

Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen
Meeting Agenda
Saturday January 25, 2014 -8:00 a.m.

- Gazebo
- Main Street Parking
- Water Treatment Facility
- Town Bridge
- Street Paving
- Town-Owned Vacant Properties
- Economic Development
- Budget Priorities
- Other Considerations/ Discussions

January 18, 2014 meeting,

The Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen had a special called meeting on Saturday, January 18, 2014 at 8:00 A.M. at the Town Hall Board Room. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a retreat. Mayor Robert S. Scott presided. Aldermen Patti Abel, Verlin Curtis, Joyce Handley, Farrell Jamison, Billy Mashburn and Barbara McRae were present.

The following persons were also present: Town Manager Warren Cabe, Town Clerk Janet Anderson, Assistant to the Town Manager Summer Woodard and media representatives.

Town Manager Warren Cabe talked briefly about the following items:

Gazebo

We do not have a lease from Macon County yet. These are preliminary plans. The plans are to replace the current gazebo using the current concrete. The cost without restrooms would put the work under \$50,000.00. The work can be done in two phases. Phrase 1: complete the new gazebo. Phrase 2: to do the new restrooms. Copies of the plans are attached.

Main Street Parking

A traffic engineering study will be finished in two weeks on the Main Street parking. Our main priority is to help the businesses on Main Street.

Water Treatment Facility

The WK Dickson study last fall said the cost for an upgrade of the water treatment plant would be more than \$20 million. I don't think the Town can afford that. I have asked McGill Associates to do a financial study and look at our rate structure. Public Works Director Jay Gibson, ORC Robert Hartsell and I have been doing tours of package plants. That may be an option.

Town Bridge

The North Carolina Department of Transportation will start the improvement project in late 2014 on the town bridge. The bridge currently has a five foot sidewalk on the side and two lanes. There are two options for the bridge: (1) a sidewalk similar to the way it is with a rail between the sidewalk and the traffic lanes and (2) a ten foot lane for bicycles and pedestrians with no rail between it and the traffic lanes. The cost of the rail for the second option would cost the Town \$36,000.00. The Board agreed that they do not want to have to pay the \$36,000.00.

Street Paving

After some discussion, the Board asked Town Manager Cabe to continue to spread out the repaving to the streets to the ones in the most need.

January 18, 2014 meeting continued,

Town-Owned Vacant Properties

Old Town Hall – We can (1) keep doing what we are doing or (2) get one realtor involved or (3) go outside county and get a commercial broker. After some discussion, the board agreed to use the building for storage until the economy improves.

Whitmire Property – The house has not been burn at this time. The fire department has it scheduled for the summer through Southwestern Community College. If the North Carolina Department of Transportation does a boulevard on the Highlands Road there would be no traffic light.

Economic Development

I have been talking to Tommy Jenkins about the vacant buildings inside town. Main Street and TDA have done projects in the past on economic development.

Budget Priorities

Our audit show improved revenues for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. We will need your priorities and projects for next year.

Other Considerations/Discussions

Alderman Jamison – The fire department may need to go to 24 hour shifts.

Alderman Handley – We need to check on the status of the flood plain plans.

Alderman McRae – I would like the Town to start a revolving loan fund. Businesses could borrow money and use it to improve their property.

Alderman Abel – I would like us to have an on line payment system.

Mayor Scott – We need to do these retreats twice a year. This was an excellent meeting.

The Board did not take any action.

January 18, 2014 meeting continued,

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M.

Robert S. Scott, Mayor

Janet A. Anderson, Town Clerk