



FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL

May 07, 2014

MINUTES

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present: Andrew Bissanti, Robert Dellorco, Brett Feldman, Matt Kelly, Tom Mercer, Peter Padula, Judith Pfeffer, Robert Vallee, Steve Williams. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jeff Nutting, Town Administrator; Maxine Kinhart, Assistant to the Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney

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

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *There were no minutes.*

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS – *The meeting is recorded by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast channel 11 and Verizon channel 29. The meeting is recorded by Franklin Matters.*

C. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS - *None*

D. CITIZEN COMMENTS – *None*

E. APPOINTMENTS – *Disabilities Commission - The Franklin Disability Commission has recommended Martha Murray to serve as a member of the Commission, term to expire June 2016. MOTION to ratify the appointment by the Town Administrator of Martha Murray to serve as a member of the Franklin Disability Commission, Pfeffer, SECOND, Mercer. VOTE: Unanimous*

F. HEARINGS – *At 7:10 pm the Chair declared the Public Hearings open.*

- 1. Zoning Bylaw Amendment 14-728-R: Industrial to Single-Family III** – *Motion to waive the Reading. SECOND by Mercer. VOTE: Unanimous. Discussion: this is a rezoning of 6 parcels of land on Washington Street west of 495. Zoning same as neighbors makes sense. Motion to close the public hearing, Kelly, SECOND, Mercer. VOTE: Unanimous.*
- 2. Zoning Bylaw Amendment 14-732: Amendment to the Franklin Town Code at Chapter 185, Section 21. Parking, Loading, and driveway requirements.** – *MOTION to waive the Reading, SECOND by Mercer. VOTE: Unanimous. Discussion: This makes two changes. Currently have to have 400 ft. site distance for a driveway this proposes using ashdo standards that are based on the speed of the automobiles, Mass DOT standards. Also 150 between driveways if more than 20 spaces. Got to planning board instead of zoning board because you're already there. Streamlining process. MOTION to close hearing Kelly. SECOND Mercer. VOTE: Unanimous*

3. **Zoning Bylaw Amendment 14-733: Zoning Map changes from Commercial I to Downtown Commercial District in an Area on or Near Alpine Row –** *MOTION to waive the Reading, Kelly. Discussion: As a result of the Master Plan process and the joint workshop of the Planning Board and the Town Council, this covers part of the MBTA parking lot and the Bullikan parking lot and the Right of Way – cleans up the map. MOTION to close the Hearing. Kelly. SECOND, Mercer.*
4. **Zoning Bylaw Amendment 14-734: Zoning Map Changes from Industrial to General Residential V District in an Area on or Near Josephine Street –** *MOTION to waive the reading, Kelly, SECOND, Mercer. VOTE Unanimous. Discussion: Again this is as a result of the Master Plan and the joint workshop. Five of the parcels are town swamp. Two homes will move from industrial to residential where they belong. MOTION to close the hearing, Kelly, SECOND, Mercer. VOTE: Unanimous.*

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

H. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS –

Available Alcoholic Beverages (Package Store) Licenses - *When the Town Administrator becomes aware of an available* license he/she shall: •Give notice to Town Council at the next Council meeting. •Advertise the availability of the license via the Town Web page and other appropriate means. The advertisement will state the date the applications must be submitted and the hearing date before the Town Council. •Council will make a determination whether a public need exists** based on a set of criteria which may include:*

1. *Proximity of existing establishments.*
2. *Will the license be used to enhance the economic development of a neighborhood?*
3. *Impact on neighborhood.*
4. *Is it near a school or place of worship?*
5. *Other?*

**Available: either because census results in additional license or existing licensee surrenders license. **Council may determine that no public need exists, notwithstanding applicant(s).*

► Councilor Kelly said that this is what he was looking for a process. He wants this to go forward and be something that they could vote on. This will be a Policy.

Karen Alves, Senior Center Director - Senior Center Update – *Erin Rogers Senior Social Services Coordinator. Graduated from Quinnipiac with a degree in Gerontology. She became a Home Care Case Manager, protective services, investigating suspected cases of elder abuse. Senior Center Mission Statement Enhancing lives of older adults through programming and services within the center and throughout the community. 4400 residents 60 years and over based on 2010 census. UMASS Gerontology predicts 6,667 by 2020 and 9,217 by 2030. Average number of visitors to the senior center is 130 per day and there are 1200 active participants. Funding 54% Salaries, 22% Revolving Accounts, 12% State Grant, 8% Friends, 4% MHF. Membership breakdown is 30% male and 70% female. Ages 60, 70, 80. Center offers Nutrition, health and wellness, caregiver support, social service coordination, socialization and recreation, education, volunteer and intergenerational opportunities, tax work off programs and amenities. Center is a liaison with Gatra Bus Service. Common Grounds Café – Nutritious breakfast and lunch – for some this is their only freshly prepared meal. Center has a Health & Wellness Nurse and offers Health Clinics*

including blood pressure, blood sugar, podiatry, flu vision & hearing. Center has a fall prevention clinic. Care Giver Support, the Center has the Sunshine Club, a Supportive Day Program and companion caregivers and caregivers support givers. Social Services include Legal clinic with elder law attorney, tax assistance, and social services coordinator. Recreation activities include bus trips, games, movies, special events. Educational activities include computer classes, tablets, phones, current events, and a new lecture series. Tax work off program is available. Volunteer opportunities are available. This year we had 144 volunteers and 11,190 volunteer hours. Amenities include Hairdresser, barber, manicure, Gift Shop, free medical equipment.

► Councilor Kelly asked Ms. Alves if she had enough Tax Work Off spots. Ms. Alves responded that at this time she did. ► Councilor Pfeffer stated that they are having breakfast at the Senior Center once a month and next Tuesday is one.

I. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - None

J. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

1. Resolution 14-32: Appropriation: Wachusett/Upper Union House Demolitions

*Purpose: To appropriate funds to demolish houses on Wachusett and Upper Union. Clerk read the **MOTION**. Be It **Moved** and **Voted** by the Town Council that the sum of Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) be transferred from Account 01923903-580000 Beaver St Purchase/House Demolition (R 13-40), to the Wachusett/Upper Union – House Demolitions. **SECOND** by Jones. **Discussion:** We're going to take ownership of the house on Wachusett Street in the next 10 days or so and that will have to come down. There is an old shack and shed at 834 upper Union that will have to come down as well. If we need to come back we will. Councilor Padula announced he will recuse himself as he has a conflict. **VOTE: 8-0-1 Recuse***

2. Resolution 14-33: Appropriation: Recreation – Expenses

*Purpose: To appropriate from Free Cash to the Recreation 2014 Expense Budget. Clerk read the **MOTION**. Be It **Moved** and **Voted** by the Town Council that the sum of Seven thousand dollars (\$7,000.00) be transferred from Available Funds (Free Cash) to the FY 2014 Recreation Expenses- Programs 01630200-530910. **SECOND** by Kelly. **Discussion:** Recreation is self-supporting. Had more participation, bringing in extra \$30,000 which went into general fund so this is to cover expenses. **VOTE: Unanimous***

3. Resolution 14-34: Appropriation: Postage

*Purpose: To appropriate from Free Cash to the Central Services 2014 Expense Budget. Clerk read the **MOTION**. Be It **Moved** and **Voted** by the Town Council that the sum of Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) be transferred from Available Funds (Free Cash) to the FY 2014 Central Services Expenses- Postage 01196200-534010. **SECOND** by Jones. **Discussion:** Postage went up, increased hearings, certified letters, etc. **VOTE: Unanimous***

4. Zoning Bylaw Amendment 14-728-R: Industrial to Single-Family III-1st Reading

***MOTION** to waive the reading by Kelly, **SECOND** by Mercer. **VOTE: Unanimous**
MOVE ZBL Amendment 14-728R to a Second Reading, Jones. **SECOND**, Mercer. **No Discussion. VOTE: Unanimous***

5. Zoning Bylaw Amendment 14-732: Amendment to the Franklin Town Code at Chapter 185, Section 21. Parking, Loading, and driveway requirements- 1st Reading

MOTION to waive the reading, Kelly. SECOND by Mercer. VOTE: Unanimous. MOVE ZBL Amendment 14-732 to a Second Reading, Jones. SECOND by Mercer. Councilor Padula noted that these Resolutions and Amendments are online should anyone wish to look at them when the readings have been waived and they have questions after the explanations. VOTE: Unanimous

6. Zoning Bylaw Amendment 14-733: Zoning Map changes from Commercial I to Downtown Commercial District in an Area on or Near Alpine Row-1st Reading
MOTION to waive the reading, Kelly. SECOND by Mercer. VOTE: Unanimous. MOVE ZBL Amendment 14-733 to a Second Reading, Jones. SECOND by Williams. Councilor Pfeffer does not feel it is fair that one parcel on Ruggles Street should stay Commercial One. Bryan Taberner said owner did not want to change. Councilor Bissanti spoke in favor of C1 zoning. Downtown Commercial has taken over C1 by requiring parking for residential. VOTE: Unanimous

7. Zoning Bylaw Amendment 14-734: Zoning Map Changes from Industrial to General Residential V District in an Area on or Near Josephine Street-1st Reading
MOTION to waive the reading, Kelly. SECOND by Mercer. VOTE: Unanimous. MOVE ZBL Amendment 14-734 to a Second Reading, Jones. SECOND by Williams. VOTE: Unanimous

8. Bylaw Amendment 14-735: Chapter, 25, Personnel Regulations, Appendix A & Appendix B-1st Reading – Withdrawn and Replaced by Resolution 14-35

9. Resolution 14-35: Compensation Plan – FY 2015
The Human Resources Director, pursuant to Chapter 25 of the Code of the Town of Franklin, has reviewed the Compensation Plan which establishes minimum and maximum salaries for pay ranges. Be it enacted by the Town Council of the Town of Franklin that the Compensation Plan is hereby adopted. MOVE Resolution 14-35, Jones. SECOND, Kelly. TA is recommending a 2% pay scale which is close to the CPI. VOTE: Unanimous

K. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – *Thanked everyone who came out for Earth Day. Everyone could do better disposing of litter. Ribbon Cutting at DelCarte on June 4 at 5:00 pm. Need Executive Session.*

L. OLD BUSINESS – *Kelly – Lincoln Street seems to be at a halt – why? TA answered Contract out for Culvert repair before Winterberry St. Open bids for reconstruction of road and that should start within 30 days. Waiting for after school. When are we going to fill potholes? Send out two trucks a day.*

M. NEW BUSINESS – None

N. COUNCIL COMMENTS – *Memorial Day Parade the 26th at 10:30 AM. Feldman encourages citizens to look into Solarize Franklin, can contact the Planning Dept.*

O. EXECUTIVE SESSION – *MOTION by Vallee: that the Town Council needs to meet in Executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Fire Fighters Union and I declare that an open meeting may have a detrimental*

effect on the bargaining position of the public body. The open session will not reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session.

*I **MOVE** that the Franklin Town Council go into executive session for the purpose to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Fire Fighters Union, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the Chair so declares, and that the open session not reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session. – Pfeffer.*

P. ADJOURN – Open Session Adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maxine Kinhart