

March 12, 2007

The regular meeting of the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen was held on Monday, March 12, 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 Curtis, seconded by Scott to approve the minutes for the February 5, 2007 meeting as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Public hearing on the petition for rezoning – Tim Ryan/RTJ of South Florida, Inc.

Mayor Collins opened the public hearing on the petition for rezoning from Tim Ryan at 7:02 P.M. Mike Decker said the property is located at the intersection of Crisp Street and Iotla Street. He said Mr. Ryan has been working for a year to develop this property. Deborah Strum said I am an adjoining property owner. She said I also manage the Grandview Manor Care Center. She said I do not think that this is bad but there will be a high density of houses. She said growth is the best way to increase the coffers. Ms. Strum said Mr. Ryan has done a superior job of planning. She said the infrastructure is not up to Mr. Ryan. She said the Town needs to assure that Grandview Manor is as safe in the future as it is today. Bonnie Pickartz said this development should bring people to the downtown area. She said I am in favor of this development. Mayor Collins closed the public hearing at 7:07 P.M.

Consideration of rezoning petition

Mike Decker said you need to consider adopting the Master Plan and the Regulating Plan in addition to approving the rezoning petition. He said Tim Ryan has made minor modifications to the following: streets, lots, home occupations. Alderman Evans said fire protection and drainage are my main concerns. Fire Chief Pete Haithcock said it should be all right depending on how the on street parking was handled. Tim Ryan said the streets will be able to accommodate the fire trucks. Manfred Jundernatz said the drainage is a two phase project. He said we will be looking at what is happening to the runoff. He said the plan is for the water to go back into the branch. Tim Ryan said about forty percent of the property will remain a green space.

Motion was made by Pattillo, seconded by Scott to rezone Tim Ryan from Residential to Traditional Neighborhood Development. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. Copies are attached.

Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Scott to approve Tim Ryan's Master Plan, the Regulating Plan and the Neighborhood Code. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

March 12, 2007 meeting continued,

Recess

Mayor Collins recessed the meeting at 7:26 P.M.

Mayor Collins reconvened the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Discussion regarding use of the Burrell Building as town hall

Mayor Collins said in the recent few days an issue has come up that is of some merit. He said some of the board members have concerns. June Hernandez said I am a business owner and also the president of the Main Street Board. She said I support the move to the Burrell Building. Howell Derrick said you do not have enough facilities here. He said the taxpayers want this move to the Burrell Building. Alderman Scott said I don't know what the objections are. Mayor Collins said there is concern about the veneer siding on the outside of the building. He said we will have to check to see how easy it is to remedy the problem. He said we will get some estimates.

Persons to be heard

Bill Crawford said there are several persons speaking concerning the new McDonald's. Olga Pader read a letter from the Macon County Chapter of the Western North Carolina Alliance. A copy is attached. She said we want to establish a dialogue with McDonald's to discuss the following concerns: (1) exterior building appearance, (2) height of the sign, (3) lighting, (4) landscaping and grounds-keeping, (5) parking lot, (6) traffic, (7) impact of Little Tennessee River and (8) trash generation. She said we are asking the Mayor and Board to send McDonald's a copy of the Principles of Growth. Bill Crawford read a letter from the Little Tennessee Watershed Association stating that they would appreciate the use of porous parking surfaces that support natural ground water drainage and reduce storm water runoff and also request a vegetated buffer between the restaurant and the river that utilizes native plants and trees. A copy of the letter is attached. Mr. Crawford said I have four points that I request that the town address with McDonald's. He said the points are (1) the sign height, (2) permeable asphalt, (3) native plants for landscaping and (4) use earth tone colors. Bob Apsey gave out three pictures of McDonald's in different cities. Bill Vanhorn said you have the obligation to make Franklin a better place. He said I was very disappointed about the Board's quick action on the construction of the Wal-Mart. John Henning, Jr. said the Town has never adopted these standards. He said we are moving in that direction. Alderman Pattillo said persons have asked why we let the property be sold for a McDonald's. She said we cannot control the sale of private property. Alderman Curtis said McDonald's was already approved before the Principles of Growth was passed.

Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Pattillo to write a letter to McDonald's asking for a discussion of the following items: (1) the sign height, (2) permeable asphalt, (3) native plants for landscaping and (4) the use of earth tone colors. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

March 12, 2007 meeting continued,

Request regarding 2007 Taste of Scotland – Claire Suminski

Claire Suminski did not speak at the meeting.

Request regarding 2007 Franklin Folk Festival – Margaret Ramsey

Margaret Ramsey said we are planning the fourth annual Franklin Folk Festival. Information copies are attached. She asked the Board for \$3,500.00. **Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Scott to give the \$3,500.00 for the Franklin Folk Festival. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Recess

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

Mayor Collins reconvened the meeting at 8:26 P.M.

