

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 22, 2014**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present; Andrew Bissanti, Brett Feldman, Glenn Jones, Matt Kelly, Thomas Mercer, Peter Padula, Judith Pond Pfeffer, Robert Vallee, Steve Williams. 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: *December 11, 2013 Regular Session* **MOTION** by Councilor Padula to approve the minutes **SECONDED** by Councilor Mercer. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

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

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: NONE.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: NONE.

APPOINTMENTS: *Doug Newton – Library Board of Directors:* **MOTION** by Councilor Pfeffer to ratify the appointment of Doug Newton of 3 Stephen Way to serve as a member of the Library Board of Directors with the term set to expire on June 20, 2016 **SECONDED** by Councilor Jones. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

HEARINGS: NONE.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: NONE.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: *Franklin Cultural Council* – Claire Griffin presented the Ladybug Project to the Council. Ms. Griffin said the Ladybug Project would consist of 25 2ft X 2ft ladybug statues, which would celebrate the Town’s involvement of designating the ladybug as the State Bug. In 1974, Kennedy Elementary School teacher Palma Johnson and her Second Grade class successfully worked with the Legislature to propose and pass a bill declaring the Ladybug the State Bug. The Ladybug project, in collaboration with the Rotary Club would allow citizens and businesses to sponsor a ladybug for \$500. The current plan is to display the 25 Ladybugs on the Town Common during the Feast of Saint Rocco. There would be an honorary board, which would be comprised of students from Ms. Johnson’s 1974 Second Grade class. Chairman Vallee thanked Ms. Griffin for the presentation.

Municipal Affordable Housing Trust – Christopher Vericker, a member of the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust, provided a brief overview of two upcoming projects and provided information regarding available funding for the projects. Mr. Vericker said both projects met the mission of the Trust, which is to provide permanent affordable housing to qualified households in Franklin. The first project involves Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School to construct a new single-family home on Beaver Court. The home is scheduled to be completed and ready for sale to a qualified household in the Spring of 2015. The second project is to implement a program successful in other communities whereby the Trust would purchase homes priced around \$300,000 and resell them as deed restricted to qualified households for approximately \$150,000 in a lottery system. The difference in purchase price and selling price would be funded by the Trust. The Trust currently has 1.3 million dollars available. The Trust is self-funded and does not have a permanent funding source. The source of the current Trust fund is derived from two developers who did not want to construct

affordable housing in their respective developments and opted to ‘buy-out’. Mr. Nutting said the reason the program was being presented that evening was to notify the Council and area realtors that a Request for Proposal (RFP) was being finalized. Chairman Vallee thanked Mr. Vericker for the presentation.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: *Economic Development Committee – 150 Emmons Street Workshop* – Councilor Jones reported the workshop scheduled for January 21st was postponed due to a storm and will be rescheduled in the near future.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

Resolution 14-05: Fire Detail Account – Appropriation - \$5,083.47: **MOTION** by Councilor Kelly to TABLE Resolution 14-05 until the Fire Department can provide a list of Accounts **SECONDED** by Councilor Mercer. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

Zoning Bylaw Amendment 13-726: Chapter 185, Attachment 9 – Schedule of Lot, Area, Frontage Yard and Height Requirements – 2nd Reading: Councilors Bissanti and Mercer **RECUSED** themselves from Zoning Bylaw Amendment 13-726. Councilor Pfeffer read the zoning bylaw to add Residential VII Zoning District to Chapter 185, Schedule 9. **MOTION** by Councilor Padula to move Zoning Bylaw Amendment 13-726 **SECONDED** by Councilor Kelly. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting said the zoning bylaw amendment was a correction to the original bylaw that increased the area of impervious coverage to allow for the zoning bylaw to take affect. **ROLL CALL: Bissanti-Recused, Feldman-Yes, Jones-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Mercer-Recused, Padula-Yes, Pfeffer-Yes, Vallee-Yes, Williams-Yes. VOTE to Approve: 8 – 0 –2 – 0 Passed.**

