

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 7, 2011**

Call to Order

Mayor Merrifield called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall. Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor Andreozzi.

In Attendance

Councilor Boyd, Councilor Clarenbach, Councilor Starkweather, Councilor Trudel, Councilor Feener, Councilor Audet, Councilor Bowers, Councilor Sharon, Councilor Andreozzi, Mayor Merrifield and City Manager Dragon.

Public Hearing

Resolution #03-11 - this resolution pertains to a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$152,000, to be transferred from Water Department Capital Reserves for the replacement of the Water Main located under Memorial Street.

Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing. No one came forth to speak; the public hearing was closed.

Comments from the Public

Mayor Merrifield opened this segment of the agenda. Mrs. Traci Fowler, Coordinator for the Mayor's Drug and Alcohol Task Force addressed the Mayor and Council announcing the next meeting is Thursday, March 10th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Franklin Hospital. She stated they are working on getting a lot of the organizational pieces in place, the grant will be reviewed, the leadership committee is in place, sub-committees will be developed and then they will move forward with their goals and strategies. She advised there is a prescription drug take-back program that Franklin will participate in on April 30th and will be a day-long event. She also mentioned a youth risk behavior survey which will take place next week at Franklin High School. She stated this brings a very broad range of data, not only information on drug and alcohol but other issues as well. This survey is funded regionally. She also advised through funding from CCNTR

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magnets are available showing a number (211) you can call to share information and anonymous calls are accepted. She congratulated Franklin on passing the City's ordinance making K-2 illegal and K-2 is now officially a controlled substances under Schedule 1 and this was just released by DEA and Franklin was way ahead on that issue.

Ms. Lisa Hodgdon, 82 Prospect and Ms. Sandy Cady, 9 Orchard Street addressed the Mayor and Council with their concerns about an out-of-town landlord. Ms. Cady stated she and Ms. Hodgdon are side-by-side neighbors and have living in their homes for many years. Ms. Cady stated this is an out-of-control situation whereby a landlord does not control his property or his tenants. She stated her property (9 Orchard) takes the brunt of the situation and she stated she has to call the police about 4 time's minimum a week. She stated she did not buy a house to have it be a parking lot. She stated garbage, rats; skunks are all around from the garbage out everywhere. She stated she wants this cleaned up. She stated they have taken pictures and brought them to the City Manager, submitted statements. She stated there is one tenant that is out of control. Ms. Hodgdon commented just because this landlord lives out of state, he still should be accountable. Mayor Merrifield commented that the City has a Disorderly Residence Ordinance that is on the agenda tonight to see if a little more bite could be added to the ordinance. Manager Dragon stated the situation with this situation and another one we felt there is not enough in the ordinance to do what needs to be done and that is why we would hope to make some changes to the ordinance.

Mr. George Dzujna, resident of Ward I thanked Manager Dragon, Planning/Zoning Administrator Lewis and Code Enforcement Officer Bodien for listening to the public concerning code issues.

Choose Franklin

Mr. George Dzujna gave the quarterly report for Choose Franklin advised they just had a group meeting discussing what kind of information the public wants. It

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seems the big thing the people are interested in is hearing what the City/the Officials have to say. New officers have been elected and once again Sarah Stanley and Annette Andreozzi will Co-Chair Choose Franklin. Mr. Dzujna stated he will continue to be Vice-Chair, Ms. Marcia Rollins will be the Treasurer, Heidi Kling is the secretary and Choose Franklin has a new person on the Board, Mr. Bob Lucas. Mr. Dzujan advised that Choose Franklin will now be organizing Community Day.

Legislative Comments

Representative Kathy Rago offered a review of a list of items. She advised that the K-2 bill was sent back to committee for more study. She stated she is on the Education Committee and commented on the bill that would allow school districts to use their own van and she stated this would be a good thing as currently if you have even a golf team of 6 or 8 members you have to use the buses which are expensive and this way you could use your own van and own drivers. The Greenhouse Gas initiative which repelled this initiative passed. The pension bill has gone back to the committee. There is a bill being looked at that would allow towns and cities to adopt their own spending caps. There are two bills that have to do with the Northern Pass and they will be heard this week. Ms. Rago is on the Merrimack Nursing Home Committee and she stated they have reviewed the budget line by line and it still comes out to a 5.7 million dollar loss. Councilor Andreozzi asked if the house rules were suspended in order to let the Northern Pass bills be considered by the Committee. Mrs. Rago responded not that she knows of, the bills would go through Committee just like any other bill. Mrs. Rago stated she would have to follow up to see if the house rules were suspended. Mayor Merrifield inquired if his impression on the County Budget is correct that it is virtually flat with the amount to be raised by taxes. Mayor Merrifield inquired is the 5.7 million dollar loss for the nursing home, is that absorbed somewhere else. Mrs. Rago advised that she has not reviewed the entire budget yet. Mayor Merrifield commented that he thought about 4 million was coming from their fund balance.

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City Council Acknowledgement

Councilor Trudel expressed his appreciation to the Franklin School Board for having him in attendance at their school board meeting and he stated he was quite impressed. He also thanked Principal Hoyt for giving some of his time and giving me a tour of the school. He also thanked Dr. Ward for the tour she gave him through Franklin High School.

Councilor Boyd complimented the Municipal Services Department on the great job of the snow removal. Mayor Merrifield commented that he heard from a resident who had a sewage problem and they spoke very highly of Director Sullivan and his staff in the manner in which they handled the situation and the quick response.

Mayor's Update

Mayor Merrifield stated concerning House Bill 648 and 649 concerning the Northern Pass Project and he encouraged anyone that could attend the hearings to speak in favor of the project to do so. Mayor Merrifield commented that in his opinion the Northern Pass Project represents the most significant economic event in the history of Franklin. Councilor Boyd commented that this project also represents millions to the State and other communities in New Hampshire. Mayor Merrifield invited everyone to come out to the Public Hearing here in Franklin City Hall on March 15th and show their support for the project.

Mayor Merrifield advised he has been contacted by the Mayor of Laconia, Mayor Michael Seymour who supports the Northern Pass Project as well as his City Council and he requested that they meet along with a couple of Franklin and Laconia Councilors to discuss how they might best support the project and how the two cities could work together on other issues in the future.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council approves the minutes of the February 7, 2011 City Council Meeting, motion seconded by Councilor Bowers.

Mayor Merrifield pointed out that he had excused himself from the non-public session and requested that be noted in the minutes.

All in favor, minutes approved as amended.

Request to Waive Vendor Permit for Community Day

Motion made by Councilor Bowers that the Franklin City Council waives fees for Vendor Permits for Community Day, May 14, 2011. Motion seconded by Councilor Sharon. All in favor, motion passes.

Franklin School Board Monthly Status Report

Mr. Keith Lohmann, School Board member addressed the Mayor and Council stating last month there was a question concerning Merging Rivers and the lack of reference in the minutes and he advised that the discussion concerning Merging Rivers was held in non-public session; the vote was in public and was reported in the minutes of December 13, 2010. The discussion around Merging Rivers concerned placement of specific students to alternative programs. Mr. Lohmann advised concerning the standing motion in the amount of \$184,000 in spending that needed to be rescinded; this was discussed at the last meeting and it was decided not to take any action until a meeting was held between the Business Administrator for the City and the School. The next board meeting is March 17, 2011.

Resolution #03-11 – a resolution concerning a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$152,000, which would be transferred from the Water Department Capital Reserves for the Memorial Street Water Main Replacement.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council approves Resolution #03-11 by a roll call vote. Motion seconded by Councilor Bowers.

Roll Call:

Councilor Clarenbach – Yes

Councilor Sharon – Yes

Councilor Boyd – Yes

Councilor Bowers – Yes

Councilor Starkweather – Yes

Councilor Audet – Yes

Councilor Andreozzi – Abstain

Councilor Feener – Yes

Councilor Trudel – Yes

Resolution #03-11 is approved.

Ordinance #05-11 - this ordinance represents an amendment to Section 233-2 of the City Code adding Paragraph I to the Property Maintenance Code concerning the boarding up of buildings.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council schedules a public hearing on Ordinance #05-11 for Monday, April 4, 2011 at 7:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall regarding amendment to Chapter 233, the Property Maintenance Code, and procedures and timeframes for the boarding up of buildings following damage or through the issuance of a building permit. Motion seconded by Councilor Bowers. All in favor, motion passes to set public hearing.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that Ordinance #05-11 be read in title only, motion seconded by Councilor Bowers. All in favor, motion passes.

Mayor Merrifield read Ordinance #05-11.

Ordinance #06-11 – this ordinance would remove Section 305-29.2, Disorderly Residence from the Zoning Ordinance and create a revised and separate chapter in the City Code.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council schedules a public hearing on Ordinance #06-11 for Monday, April 4, 2011 at 7:07 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall which proposes to remove section 305-29.2, Disorderly Residence from the Zoning Ordinance and create a revised and separate Chapter in the City Code. Motion seconded by Councilor Sharon. All in favor, motion passes.

Motion made by Councilor Feener to read Ordinance #06-11 in title only, motion seconded by Councilor Bowers. All in favor, motion passes.

Mayor Merrifield read Ordinance #06-11.

Community Development Block Grant/Tiny Twisters

Motion made by Councilor Boyd that the Franklin City Council schedules three consecutive public hearings on April 4, 2011 at 7:08 p.m. concerning an application for a Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) up to \$500,000 on behalf of Tiny Twisters Child Care Center. Motion seconded by Councilor Bowers. All in favor, motion passes.

Proposal for a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Manager Dragon offered discussion concerning the possibility of a strategic plan and requested input from the Council. She advised that the City has a contract with Capital Regional Development in the amount of \$12,000 so additional appropriations are not needed. The Council expressed some interest in holding a meeting with both Capital Regional and Franklin Business and Industrial to discuss economic development.

Other Business

Councilor Bowers stated MSD would be holding a committee meeting soon. Manager Dragon gave her update and also advised that soon all committees will schedule meetings concerning the upcoming budget. Councilor Feener and Chair of the Finance Committee scheduled a Finance Committee Meeting March 31, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. and a Joint Finance Committee Meeting March 31, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion made by Councilor Bowers that the Franklin city Council acknowledge, with regret, the resignation of Mrs. Elaine Rayno, Ward II, Supervisor of the Checklist. Motion seconded by Councilor Sharon. All in favor, motion passes.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council appoints Esaundra L. Gaudette as Supervisor of the Checklist, Ward II. Term of Service to January, 2012. Motion seconded by Councilor Clarenbach. All in favor, motion passes.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Bowers, motion seconded by Councilor Sharon. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue E. May