

March 3, 2008

The regular meeting of the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen was held on Monday, March 3, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Joe Collins presided. Aldermen Verlin Curtis, Jerry Evans, Joyce Handley, Billy Mashburn, Carolyn Pattillo and Bob Scott were present.

Approval of the minutes

Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Handley to approve the minutes for the February 4, 2008 and February 18, 2008 meetings as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Persons to be heard

Dan Williams said I have asked to be put on the agenda. He said I have been paying taxes for twenty years. He said the Town has a signed contract. Mayor Collins said is this the same subject matter? Mr. Williams said yes. Mayor Collins said you have taken this matter to the court system. Mr. Williams said I am still talking about the same matter. Mr. Williams read from a contract. He said you have insurance. He said you have jerked me around. Mayor Collins said we will absolutely hear no more on this subject at other meetings. He said I am sorry we did not get to your solution. He said you have a hard time understanding our position. He said you have been to court about this matter.

Jack Bright said I live in Franklin at 67 Kingwood Circle. He said I understand that there is a possibility that the Board will go to the Town Manager form of government. He said this is an important vote. He said it will not be an easy transition for you. Mr. Bright said it will be a disaster if two or three members do not buy into this change. He said you need to take advantage of the talents of the members. He said the Board will be directing a professional manager. He said you are in control. Mr. Bright said you need the right town manager. Mayor Collins said we had a public hearing in February for these comments. Mr. Bright said the job needs to be advertised.

Consideration of Municipal Statement of Adoption – Ryan Sherby, Southwestern Commission RPO Planner

Ryan Sherby said you have been a member of the Southwestern Commission Rural Planning Organization (RPO). He said we are asking that you rejoin. He said we do projects for the region. **Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Evans to adopt the Amended Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Rural Planning Organization. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy of the memorandum is attached.**

March 3, 2008 meeting continued,

Departmental reports

Fire Chief Pete Haithcock gave the fire department report. A copy of the report is attached. He said the inspection on the building is complete except for two doors. He said we are planning to spend \$5,000.00 on a camera out of the FEMA Grant. He said around \$3,000.00 will be left in the grant for fire prevention. He said we have a change order with Kenneth Swanson Builders, Inc. for the fire wall in the amount of \$8,135.60. **Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Evans to approve the change order in the amount of \$8,135.60 with Kenneth Swanson Builders, Inc. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy is attached.**

Public Works Director Jay Gibson said the work on the Ulco Drive sewer line is going well. He said the work on the Highlands Road water project is moving along. He said last month I asked for Eddie Sheffield a \$1.00 per hour raise. He said there are two other employees who did not get a raise. Mayor Collins said we need to address these raises at budget time. **Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Handley to give the following employees a \$1.00 per hour raise effective immediately: Eddie Sheffield, Jackie Downs and Ricky Waldroop. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Consideration of Estimate Regarding Additional Iotla Street Sewer Line Replacement

Jay Gibson said we have prices from Appalachian Construction, Inc. and Cedar Farms & Construction, Inc. to replace the sewer line on Iotla Street. Copies are attached. Alderman Evans said we need to go with the lowest price. **Motion was made by Evans, seconded by Handley to accept the Cedar Farms & Construction, Inc. bid. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Departmental Reports Continued

Police Chief Terry Bradley gave the police department report. A copy of the report is attached. He said we will be starting in service training tomorrow.

Town Planner Michael Grubermann said I issued ten zoning permits and four sign permits this month. He said I attended the meeting concerning the Indian Mound ceremony. He said the ceremony will be on May 17, 2008. He said I am working on getting engineering bids on the sidewalk projects. Mr. Grubermann said I am getting interior decorator bids on the Burrell Building expansion.

March 3, 2008 meeting continued,

Consideration of Ordinance Amending the Town Charter to Adopt the Council-Manager Form of Government

Alderman Scott said there are several things I have problems with. He said nobody explained the change to the town employees. He said we will no longer have a relationship with the department heads. He said we can hire a town administrator and give him duties. Alderman Scott said we need to ease into this change. He said we may not advertise the position. He said I think we need the policies in place first. He said I am not happy. Mayor Collins said I am not sure we need to sit down with the employees. He said I agree it will change the relationship with the department heads. He said it will be a change legally. He said the manager cannot do a policy without the Board approval. Mayor Collins said the League came and explained it to us. Alderman Scott said yes about two years ago. Alderman Evans said I am not for it. He said I am willing to try it. Alderman Pattillo said the committees will be taken away. She said I campaigned for it. Alderman Scott said we could ease into it with the town administrator having additional duties. He said we will be locked into it for two years. Alderman Evans said I have misgivings about it. Alderman Curtis said the town manager is the way to go. **Motion was made by Pattillo, seconded by Handley to adopt the Ordinance Amending the Town Charter to Adopt the Council-Manager Form of Government with the effective date of March 3, 2008. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 1. Voting no: Scott. A copy is attached.**

Consideration of appointment of manager or interim manager

Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Curtis to appoint Mike Decker as interim manager. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Consideration of Room Occupancy and Tourism Development Tax Levy

Motion was made by Handley, seconded by Pattillo to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Establishment of a Room Occupancy and Tourism Development Tax and to establish the Franklin Tourism Development Authority that will consist of nine members whose initial terms of office shall be as follows: three members serving one year terms, three members serving two year terms and three members serving three year terms with all subsequent terms to be for three years. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy is attached.

