



FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL

April 2, 2014

MINUTES

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present: Andrew Bissanti, Brett Feldman, Glenn Jones, Matt Kelly, Thomas Mercer (by Remote Participation), Peter Padula, Judith Pond Pfeffer, Robert Vallee, Steve Williams. Town Administrator Jeff Nutting, 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.*

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 12, 2014 regular and Executive Session- To be released **MOTION** by Padula to Approve the Minutes of February 12, Regular and Executive Session. **SECOND**, Kelly. **Roll Call: Bissanti – Yes, Dellorco – Yes, Feldman – Yes, Kelly – Yes, Mercer – Yes(by remote), Padula – Yes, Pfeffer – Yes, Vallee – Yes, Williams - Yes VOTE: 9-Yes 0-No 0-absent**

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS – This meeting is being recorded by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast channel 11 and Verizon channel 29. This meeting may be recorded by Franklin Matters.

Councilor Mercer will attend by remote participation. All votes will be by Roll Call.

C. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS - None

D. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

E. APPOINTMENTS - None

F. HEARINGS - None

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS – None

H. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS:

► **Senator Spilka, Senator Ross, & Representative Roy:** Legislators present to discuss budget issues. Senator Spilka explained that they are in the second year of a two year Session that will end July 31. House will do their bill in April, Senate will do theirs in May and joint in June Conference committee together to hash things out. House/Senate agreed to joint resolution for local aid. Chapter 70 \$100,000,000 that resulted in \$154,850 increase to Franklin and unrestricted local aid of \$25,000,000 which resulted in \$59,000 to Franklin. Transportation Bond Bill is 1.5 Billion for 5 years to cities and towns. \$300,000,000 every

year. \$150,000,000 has been released already. Chris, Representative Roy's Aide stated that anyone with questions should contact the Representative or himself. Chris also noted that they had secured \$300,000 for Panther Way Project. Representative Ross encouraged people to write letters and let them know what are the issues.

► **150 Emmons Street:** Councilor Jones, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee said that the Economic Development Committee had discussed the property and would like to have the full council and the public to have a discussion. Town Administrator added that the Town had a study done a year ago by an outside engineering company on the condition of the existing building. At the time it would cost in excess of 2,000,000 to renovate that building. That did not include fit-ups or carpeting etc.

Public

► Lisa Piana Director, Franklin Downtown Partnership

Would like to have the traffic evaluated. Thought the meeting in March was good, but thought it was a first step. Wanted to know where are the people going to park once down town construction begins? Wants time for the Partnership to work together with the Council to find a solution. ► Claire Griffin, 164 Main Street Should put this on hold for a year. Businesses cannot afford to lose income due to loss of parking. ► Richard Huff, 54 Meadowbrook Rd., Assistant Officer for a non-profit. Suggested that non-profits could lease the building. ► Jim Schultz, 21 Macintosh St., Referencing the 2003 Master Plan, he felt that the property should be part of a Cultural District. ► Maxwell Morrongiello, 210 Chestnut St., We are part of a Commonwealth and what we do there will be there for a 100 years. ► Susan Sheridan 21A Hawthorne Village, Is surprised at some of the ideas she has heard with very little community input. Once the property is gone, it's gone. ► Jane Curran, Jane's Frames, Once Streetscape Project starts where is parking going to be? ► Michael Doherty, 50 Bridle Path, Believes the project should move forward and encourage alternative ideas at the same time. Will have lots of time to participate. ► John Griffin, 164 Main Street, Nothing should be done with this site. Streetscape is coming. Should preserve your options. Could be opportunity to do something meaningful there. ► Allan Mercer, Franklin Performing Arts, In favor of delaying. Confused between RFI and RFP. It's a lot of money for green space. We should do a fund raising feasibility study. ► Guy Rezendes, 4 Alisha Dr., You have an opportunity to do some good here. Gateway to downtown. Doesn't have to be one or the other. ► Brian Kelly, Dean College, Is in favor of whatever is going to enhance the property. It is the Gateway. ► ► Cindy Rich, The Quilt Shop, The Streetscape project is coming and thinks we should be creative and not just go with the bird in the hand. ► Jim Halnon, Council should not do anything that would impact the downtown businesses.

Citizens Committee

Councilor Pfeffer, as member of Citizens Committee read statement from committee. Formed to encourage quality, visually pleasing financially enhancing economic development for the benefit of our community. Projects they have had an impact on to date are the dump (recycling center), acquisition of land purchase next to dump, Dean College Train Station Building improvements, Cook Farm Building Project, Downtown cleaning/maintenance of Downtown Center Business District. Currently 150 Emmons Street is an economic drain. The curb cuts should be done now, not when the roadwork is completed. The revenues received could benefit the Recreation Dept. The Site is not feasible as a park, it would be a loss of revenues. A park would benefit Dean College students. There needs to be a public/private effort.

