

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
November 12, 2015**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Thursday, November 12, 2015 at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present: Andrew Bissanti, Robert Dellorco, Glenn Jones, Matthew Kelly, Thomas Mercer (by Remote Participation), Peter Padula, Judith Pond Pfeffer, Robert Vallee. Councilors not in attendance: Deborah Pellegri. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jeffrey Nutting, 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.

SWEARING IN: Deborah Pellegri stated there may be a recount of the November 3, 2015 election results. Therefore, she will not be in attendance as a new council member for this meeting and possibly the next meeting as she is still working as the Town Clerk. She will, however, be in audience attendance. She then conducted the swearing in of the council members in her capacity as Town Clerk.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Nominations were accepted for Town Council Chairman. **Nomination of Kelly by Pfeffer. SECOND by Dellorco. Motion to Close nominations by Dellorco. SECOND by Bissanti. VOTE (roll call not taken): Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1. ►ROLL CALL VOTE to elect Kelly as Chairman:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES (by remote); Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

Nominations were accepted for Town Council Vice Chairman. **Nomination of Mercer by Jones. SECOND by Dellorco. Nomination of Vallee by Bissanti. SECOND by Padula. Motion to Close nominations by Bissanti. SECOND by Padula. ►ROLL CALL VOTE to close nominations:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES (by remote); Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1. ►ROLL CALL VOTE to elect Vice Chairman:** Bissanti-VALLEE; Dellorco-MECER; Jones-MERCER; Kelly-MERCER; Mercer-MERCER (by remote); Padula-VALLEE; Pfeffer-VALLEE; Vallee-VALLEE. **VOTE: Mercer-4, Vallee-4. Tie. Motion to Move vote for Vice Chairman until a full council is seated by Pfeffer. SECOND by Jones. ►ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES (by remote); Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

Nominations were accepted for Town Council Clerk. **Nomination of Pfeffer by Bissanti. SECOND by Jones. Motion to Close nominations by Bissanti. SECOND by Dellorco. ►ROLL CALL VOTE to close nominations:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES (by remote); Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1. ►ROLL CALL VOTE to elect Pfeffer as Clerk:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES (by remote); Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 7, 2015, October 21, 2015. Motion to Approve the October 7, 2015 meeting minutes by Dellorco. SECOND by Bissanti. ►ROLL CALL VOTE: Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES (by remote); Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-7, No-0, Absent-1, Abstain-1.** (Mr. Jones abstained as he was not present at the October 7, 2015 meeting.)

Motion to Approve the October 21, 2015 meeting minutes by **Dellorco**. **SECOND** by **Pfeffer**. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES (by remote); Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-7, No-0, Absent-1, Abstain-1.** (Mr. Jones abstained as he was not present at the October 21, 2015 meeting.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS: ► Chairman Kelly announced the meeting would be recorded by *Franklin TV* and available for viewing on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29. This meeting may also be recorded by others. ► The Town Council December 2, 2015 meeting will be moved to December 9, 2015. This will also be the 2016 Fiscal Tax Hearing meeting. ► There is an alternate position on the Planning Board open. Anyone interested in being an alternate on the Planning Board should contact the Town Administrator's office via email or phone no later than November 25, 2015. ► There will be a public hearing on Saturday, November 14, 2015 at 9:30 AM regarding the 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan update and related public input process. This meeting will be held at the Franklin Public Library.

Mark Cerel stated that as there is a vacancy of Vice Chairman on the Town Council, and the Vice Chairman's principal role is to fill in during the event of an absence by the Chairman, going forward the Chairman must address his schedule for if the Chairman is not present at future meetings, there will be no one to preside.

Mr. Padula stated he has a conflict for the December 9, 2015 meeting and will not be able to attend.

Chairman Kelly stated the date of the rescheduled meeting will be discussed during New Business.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: ► Helen Chalk, resident, spoke about her concern regarding the Spectra pipeline. They seem to be moving ahead and doing things beneath the radar and she would like to have a public hearing on this. ► James Hill, 5 Gloucester Drive, congratulated all Council members for winning their positions. He stated he had met with Jeff Nutting. All Council members should have received packet with 120 petition signatures and information about fracked natural gas. He read a statement representing a group of Franklin residents who have organized to oppose the Spectra pipeline that would run through the Town. The concerns include property values, homeowner safety, and increased pressure on the existent 52-year-old pipe causing potential for leaks and explosion, increased utility bill tariffs, impact on environment, increased greenhouse gases, and pollution from hydro-fracking. He would like to have a one-hour meeting with Council at a future date. ► Karen Lavery, 128 Union Street, stated it is imperative that more information be disseminated to residents of Franklin as many people are not aware this Spectra pipeline project is being planned. She stated the importance of having people come to a public meeting and state their opinions. There are many more people in Franklin than the ones in attendance at this meeting that are concerned about this. There is an online petition with 119 signatures from people who do not want pipeline going through Franklin. ► Gail Chirdon, 14B Hawthorne Village, congratulated all Council members. She wanted to speak about the pipeline and asked about the process to get a separate meeting with the Council preferably before Christmas. ► Donald Parsley, 5 Charlotte Court, stated he believes the Spectra pipeline is not in the best interest of Franklin or Massachusetts. He would like the focus to be on renewable energy. ► Paul Sackley, 109 Union Street, stated he has the same concerns as others that have spoken. He has yet to hear any benefits of this pipeline to Franklin residents, and he also requested a public hearing.

