franklin Garden Club

Barbara Boyle said Richard Clark is going to present a drawing of the clock tower area. Mr. Clark said we see a space to be used by the persons on Main Street. He said the present site is becoming overgrown. He said the new plans will attract birds and butterflies. He said we plan to add some benches and some water. He said we plan to do pavers. He said there will be three points of entry and exit. Mrs. Boyle said Sam Greenwood has agreed that the county will remove all the dead brush and trees and get the site ready for planting. Mayor Collins said this property is owned by the county. Mr. Clark said I have agreed to do this project at cost and will be making no profit. He said we want it in place for the activities of the 150th Anniversary Celebration in May. Mr. Clark said the cost of the project would be around \$50,000.00. Mayor Collins said some of the aldermen will look further into the project.

Presentation of Town of Franklin tartan – Sue Ann McMaster

Sue Ann McMaster said Ginny McSween has created a tartan for Franklin. Ms. McSween said Franklin is the gem capital of the world. She said the tartan has red for garnet, blue for sapphire and yellow for amber. She said I made it up out of my head. Ms. McMaster said we want to offer this tartan as the official tartan of the Town of Franklin. She said we plan to register this tartan in Scotland in the International Tartan Index as the official tartan of Franklin. **Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Williamson to accept the tartan as the official tartan of the Town of Franklin, North Carolina. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

March 7, 2005 meeting continued,

Request for water and sewer allocation – Cindy Jarvis

Cindy Jarvis said my engineer for my project is Manfred Judernatz. She said I am requesting a water and sewer allocation for three acres of property located five miles outside Town on the Georgia Road past the Welcome Center. She said we will need three thousand (3,000) gallons per day. She said we are planning to put a strip shopping center on the property. Mayor Collins asked Jay Gibson and the Water/Sewer Committee to review this request.

Presentation of FY 2003-2004 audit – Gwen Edwards, Dixon Hughes

Gwen Edwards said we had a merger last year and we became Dixon Hughes. She said the tax collections and the water/sewer revenues both increased. She said the Town received an unqualified opinion which is the highest opinion that can be given. Mrs. Edwards said GASB 34 has created new and different statements. She briefly explained some of these statements. She said the Town continues to have a strong cash balance.

Recess

Mayor Collins recessed the meeting at 8:15 P.M.

Mayor Collins called the meeting back to order at 8:25 P.M.

Ratification of telephone poll regarding approval of change order on Town Mountain Estates sewer system improvements

Mike Decker said the change order on the Town Mountain Estates sewer system improvements came in \$31,197.90 under the original contract price of \$248,339.30. He said the change order was approved by the Board during a telephone poll. He said you need to ratify that poll tonight. **Motion was made by Williamson, seconded by Curtis to ratify the telephone poll approving the change order on the Town Mountain Estates sewer system improvements in the amount of \$31,197.90. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy of the change order is attached.**

Request for qualifications for architects/engineers for new municipal complex

Mike Decker said I have done a Request for Qualifications for architectural/engineering services for the new municipal complex. He said also I have enclosed a list of firms that does this type of work. The Board agreed that Mr. Decker needed to mail out Request for Qualifications for this project.

Consideration of reappointment of Bob Moore to the Franklin ABC Board

Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Hall to reappoint Bob Moore to a three year term to the Franklin ABC Board. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

March 7, 2005 meeting continued,

Consideration of Blue Cross-Blue Shield employee medical insurance renewal

Mike Decker said the renewal date on the medical insurance is April 1, 2005. Alderman Scott said there are over 40 million persons without medical insurance. He said Blue Cross is making a huge profit. Mike Norris said Blue Cross was told to reduce their profit margin. He said medical insurance is a big issue. Alderman Curtis said I do not have any questions about your ability to handle this insurance for the Town. He said I sat in on the meeting with the Blue Cross representative. He said I can see no benefit to the Town for you to act as our direct agent. Mr. Norris said there is more than the renewal to this game. He said the individual employee could still go directly to Blue Cross. He said we can help with claims. He said we would be available to the employees. Alderman Mashburn said it is my understanding that we could not go directly to Blue Cross if we use Wayah Insurance as our agent. Mr. Norris said in some cases that would be the case. Alderman Williamson said I want to leave it as it is now. Mayor Collins said I want to go on the record that it would benefit us to go with Wayah Insurance. He said I did not ask Mike to come to our meeting tonight. He said I don't see the down side. Alderman Scott said I tend to agree. He said I have worked with Pat Bennett over the years. He said I have no problem with it. He said I can go either way. Alderman Mashburn said we are in the middle of the renewal at this point. Mr. Norris said you can put Wayah to work for you. Alderman Scott said we can add this item to the March 21, 2005 meeting. Alderman Curtis said we are not going to change insurance this year. He said we can look at different insurances before next year. Mayor Collins said we will table a decision tonight to a later meeting.

Mike Decker explained about the changes in the Blue Cross insurance. He said it is the committee recommendation to go with the \$1,000.00 deductible quote and to supplement the employee/children coverage at \$140.00 per month (increase of \$20.00); the employee/spouse coverage at \$185.00 per month (increase of \$40.00) and the family coverage at \$250.00 per month (increase of \$45.00). An information copy is attached. Mayor Collins said does anybody have a problem with giving stipend to employees with families? There was no response. Alderman Mashburn said I hate to go to a \$1,000.00 deductible. **Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Williamson to go with Mike Decker's recommendation concerning the \$1,000.00 deductible and to do family supplements. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Budget amendments – Janet Anderson

Janet Anderson explained the budget amendments to the Board. **Motion was made by Williamson, seconded by Scott to approve the budget amendments. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. Copies are attached.**

March 7, 2005 meeting continued,

Update on proposed Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance

Mike Decker explained the changes to the proposed Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance. He indicated the changes are as follows: (1) shall not be located in a residential district nor a neighborhood mixed use district, (2) hours of operations was set, (3) any person who violates this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and (4) denial of a license will require a written notice of the action. A revised copy of the ordinance is attached. He said I think the next step is to set a public hearing on this proposed ordinance. **Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Mashburn to set a public hearing on the proposed Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance for April 4, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Reminder of March 21, 2005 called meeting

Mike Decker said we have a called meeting on March 21, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.

Additional departmental and committee reports

Alderman Mashburn said we need to look at the health insurance earlier in the year next year. He said it bothers me about the deductible.

Alderman Mashburn said I was reading in the paper that the school board had gone to a paperless meeting. He said we may want to consider doing this in the future.

Alderman Williamson said the Street Committee has been working on some street light requests.

Mayor Collins said we have no sidewalks on the Highlands Road. He said we can do nothing, let the Street Committee look into this matter or get citizens to work up a list. Alderman Mashburn said the older sidewalks need to be repaired. Mayor Collins said we need to do a priority list.

Alderman Curtis said McGill Associates has recommended changing from a single-phrase to a three-phrase power to serve the pump station on the Macon Middle School sewer project. He said the additional cost would be \$4,227.40. **Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Scott to go with the three-phrase power to the pump station. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy of the letter is attached.**

Alderman Curtis said I have met with Beverly Mason and the Berrys about getting sewer to Dowdle Mountain Road. He said we are still talking to the interested property owners.

Alderman Roper said Donnie Clay asked me to bring a letter of request for him. A copy of the letter is attached.

March 7, 2005 meeting continued,

Alderman Scott said we need an ordinance allowing the police to ban certain persons from the Greenway. He said we are having trouble with three or four people. He said the Town's website is good, but there is no place to click on the employee's email address.

Mayor Collins said I have asked Donnie Clay's son to look at putting hand rails on Main Street for us.

Mike Decker said we will have an arbitration hearing with Dan Williams on Thursday, March 31, 2005 at 9 A.M. at the Macon County Clerk of Court's office. A copy is attached.

Mike Decker said we have been notified by the NC Rural Center we did not receive a grant award to replace the Riverview Street pump station. A copy of the letter is attached.

Mike Decker said the Streets of Franklin has asked that the Town consider rejoining the North Carolina Main Street program. He said there will be a joint meeting of the Streets of Franklin and the Highland Road Merchants on Wednesday, March 16, 2005 at 5:30 P.M. at the Burrell Building.

Mike Decker said the Board needs to consider Hal Chapman's contract.

Mike Decker said the deadline for introducing local legislation to the General Assembly is March 22, 2005.

Mike Decker said Janet Anderson and I will be attending the League's Risk Management Services workshop in Asheville on March 30, 2005. He said the League's regional meeting will be on Tuesday, April 19, 2005 in Cullowhee.

Mike Decker said the Inflow/Infiltration Study will be starting soon. He said we have notified the local media about this testing.

Mike Decker said the state inspection of the wastewater treatment plant lab went well. A copy of the letter is attached.

Mike Decker said during a recent conversation with Randolph Bulgin he indicated the new library would not be finished until September 2006. Mr. Decker said if the Board decides to make a contribution it could be done in two budget years.

Mike Decker said Forrest Westall has joined McGill Associates staff.

Bobby Key said Ken Fromknecht has asked the Town to adopt a resolution indicating that the streets in Heritage Mountain Estates is not part of the street plan adopted by the Town of Franklin under G.S. 136-66.2. **Motion was made by Williamson, seconded by Mashburn to adopt the resolution. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy of the resolution is attached.**

March 7, 2005 meeting continued,

Water adjustments and payment of the bills

Water adjustments for February and payment of the bills were approved on motion made by Mashburn, seconded by Curtis. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy is attached.

Adjournment

Mayor Collins adjourned the meeting at 10:04 P.M.

Joe Collins, Mayor

Janet A. Anderson, Town Clerk