

January 2, 2007

The regular meeting of the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen was held on Tuesday, January 2, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Joe Collins presided. Aldermen Verlin Curtis, Jerry Evans, Billy Mashburn, Carolyn Pattillo, Charles Roper and Bob Scott were present.

Approval of the minutes

Motion was made by Pattillo, seconded by Curtis to approve the minutes for the December 4, 2006 meeting as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Persons to be heard

No persons were present to speak.

Departmental reports

Fire Chief Pete Haithcock gave the fire department report. A copy of the report is attached. He said the Summit Inn structure was lost before we arrived. He said on the 4th Thursday of January we are having our oyster dinner. He said a live burn is scheduled for Saturday, January 20, 2007 for a house on Fox Ridge. Chief Haithcock said we have reviewed the bids for the new fire truck. He said the Executive Board is recommending purchasing the truck from Anchor-Richey in the amount of \$191,199.84. Information copies are attached. **Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Scott to purchase the fire truck from Anchor-Richey in the amount of \$191,199.84, to amend the budget and to do any necessary legal documents. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Public Works Director Jay Gibson said we are taking down the Christmas decorations. He said Maple Street has been paved but there are problems with the pavement. Alderman Pattillo said it was not a good job. Mr. Gibson said we will have to do a walk through with the contractor. He said I want to recommend giving the following two employees at the wastewater treatment plant a \$1.00 per hour raise: Bill Allen and Bill Deal since they both have their Grade 4 license. **Motion was made by Evans, seconded by Scott to give Bill Allen and Bill Deal a \$1.00 per hour raise. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Police Chief Terry Bradley gave the police department report. A copy of the report is attached. He said New Year's Eve was very quiet.

Michael Grubermann said I am dealing with eight sign violations. He said there are three zoning issues that I am working on with the property owners. He said I am working on updating the zoning maps.

January 2, 2007 meeting continued,

Presentation of FY 2005-06 audit report – Gwen Edwards, Dixon Hughes

Gwen Edwards said the Town received an Unqualified Opinion on the financial statements. She said there was one material weakness of segregation of duties due to the small staff size. She said the tax collection decreased slightly from last year. Ms. Edwards said the Management Discussion and Analysis gives comparative details. She said the cash balance continues to grow. She said there were no budget violations.

Certification of sufficiency of annexation request – Janet Anderson

Janet Anderson certified the sufficiency of the annexation petition from G & V Development, LLC. A copy is attached.

Schedule public hearing on annexation request

Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Evans to set the public hearing on the annexation petition from G & V Development, LLC for February 5, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Final subdivision plat approval for Laurel Falls Development Company, LLC – Betsy Whitlock

Mike Decker said the Laurel Falls Development has a final plat. He said the improvements are done. Betsy Whitlock said the plans are to sell to different persons the various lots. She said we have no master plan since we do not know what the lots will be used for. John Henning, Jr. said this is different from a residential subdivision. **Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Evans to give final approval on the subdivision with the understanding there will be the necessary rights of way. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Consideration of multi-family development – Ron Franklin/Juan Citarella

Ron Franklin said our plans are to do nine buildings off Edgewood Avenue. He said we have met all the required setbacks. He said we will be able to get water and sewer. Mike Decker said you can either give approval tonight or take this request under advisement until the February meeting. Mike Grubermann said there are some items that need to be added to the plat before I can consider it favorably. A copy is attached. Alderman Pattillo said where is the runoff going? Juan Citarella said we will have a retainage pond at the bottom of the hill. The Board agreed to take this request under advisement until the February meeting.

January 2, 2007 meeting continued,

Request for water/sewer allocation – Carl Doozan

Carl Doozan said I am developing eleven acres at 2235 Georgia Highway south of the Ruby Twins. He said I am asking for 3,620 gallons per day for this development. A copy of the letter is attached. **Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Pattillo for the Water/Sewer Committee to look at this request and bring a recommendation to the February meeting. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Ratification of board poll regarding Mediacom/Sinclair dispute

Mike Decker said on December 22, 2006, I polled the Board regarding Mediacom's request to write our federal legislative delegation and ask them to ask the Federal Communications Commission to intervene in the dispute between Mediacom and Sinclair over carrying WLOS on Mediacom's Franklin cable system. A copy of the letter is attached. Alderman Evans said we already pay well for this service. **Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Evans to ratify the board poll on December 22, 2006 regarding the Mediacom/Sinclair dispute. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Discussion regarding funding for wastewater CIP projects

Mike Decker said I talked with Graham Fields, who is Senator Elizabeth Dole's western region representative about possible funding for our Capital Improvement Plan for our wastewater collection system. He said I will be meeting with Pam Hysong with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development office in Waynesville on Monday, January 8, 2007 about possible funding on these projects.

Consideration of rebidding raw water intake project

Mike Decker said Alderman Evans has asked that the Board consider readvertising for bids on the raw water intake project at the water treatment plant. Alderman Scott said we need to spend more time at the January 8, 2007 meeting discussing this project and the funding for the Capital Improvement Plan. **Motion was made by Evans, seconded by Scott to readvertise for bids on the raw water intake project at the water treatment plant. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Delegation of pretreatment program signatory authority

Motion was made by Evans, seconded by Scott to give the authority to the ORC at the wastewater treatment plant to sign off on all required documents that relate to the pretreatment program. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

January 2, 2007 meeting continued,

Reminder of January 8, 2007 called meeting – public hearing on Principles of Growth

Mike Decker said I want to remind everybody about the January 8, 2007 meeting. He said we will be having a public hearing on the Principles of Growth and several other items.

Additional departmental and committee reports

John Henning, Jr. said I talked to Bud Siler last week about the Susie Prince property. He said Mr. Siler said the agreement was to pay \$27,500.00 for the property plus his costs. **Motion was made by Evans, seconded by Scott to agree to pay \$27,500.00 for the property plus up to \$1,500.00 for Mr. Siler's costs with an acceptance of this offer by the February 5, 2007 meeting. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

John Henning, Jr. said I have been unable to talk to the district attorney about the Whitmire's property. He said my calls have not been returned.

Mike Decker said I have a request for annexation but the petition has not been signed. The Board indicated to Mr. Decker that a signed petition needed to be in hand before acting on the request.

Mike Decker said we have received no resumes for the engineer opening. He said McGill Associates has recommended that we use a recruiter to fill this position. Alderman Evans said we may need to go after a retired engineer wanting to work only part time. Mr. Decker said I will bring back more information about the cost of using a recruiter to the January 8, 2007 meeting.

Mike Decker said there is a workshop on "Working for Results as a Borard" that will be held on March 1, 2007 in Asheville. He said Mayor Collins is the only person indicating an interest in attending this workshop.

Mike Decker said Division Engineer Joel Setzer will attend our February 5, 2007 meeting.

Mike Decker said the Town has received a bill from Clark and Company in the amount of \$2,500.00 for the trees and materials used in the planting strip. After some discussion, the Board told Mr. Decker that the agreement was for the sidewalk only and this was a county project.

Water adjustments – tax releases - pay bills

Water adjustments for December, tax releases and payment of the bills were approved on motion by Curtis, seconded by Scott. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. Copies are attached.

January 2, 2007 meeting continued,

Adjournment

Mayor Collins adjourned the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Joe Collins, Mayor

Janet A. Anderson, Town Clerk