APPOINTMENTS: ► *Finance Committee.* Ms. Pfeffer read the recommendation of the Finance Committee to appoint David Moses to serve as a member of the Finance Committee. **Motion to Ratify** the appointment of David Moses to serve as a member of the Finance Committee, term to expire November, 2017 by **Pfeffer. SECOND** by **Dellorco. Discussion:** Mr. Moses addressed the Council and provided background information. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES (by remote); Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

► *Franklin Community Cable Access Committee.* Ms. Pfeffer read the recommendation of the Franklin Community Cable Access Committee to appoint Kenneth Norman and Rose Turco to serve as members of the Franklin Community Cable Access Committee. **Motion to Ratify** the appointments of Kenneth Norman and Rose Turco to serve as members of the Franklin Community Cable Access Committee, term to expire November, 2018 by **Pfeffer. SECOND** by **Dellorco. Discussion:** Mr. Nutting stated they were going to be present, but it is their annual meeting. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES (by remote); Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

HEARINGS: None.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: None.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: None.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

1. *Resolution 15-72: Establishment of a School Store Revolving Account for Fiscal Year 2016.* Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move** Resolution 15-72 for the establishment of a School Store revolving account for Fiscal Year 2016 to not exceed \$40,000 by **Pfeffer. SECOND** by **Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated there is a revolving account for the Senior Center for their store. The school also has a store, so they are doing the same thing. This is a routine matter to keep all accounting in order. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES (by remote); Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Mr. Nutting stated he has been in contact with people from the pipeline and asked them to a meeting in January. They said they would attend. A specific date is not available, but he will work that out with the Council Chairman and let everyone know the date. Wants to get facts on the table and hear everything out. ► Downtown project is wrapping up for the rest of the calendar year. More hot top to be put down, cleanup, period lighting and then contractors will be back in April to do the bridge and Main Street. ► Reminded people there are a few temporary stop signs at the end of Emmons Street where West Central Street comes in. The Dean College crosswalk has moved to that intersection. So, at end of Emmons Street, stop and take a look. Ultimately, the stop light will be activated with a push to walk signal, but in the meantime, use caution. ► At next week's Town Council meeting Dan Sherman will make presentation regarding OPEB obligation; he has been doing this since 2007. His report has been distributed to all Council members, along with some general information on pension obligations. ► November 29 is the holiday event on the Common with the tree lighting at 4:00 PM.

OLD BUSINESS: ► Mr. Padula stated the cans at the Recycling Center have been painted. He thanked Daddario Hardware and Sherwin-Williams for donating paint and Main Street Café for donating funds.

NEW BUSINESS: ► Mr. Padula stated he has a conflict with the timing of the next meeting and asked if there was any way to meet on a different date. ► Councilors discussed alternate dates. ► Mr. Nutting stated he will check dates and let everyone know tomorrow. ► After discussion Chairman Kelly agreed the next meeting would be held on December 10, which will also be the 2016 Fiscal Tax Hearing. ► Mr. Vallee stated there are two potential health hazards facing Franklin: the expansion of the power plant in Medway due to prevailing winds, and the proposed gas line going through the Town. He stated he is going to make a motion at the next meeting to hire an environmental attorney to look at the potential hazards for the Town of Franklin. ► Mr. Nutting stated he has reached out to one attorney, but has not heard back. The money would have to be appropriated by the Council. He noted this has been a concern expressed by Councilors Kelly and Vallee in the past and he is hoping to get information. ► Mr. Jones stated as soon as information is received back from Spectra he would like to get the hearing date in scheduled, possibly the first meeting in January. ► Mr. Dellorco expressed agreement with both a meeting and hiring an environmental lawyer. ► Mr. Bissanti commented on the Wachusett Street lot that was being developed for extra parking for the Fletcher Field, and asked why only half the lot was going to be opened for parking. ► Mr. Nutting stated the construction is not complete and there is still much to do. ► Mr. Bissanti asked if the Council would be hearing more from the 350-Massachusetts group that spoke during Citizens Comments. He requested they be added to a future agenda. ► Ms. Pfeffer stated there has been interest in having the children of Franklin more involved with what the Council does. As a member of the Advisory Committee she was charged with trying to find ways to use the Old Church on South Washington Street. To get children involved, she would like to consider a contest with a cash award from a donation open to all school children to come up with ideas on how to use that church for public purpose. ► Mr. Nutting stated the Town cannot give a cash award. He stated he will reach out to the school folks to inquire about this and he will provide an update next week.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Mr. Jones thanked all voters that came out last Tuesday and thanked everyone for all their support. ► Mr. Dellorco thanked all the voters and his family. ► Mr. Bissanti thanked everyone for their support and noted how social media was involved. He also thanked the veterans. ► Ms. Pfeffer thanked voters and her family. She acknowledged and thanked Steven Lombardi for his great service--he worked for the Town of Franklin for 36 years and has just retired. ► Mr. Padula thanked all voters and his family and is looking forward to another two years on the Council. ► Mr. Mercer thanked his family and constituents for supporting him. ► Mr. Nutting stated that even though a new Town Clerk was elected, Ms. Pellegrini cannot hold the position of a Town Council member because under the charter, a person cannot hold two positions. She needs to carry on her work as Town Clerk until the recount is done; she can be on the Council after that point. It is a legal matter. ► Chairman Kelly thanked the 20 percent of voters that came out on Election Day. He was glad to see everyone. He thanked fellow Council members for asking him to be their Chairman. He thanked his family for their support.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURN: MOTION to Adjourn by Vallee. SECOND by Padula. ► ROLL CALL VOTE: Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES (by remote); Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary