

January 2, 2006

The regular meeting of the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen was held on Monday, January 2, 2006 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 Scott, seconded by Curtis to approve the minutes for the December 5, 2005 and December 12, 2005 meetings as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Public hearing on the Bates voluntary annexation request

Mayor Collins opened the public hearing on the Tim and Carol Bates voluntary annexation request at 7:01 P.M. Ken Fromknecht said the owners plan to build a seven thousand square foot building. He said this property is surrounded by businesses and they would like their property to be zoned business. Mayor Collins closed the public hearing at 7:03 P.M.

Consideration of Bates annexation request

Mike Decker said the Planning Board's recommendation is to zone the Tim and Carol Bates property business. **Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Curtis to annex the Tim and Carol Bates property and to zone it as business. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. Copies are attached.**

Public hearing on the Wong voluntary annexation request

Mayor Collins opened the public hearing on the Derrick and Rosemary Wong voluntary annexation request at 7:05 P.M. No persons were present to speak at the hearing. Mayor Collins closed the public hearing at 7:06 P.M.

Consideration of Wong annexation request

Motion was made by Pattillo, seconded by Evans to annex the Derrick and Rosemary Wong property. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. Copies are attached.

Persons to be heard

No persons were present to speak.

January 2, 2006 meeting continued,

Departmental reports

Fire Chief Pete Haithcock gave the fire department report. A copy of the report is attached. He said the fire department answered 1,008 calls in 2005. He said the annual Oyster Dinner will be on January 26, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. Chief Haithcock said Eddie Sheffield and Charlie Pinkston retired in December. He said we have four new members. He said they are David Green, Ryan Hursey, Michael Davis and Daniel Parlier. He said they will be on probation for one year. Alderman Curtis said it is my understanding from the Town's ordinances that any new members of the fire department have to be approved by the Board. He said it needs to be done before they start their probation period. Chief Haithcock said we need to look at the ordinance. Alderman Scott said they think we are trying to micromanage one department. He said this should be in a personnel policy. Alderman Curtis said the names of any new members need to be presented by Pete to the Board so they can be approved. Mayor Collins said it is on the books. He said we could get a recommendation from the Fire Committee. Alderman Mashburn said Police Chief Bradley makes a recommendation for a new policeman and then it is approved by the Board. He said it would be the same procedure. Alderman Evans said I agree with Alderman Mashburn. Alderman Scott said I disagree. He said we are not hiring an employee since they are volunteers. He said it should be left up to the fire department concerning volunteers unless we are hiring a full time employee. Mayor Collins said the volunteers are representatives of the Town. Alderman Evans said they need to answer to somebody.

Public Works Director Jay Gibson said the West Main Street water line is almost completed. He said there are a few paving issues. He said there needs to be some water line replacement done in East Franklin. He said I will talk to the Water/Sewer Committee about these lines. Mayor Collins said there is a lot of trash on the Highlands Road between BiLo and Jim Brown.

Police Chief Terry Bradley gave the police department report. A copy of the report is attached. He said there has been some vandalism at the Jaycee Park. He said my department has put in a lot of hours for special events.

Town Planner Rebecca Crawford said in December I had a total of eighty walk-in visits or phone calls. A copy of the report is attached. She said I have completed a draft of the North Carolina Main Street Re-designation Application.

Update on Macon Middle School sewer line – McGill Associates

Mayor Collins said we planned to have a meeting with the Water/Sewer Committee this afternoon. He said Joel Storrow called this morning and he wants to meet with Macon County, the School and the Town together since they are the parties with an interest in this project. He said there is nothing else to report tonight.

January 2, 2006 meeting continued,

Consideration of sewer allocation request – Guy Duvall

Guy Duvall said Mark Nowicki and I are requesting a sewer allocation of 5,410 gallons per day for our development at the intersection of Riverview Street and Highway 28 North. A copy of the letter is attached. He said we can hook on to the sewer system behind the Village Trader. He said the property is in the ETJ and it is zoned business in the front with the back being zoned residential. He said we will have street access from Hughes Lane or Highway 28. Alderman Mashburn said Alderman Curtis and I looked at everything before Thanksgiving. He said everything was fine. **Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Evans to give a sewer allocation of 5,410 gallons per day to Mark Nowicki and Guy Duvall for their development at the intersection of Riverview Street and Highway 28 North. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Consideration of proposal for legal services – John Henning, Jr.