Council

► Kelly, October EDC meeting discussion about drive through and it was clear that the Council did not want a drive through at that location and again in March. The subject of 150 Emmons has been on the agenda since 2004. ► **MOTION** by Kelly to have EOI for 90 days be referred back to the EDC for review with a full report to the Council on 9/3 Council Meeting. **SECOND**, Padula. ► Padula, not in favor of time delay. We've had significant discussions on this. ► Bissanti, Grandfather walked me from Dean Ave to the Rome. If it were about money, I wouldn't have opposed the anaerobic digester when it wanted to come to Pond Street. Let's keep on moving forward. ► Mercer (by remote), Don't want to rush in, but don't want to stop. Have questions unanswered. Parking is an issue. Traffic pattern there is an issue. Thank residents for coming out. ► Jones, Spend lots of time downtown. Parking is an issue. Would like to approach Rockland Trust about parking. Horace Mann should get 8,000 – 10,000 square ft. of the parcel. ► Williams, there is truth, problems with parking. Go with Expression of Interest that will put things off a little so we can make an informed decision. **Roll Call: Bissanti – Yes, Dellorco – Yes, Feldman – Yes, Kelly – Yes, Mercer – Yes(by remote), Padula – Yes, Pfeiffer – Yes, Vallee – Yes, Williams - Yes VOTE: 9-Yes 0-No 0-absent**

I. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – None

J. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- 1. Resolution 14-05: Appropriation: Fire Detail Account – MOTION** to continue until 2nd meeting in May, Jones. **SECOND**, Williams. Fire Chief has asked to continue this Resolution to the second meeting in May so that he may continue to reconcile some of the items. **Roll Call: Bissanti – Yes, Dellorco – Yes, Feldman – Yes, Kelly – Yes, Mercer – Yes(by remote), Padula – Yes, Pfeiffer – Yes, Vallee – Yes, Williams - Yes VOTE: 9-Yes 0-No 0-absent 0**
- 2. Resolution 14-15: Request for Special Legislation, Re: Local Sales Tax on Sale of Medical Marijuana – MOVE** Resolution 14-15, Padula. **SECOND**, Kelly. Town Administrator took this from the Town of Dennis. No one else is doing yet. Medical marijuana is going to be a very lucrative business. **Roll Call: Bissanti – Yes, Dellorco – Yes, Feldman – Yes, Kelly – Yes, Mercer – Yes(by remote), Padula – Yes, Pfeiffer – Yes, Vallee – Yes, Williams - Yes VOTE: 9-Yes 0-No 0-absent**
- 3. Zoning Bylaw Amendment 14-728R: Changes to Chapter 185 – 5, Zoning Map: Industrial to Single Family III (Washington St.)-Referral to Planning Board - MOTION** to waive the reading, Kelly. **SECOND**, Jones. **Roll Call: Bissanti – Yes, Dellorco – Yes, Feldman – Yes, Kelly – Yes, Mercer – Yes (by remote), Padula – Yes, Pfeiffer – Yes, Vallee – Yes, Williams - Yes VOTE: 9-0-0. MOTION** by Jones to Refer ZBL 14-728R to the Planning Board. **SECOND**, Williams. **Roll Call: Bissanti – Yes, Dellorco – Yes, Feldman – Yes, Kelly – Yes, Mercer – Yes(by remote), Padula – Yes, Pfeiffer – Yes, Vallee – Yes, Williams - Yes VOTE: 9-Yes 0-No 0-absent**
- 4. Zoning Bylaw Amendment 14-732: Changes to Chapter 185-21, Parking, Loading, and Driveway Requirements – Referral to Planning Board - MOTION** to waive the reading, Jones. **SECOND**, Williams. **Roll Call: Bissanti – Yes, Dellorco – Yes, Feldman – Yes, Kelly – Yes, Mercer – Yes (by remote), Padula – Yes, Pfeiffer – Yes, Vallee – Yes,**

Williams - Yes VOTE: 9-Yes 0-No 0-absent . MOTION by Jones to refer ZBL 14-732 to the Planning Board. **SECOND, Kelly. Discussion:** TA stated current Bylaw on site distance should be changed to the state standard to allow reasonable site distance. Also take driveway separation from ZBA and make it a special permit from the Planning Board. This will stream line things. **Roll Call: Bissanti – Yes, Dellorco – Yes, Feldman – Yes, Kelly – Yes, Mercer – Yes(by remote), Padula – Yes, Pfeffer – Yes, Vallee – Yes, Williams - Yes VOTE: 9-Yes 0-No 0-absent**

K. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT - April 30 and May 1 will be Budget Meetings. Best wishes to Stella Jeon.

L. OLD BUSINESS – None

M. NEW BUSINESS - ► Chairman Vallee would like to create a new subcommittee to explore having an Emergency Care Center here in Franklin. Judy Pfeffer and Peter Padula will be on it. ► Want Jeff to call State DOT. When is project to start? Jeff Roy will probably have news tomorrow.

N. COUNCIL COMMENTS – ► Councilor Bissanti is proud of townspeople wanting to be involved. We represent the whole town. ► Councilor Kelly stated it was not his intention to be harsh with some of his comments. He appreciates everyone coming out here tonight.

O. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Negotiations, Litigation, Real Property, as May Be Required

P. ADJOURN – **MOTION to ADJOURN: Roll Call: Bissanti – Yes, Dellorco – Yes, Feldman – Yes, Kelly – Yes, Mercer – Yes(by remote), Padula – Yes, Pfeffer – Yes, Vallee – Yes, Williams - Yes VOTE: 9-Yes 0-No 0-absent**
– **9:18 pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

Maxine Kinhart