Zoning Bylaw Amendment 14-728: Chapter 185, Section 5 – Change from Industrial to Single-Family III – Referral to the Planning Board: **MOTION** by Councilor Kelly to TABLE Zoning Bylaw Amendment 14-728 until after the Workshop in the first week of April **SECONDED** by Councilor Mercer. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: ► Mr. Nutting thanked the DPW for their continued snow removal efforts and said he appreciated the DPW’s hard work. ► The Town was notified the Bond Rating was increased to an AA+, which is its highest level ever. Mr. Nutting said this was a credit to the Council and staff. ► Mr. Nutting said they needed to meet in Executive Session after the conclusion of the regular meeting. ► Mr. Nutting reminded everyone about the Zoning Workshop scheduled to take place the following Wednesday. ► Mr. Nutting thanked Jennifer Gouthro who organized the candlelight vigil for Lexi and Sean Munroe.

OLD BUSINESS: ► Councilor Kelly requested an update on the Snow Removal Budget. Mr. Nutting said he did not have exact numbers as it takes a week or so after a storm to calculate costs. Mr. Nutting estimated the cost of snow removal had reached \$600,000 for the season. Councilor Kelly inquired about a training session, which would include the Council, and all elected officials and said he would like to see the agenda. Mr. Nutting said he would forward the Agenda information to Councilor Kelly. Councilor Kelly also asked when the Facilities Director would be scheduled to provide the Council with the quarterly update on all of the Town facilities. Mr. Nutting said he would schedule the Facilities Director to provide an update in February. ► Councilor Jones inquired about the Remington Jefferson roof. Mr. Nutting said he would have the report ready by Monday. ► Councilor Bissanti asked about a ‘Blight Bylaw’. Mr. Cerel said the Town has a Vacant Property Bylaw in place. Mr. Nutting said he would provide Councilor Bissanti with a copy of the bylaw.

NEW BUSINESS: ► Councilor Feldman asked Mr. Nutting what his thoughts were on the Governor’s budget. Mr. Nutting said there was a very modest local aid increase and would not change the financial position of the Town.

COUNCILOR COMMENTS: ► Councilor Padula said there was great support from the Council and the community for the Munroe family, especially during the wake and funeral. Councilor Padula said the support has meant a lot to the family. Councilor Padula commended Mr. Nutting and the staff for their work leading to

an improved bond rating. Councilor Padula spoke about the trash pick-up and praised the communication from the DPW for their recent efforts to notify residents of any changes to trash pick-up. Councilor Padula said he also supports the Ladybug Project. ► Councilor Kelly said he was pleased with the bond rating and reflected how hard the administration works and the decisions made by past Councils. ► Councilor Jones also commented on Lexi and Sean Munroe's wake. ► Councilor Bissanti praised the Town for its performance during the previous week with the storm and communication regarding a trash pick-up delay. Councilor Bissanti commended the Town for the increased bond rating. Councilor Bissanti also commented on the condition of the Town's roads. ► Chairman Vallee commented on the property located on the corner of Union Street and Cottage Street and inquired about the Recycling Center. Mr. Nutting said all of the money appropriated for the Recycling Center had been spent. Chairman Vallee recommended Mr. Nutting request additional funds to finish the Recycling Center project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chairman Vallee said the Town Council would go into Executive Session for the purpose to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Firefighters Union and Chairman Vallee declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body. Chairman Vallee said Open Session would not reconvene at the conclusion of the Executive Session. **MOTION** by Councilor Pfeffer for the Franklin Town Council to go into Executive Session for the purpose to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Firefighters Union as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and as the Chair has so declared, the Open Session will not reconvene at the conclusion of the Executive Session **SECONDED** by Councilor Jones. **ROLL CALL: Bissanti-Yes, Feldman-Yes, Jones-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Mercer-Yes, Padula-Yes, Pfeffer-Yes, Vallee-Yes, Williams-Yes. VOTE to Approve: 9 – 0 – 0 Unanimous.**

The Regular Session of the meeting ended at 7:40PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Brecht, Recording Secretary