Mayor Collins said John couldn't be here tonight. He said he has agreed to leave his hourly rate at \$150.00 per hour after two years. Alderman Scott said is this rate in line for this region. Bobby Key said I don't know. Mayor Collins said the contract would be \$150.00 per hour for three years. **Motion was made by Evans, seconded by Curtis to accept the contract with John Henning, Jr. for his services with the modification of the hourly rate. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Staff recommendation for zoning code revision consultant

Rebecca Crawford said Mike Decker and I are recommending Egan & Briggs of Hendersonville as the consulting firm to do the zoning code revision. She said they have worked with other towns in western North Carolina. She said the cost is \$40,000.00. Mike Decker said we want to put this out for your consideration. He said we can discuss it further at the retreat. He said the bottom line there is no money in the budget this year for this project. Alderman Curtis said the Board has never voted to do this project yet. He said this would be a good topic for the retreat. Mayor Collins said we need to revisit our ordinances and codes. Alderman Pattillo said being a member of the Planning Board in the past I saw a need for doing this revision. Alderman Evans said we need to remember that we are unique in this area. He said we do not want to copy another town's ordinance. Mayor Collins said we need to know when they can start and the payment process.

Consideration of Main Street program application

Rebecca Crawford said I have done the Main Street program application, a proposed budget and a proposed map of the downtown district. Copies are attached. Alderman Evans said we want to have everybody represented. **Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Pattillo to go ahead with the application with approval of the Streets of Franklin and the other involved parties. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

January 2, 2006 meeting continued,

Recess

Mayor Collins recessed the meeting at 8:01 P.M.

Mayor Collins called the meeting back to order at 8:10 P.M.

Update on Forest Avenue sidewalk project

Mike Decker said we have received a letter from the North Carolina Department of Transportation authorizing construction of the sidewalk on Ulco Drive and Forest Avenue. He said we can advertise for bids. A copy of the letter is attached.

Discussion regarding solid waste management plan update

Mike Decker said I checked on the status of the recycling trailer. He said we never gave any money for a recycling trailer. Mayor Collins said I am not sure we should have higher standards for town residents. He said the county should set the standard. Mike Decker said we can put recycling bins in town buildings and purchase recycled products when possible. The Board agreed to these ideas.

Registration for Essentials of Municipal Government

Mike Decker said I want to remind you about the registration for the Essentials of Municipal Government in Asheville.

Dates for called meeting for presentation of forms of government

After some discussion, the Board decided to have a special meeting to discuss the forms of government on either January 26, 2006 or February 2, 2006.

Planning board appointment

Alderman Pattillo said I would like to recommend Margaret Perry be appointed to the Planning Board. Alderman Pattillo said she would talk to Margaret Perry about serving.

Update on NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant process

Mike Decker said the deadline for applying for a NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant is January 31, 2006. He said the next funding cycle will be in early September. Mayor Collins said we need to wait since we can't do it that fast.

September 2, 2006 meeting continued,

Presentation of 2006 holiday schedule

Mike Decker said I have a proposed 2006 holiday schedule for the town employees. Mayor Collins said since Martin Luther King, Jr. Day has been added we need to remove December 29th, 2006. **Motion was made by Evans, seconded by Curtis to adopt the 2006 holiday schedule adding Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and removing December 29, 2006. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0. A copy is attached.**

Agenda items for retreat

Mike Decker said the following items are suggestions for the retreat:

- Water/sewer extension policy changes
- Zoning influence outside the town limits
- How to manage nuisance issues
- Secondary water source/treatment plant
- Use of the Whitmire property
- Zoning code rewrite
- Room tax
- Animal control
- Decals on all town vehicles

Alderman Evans said decals on all town vehicles does not need to be discussed at the retreat. He said it just needs to be done. Mayor Collins said we need to add parking issues.

Additional departmental and committee reports

Alderman Pattillo said the brush needs to be cut back on Sunset Drive. Alderman Scott said it is becoming a safety hazard. Jay Gibson said I will have the town crew clean this street.

Alderman Scott said I think McGill Associates may have some conflicts of interest. He said who is representing us in these cases when McGill is also representing the other party involved. Mayor Collins said it is no secret that I would like to have an engineer on staff. He said he would be at the table looking out for our interests.

Janet Anderson said Pat Burgess is retiring and his retirement reception will be on January 20, 2006 from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Water adjustments, tax releases and payment of the bills

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

January 2, 2006 meeting continued,

Adjournment

Mayor Collins adjourned the meeting at 8:52 P.M.

Joe Collins, Mayor

Janet A. Anderson, Town Clerk