Discussion regarding creation of and appointments to the Franklin Tourism Development Authority

See the motion under consideration of Room Occupancy and Tourism Development Tax Levy.

March 3, 2008 meeting continued,

Recess

Mayor Collins recessed the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Mayor Collins reconvened the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Consideration of terms with RBC Centura regarding revenue bonds

Mike Decker explained the terms offered by RBC Centura regarding the revenue bonds. A copy is attached. After some discussion, the Board indicated that the Sinking Fund Requirement was unacceptable. Mike Decker said I will relate your concerns to RBC Centura.

Consideration of Resolution regarding the Issuance of Revenue Bonds

The Board tabled action on the resolution until Mike Decker could talk to RBC Centura's representatives.

Update on Employee Health Insurance Renewal

Mike Decker explained to the Board about their options on the renewal of the Blue Cross Health Insurance. Information copy is attached. **Motion was made by Handley, seconded by Evans to renew the Blue Cross Health Insurance with the same plan and for the Town to supplement the employees' costs at the following amounts: (1) employee/children - \$170.00, (2) employee/spouse - \$240.00 and (3) family - \$335.00. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Consideration of Authorizing Preliminary Engineering Report for Additional Expansion Items at the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Jay Gibson said we may need to do some work at the wastewater treatment plant. **Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Evans to authorize McGill Associates to do preliminary engineering for additional expansion items at the wastewater treatment plant. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Continuation of meeting

At 9:10 P.M., motion was made by Evans, seconded by Pattillo to continue the meeting until Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 5:30 P.M. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

March 3, 2008 meeting continued,

Call to order of the March 3, 2008 continuation meeting

The regular March 3, 2008 meeting of the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen was continued at 5:30 P.M., Tuesday, March 4, 2008 in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Joe Collins presided. Aldermen Verlin Curtis, Jerry Evans, Joyce Handley, Billy Mashburn, Carolyn Pattillo and Bob Scott were present.

Proclamation

Mayor Collins said the varsity girl's basketball team is in the state playoffs. The Board gave authority to Mayor Collins to do a proclamation on Friday.

Information Regarding the National Flood Insurance Program

Mike Decker said you have information in your agenda packages about joining the National Flood Insurance Program. He said we need to have a special meeting about this issue. Copies are attached.

Information on NCDOT Safe Route to Schools Program

Michael Grubermann said Terry Bradley, principal at East Franklin School, wants to do a sidewalk on Lakeview Drive. He said the North Carolina Department of Transportation will pay all the costs. He said the Town needs to support it and take over the maintenance of it when it is finished. Information copy is attached. **Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Handley to authorize Mayor Collins to sign the papers for the sidewalk project with NC DOT. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy of the resolution is attached.**

Joint Meeting with Macon County, Town of Highlands

Mike Decker said we will have a joint meeting with Macon County and the Town of Highlands on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at 6:00 P.M. at the Boiler Room.

Additional Committee and Departmental Reports

Mike Decker said Linda Schlott is requesting that the Town purchase twenty tables and one hundred folding chairs for the use of the festivals. A copy of the letter is attached. Alderman Curtis said they need to buy these items out of their funds. Alderman Pattillo said they have to go to the fair grounds to get the tables and chairs. Alderman Mashburn said where will they store these items? Alderman Pattillo said for now they are using the wastewater treatment plant. She said they can store them at the new public works facility when it is built. She said these tables and chairs would be used for all the festivals. Alderman Scott said we need more trash cans at the festivals. The Board did not make a decision on this request.

March 3, 2008 meeting continued,

Mike Decker said I have some informal bids on doing the sewer line off Green Street. The Board did not make a decision.

Alderman Curtis said have we received any responses on our RFQ for engineering services? Mike Decker said they have not been advertised yet.

Alderman Handley said the Jaycee Building needs a good cleaning. She said it clearly needs blinds, screens, appliances, etc. A copy of the email is attached. She said we may want to rename the building. Alderman Curtis said I think we should increase the rental fee to \$50.00 plus \$10.00 key deposit. Mayor Collins asked Alderman Handley to get prices for the work needed at the Jaycee Building and bring it back to the next meeting.

Janet Anderson explained briefly the January 31, 2008 budget report to the Board. A copy is attached.

Water adjustments - tax releases/refunds - pay bills

Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Pattillo to approve the water adjustments for February, to approve the tax releases and refunds and to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. Copies are attached.

Closed Session

The Board went into closed session at 6:15 P.M., on motion made by Scott, seconded by Curtis to discuss personnel. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

The Board came out of closed session at 7:22 P.M., on motion made by Curtis, seconded by Evans. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Open Session

Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Evans to hire Sam Greenwood as Town Manager with an effective hire date of March 10, 2008 and for Town Attorney John Henning, Jr. and Mr. Greenwood to work out an employment contract. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Adjournment

Mayor Collins adjourned the meeting at 7:25 P.M.

March 3, 2008 meeting continued,

Joe Collins, Mayor

Janet A. Anderson, Town Clerk