

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 4, 2013**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present; Andrew Bissanti, Glenn Jones, Matt Kelly, Thomas Mercer, Peter Padula, Judith Pond Pfeffer, Robert Vallee, Steve Williams. Councilors absent: Brett Feldman. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jeffrey Nutting; Town Administrator, Mark Cerel; Town Attorney and Maxine Kinhart; Assistant to the Town Administrator.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Vallee called the meeting to order at 7:00PM with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *October 16, 2013 Regular Session.* **MOTION** by Councilor Jones to approve the October 16, 2013 Minutes **SECONDED** by Councilor Williams. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Vallee announced the meeting would be recorded by Franklin TV and available for viewing on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29. Franklin Matters may also have recorded the meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: NONE. APPOINTMENTS: NONE.

HEARINGS: NONE. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: NONE.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: *Town Council Schedule* – Chairman Vallee and Mr. Nutting agreed to postpone the vote on the 2014 Town Council Schedule until the next Council Meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: *Budget Subcommittee* – Councilor Mercer provided an update. The first meeting of the Joint Budget Subcommittee will take place on Monday and will project out the 5-year plan. A full report should be ready for the Council in February.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

Resolution 13-82: Adoption of Town Council Procedures Manual: Councilor Pfeffer read the resolution to adopt the Procedures Manual of the Town of Franklin. **MOTION** by Councilor Jones to move Resolution 13-82 **SECONDED** by Councilor Mercer. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

Resolution 13-83: 505 West Central Street: A Private Way Acceptance of Covenant with Owner: Councilor Pfeffer read the resolution to approve with conditions a definitive plan for a three-lot commercial subdivision known as 505 West Central Street. **MOTION** by Councilor Jones to move Resolution 13-83 **SECONDED** by Councilor Kelly. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting explained this is standard practice. The resolution just specifies the property will remain a private way, and the Town has no accountability to provide road maintenance. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

Resolution 13-84: Confirmatory Order of Taking – Land at 37 Beaver Street: **MOTION** by Councilor Jones to waive the reading **SECONDED** by Councilor Mercer. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.** **MOTION** by Councilor Jones to move Resolution 13-84 **SECONDED** by Councilor Padula. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting explained the Council had approved the purchase of the property previously owned by the Pidgeon family. The plan is to demolish the house and to extend the Senior Center parking lot. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

Bylaw Amendment 13-725: Chapter 170 Vehicles and Traffic – Traffic Regulations to Reflect Changes to

Traffic Directions Created by Downtown Roadway Redesign and Reconstruction Project – 1st Reading: MOTION by Councilor Jones to waive the reading **SECONDED** by Councilor Padula. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.** MOTION by Councilor Jones to move Bylaw Amendment 13-725 to a 2nd Reading **SECONDED** by Councilor Mercer. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.** **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting said this bylaw amends the traffic code to reflect the necessary changes for the Downtown Project and is a requirement to obtain funding from the State for the Downtown Project.

Bylaw Amendment 13-724: Chapter 82 Amendment of Service Fees – Solid Waste and Recycling – 2nd Reading: Councilor Pfeffer read the bylaw amendment to adjust the “List of Service Fee Rates”. MOTION by Councilor Jones to adopt Bylaw Amendment 13-724 **SECONDED** by Councilor Mercer. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting said the bylaw adds a 10-day option to Recycling Fees in lieu of purchasing a 1-year Recycling Sticker. MOTION by Councilor Padula to amend the number of days from 10 days to 14 days **SECONDED** by Councilor Jones. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.** **VOTE on Bylaw Amendment 13-724 as Amended, ROLL CALL: Bissanti-Yes, Jones-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Mercer-Yes, Padula-Yes, Pfeffer-Yes, Vallee-Yes, Williams-Yes. VOTE to Approve: 8 – 0 – 1.**

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Steve Sherlock announced the Downtown Partnership Holiday Stroll would take place the following night. Mr. Sherlock also announced tickets were available for the dramatic production of the Christmas Carol and proceeds from the show would benefit the Franklin Food Pantry.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: ► Mr. Nutting said he and Councilors Jones, Kelly and Pfeffer attended an economic development workshop hosted by EMC. Mr. Nutting said a presentation was made about the Pond Street land, and he picked up some good ideas for possible uses for the property. Possible uses for the property will be referred to the Economic Development Committee for further investigation. Mr. Nutting thanked Bryan Taberner and Beth Dahlstrom for their assistance preparing the PowerPoint presentation. ► Mr. Nutting announced the Town would be hosting the Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting the following day. The organization earmarks federal transportation dollars for towns. ► Mr. Nutting thanked the Concerts on the Common Committee for another successful tree lighting. ► Mr. Nutting reminded folks of the Holiday Stroll planned for the following evening. ► Mr. Nutting requested the recently adopted zoning on “R7” – impervious coverage be added to a future Council agenda.

OLD BUSINESS: ► Councilor Bissanti inquired about allowing the Elks Club to take over the responsibility for raising, lowering and storage of flags traditionally flown when a Veteran passes away. Mr. Nutting requested Councilor Bissanti contact him to work out the details. ► Councilor Pfeffer requested an update on the status of hanging the American flag from the new light poles in the downtown area. Mr. Nutting said American flags could be hung from the parking meters and the subject of flags and parking meter options will be addressed at a future Council Meeting. Councilor Pfeffer inquired about coordinating a list of liquor violations for second time offenses. Mr. Nutting said the topic would be included on the next Council Meeting Agenda. ► Councilor Kelly inquired about when topics discussed during the Council Workshop would be included on the Council Agenda. At Councilor Kelly’s request, Mr. Nutting spoke specifically about the marketing outreach firm. Mr. Nutting said the marketing outreach firm would be referred to the Budget Committee. Mr. Nutting said within the following two weeks he would make available to the Councilors the workshop minutes and where the items would be heading. **NEW BUSINESS:** ► Councilor Padula, Mr. Nutting and Mr. Cerel discussed protocol for the smaller subcommittees and groups. Councilor Padula said he would meet with Mr. Nutting and Mr. Cerel at a later date to discuss the matter further.

COUNCILOR COMMENTS: ► Councilor Bissanti hoped everyone had a nice Thanksgiving. ► Councilor Jones also hoped everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and thanked Marty Jones of MassDevelopment for putting on a wonderful event hosted by EMC. Councilor Jones said the information he obtained at the event would be shared with the Economic Development Committee at their next meeting on Wednesday. ► Councilor Padula thanked the Town Administrator and Town Attorney for their hard work and said he looked forward to working

with them more. ► Chairman Vallee reminded everyone of the Tree Lighting Ceremony to be held the following day at Dean College.

ADJOURN: MOTION by Councilor Jones to adjourn **SECONDED** by Councilor Mercer. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.** Meeting adjourned at 7:32PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Brecht, Recording Secretary