Consideration of Maple Street/APAC proposal

Mayor Collins said APAC took out the cost of \$10,000.00 per day for the milling in the quote. Alderman Pattillo explained to the Board what money has already been spent on Maple Street. A copy is attached. She said if the street is milled it should last up to fifteen years. Alderman Evans said I used to work for Harrison and the street should have been smooth whether the street was milled or not. Jay Gibson said if we do the work now it will cheaper than it will be in five years. Mr. Gibson said the Town may have to pay for some additional stone. Alderman Evans said I think we are rewarding them for a job that they did not do. He said they be able to make it smooth. **Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Pattillo to allow APAC to do additional work on Maple Street in the amount of \$99,901.07. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Persons to be heard continued

Tony Angel said next month the Main Street Board will be bringing the visioning recommendation from the consultant. He said next month Linda Schlott will be coming.

Departmental reports

Police Chief Terry Bradley gave the police department report. A copy of the report is attached. He said the officers had recently completed twenty-four hours of in-service training. He said we will be doing driving training soon.

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Fire Chief Pete Haithcock gave the fire department report. A copy of the report is attached. He said we have done repairs on two fire trucks. He said we are hoping to expand the fire station two bays or three bays. He said we need permission to proceed with getting a design and the cost. Mayor Collins said do you need to do a substation instead of an expansion. Fire Chief Haithcock said no. **Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Evans to get a cost estimate of expanding the fire station. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Public Works Director Jay Gibson said we had a sewer line collapse near the town bridge. He said we have to repair the line. He said the prisoners will be here to clean up the sidewalks. Mr. Gibson said we will be finishing the work on Tennessee View Street. Mayor Collins said the pool on the Whitmire property needs to be filled in. John Henning, Jr. said this is a huge liability. He said it needs to be filled in. Alderman Mashburn said if there is no way for the water to drain out it will become a swamp. Mr. Gibson said the water seems to be draining out. **Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Pattillo to fill up the pool on the Whitmire property. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Michael Grubermann said I am working on the ordinance for abandoned cars. He said I have been working with Egan and Briggs on the rezoning rewrite. He said Angela Moore has been working on the GIS information and getting the maps updated.

Issues with Mediacom service – Alderman Evans

Alderman Evans said a lot of people are complaining about the service of the cable television. He said last weekend there was a picture without sound. He said they do not respond when you call to complain. Mike Decker said I tried to get somebody from Mediacom to come to the meeting. Alderman Evans said we need to talk to them.

Recommendation regarding employee health insurance renewal

Mike Decker explained to the Board about the increases in the Blue Cross health insurance. He suggested that the Board further supplement the family portion for the employee. Information copies are attached. **Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Curtis to renew the Town's health insurance with Blue Cross and to supplement the family portion for the employee by the following amounts: (1) employee/child - \$150.00, (2) employee/spouse - \$200.00 and (3) family - \$275.00. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Update on financing for wastewater Capital Improvement Plan projects

Mike Decker explained to the Board about the four proposals for financing the Capital Improvement Plan wastewater projects. Information copies are attached. After some discussion, the Board tabled this item and took no action.

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FY 2007-08 budget calendar

Mike Decker said I have a proposed budget calendar. A copy is attached. Mayor Collins appointed the following board members to serve on the Budget Committee: Alderman Curtis, Alderman Mashburn and Alderman Pattillo. **Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Mashburn to adopt the 2007-08 budget calendar. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Petitions for rezoning

Mike Decker said we have received the following petitions for rezoning: (1) David R. Gunnin and (2) Della Sue Chandler and Karin N. Gorboff. **Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Scott to send these petitions for rezoning on the Planning Board for a recommendation. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Certification of sufficiency of annexation requests – Janet Anderson

Janet Anderson certified the sufficiency of the annexation request from Dennis and Terry Stamey. A copy is attached. She said the annexation request from the Longs is not sufficient. **Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Pattillo to set the public hearing on the Stameys' annexation request for the April 2, 2007 meeting. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Municipal Election Agreement with Macon County/election schedule

The Board did not take action on the agreement at this meeting. The Board asked John Henning, Jr. to review this agreement and to report at the April 2, 2007 meeting.

Update on newspaper boxes on Main Street – Michael Grubermann

Mayor Collins said Michael Grubermann has meet with the interested parties about the newspaper boxes. A copy of his report is attached.

Outcome of lawsuit regarding Joyce Ann Taylor

Mike Decker said the lawsuit with Joyce Ann Taylor has been dismissed with Prejudice in its entirety. Information copies are attached.

Additional departmental and committee reports

Mayor Collins said we need to start passing the hat at the Pickin' on the Square.

Alderman Pattillo said we received requests for street lights on the Highlands Road at the entrance of C. J. Ramey's office complex and one on East Dogwood. Mayor Collins said please bring a recommendation to the April 2, 2007 meeting.

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Mike Decker said my departmental report is for information only.

John Henning, Jr. said I will be getting out a notice to Susie Prince this week.

Water adjustments – payment of bills

Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Scott to approve the water adjustments for February and to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Adjournment

Mayor Collins adjourned the meeting at 10:02 P.M.

Joe Collins, Mayor

Janet A. Anderson, Town Clerk