

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 7, 2012**

Call to Order

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

In Attendance

Councilor Dzujna, Councilor Sharon, Councilor Cournoyer, Councilor Desrochers, Councilor Feener, Councilor Trudel, Councilor Starkweather, Councilor Boyd, Councilor Clarenbach, Manager Dragon and Mayor Merrifield.

Public Hearings

Resolution #15-12 – this resolution concerns appropriations and expenditures of the Municipal Transportation Funds. Mayor Merrifield advised the reason for the hearing is to get public input on using a portion of these funds to insure that the entire amount is expended granted to the City by the Federal Government for the Downtown Transportation Grant. The City is looking to use about \$5,000 from that fund. Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing. Resident Leigh Webb inquired if there is a list of priorities in terms of projects to be approached with the extra funds and where on that list is the side entrance to City Hall and its reconfiguration to make it more user friendly. Planner Lewis responded as outlined in the memo to the City Council there are basically four priorities that have been established, one is during some of the installation of the new traffic lights, it was learned that the East bound lane on Central Street and the Franklin Street intersection did not have a traffic control loop, so one portion of the remaining funds would go towards the installation of a new loop. There will also be some modification concerning the timing of the traffic signal. The Fire Department pointed out, which is a life safety issue, the installation of a new preemption receiver and this will be pointed down Central Street towards Cumberland Farms so that when emergency vehicles are coming up towards downtown and the Franklin Street intersection that signal can be tripped to allow the emergency vehicles to move through more safely and easily. The last one is

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the continuation of the sidewalk work; the work would continue and finish the sidewalk between Memorial Street and Smith Street. Mr. Lewis stated the side entrance could be considered through some future utilization of the transportation funds or other capital improvements. He advised there has not been an architectural review of the side entrance. Mr. Webb asked if it would be possible during this process to at least get an estimate of what the cost would be to reconfigure the side entrance to be more user friendly. Mr. Lewis commented that would probably have to be done outside the earmarked federal funds.

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

Ordinance #09-12 – this ordinance concerns amendments to Chapter 284, Vehicle and Traffic of the Franklin City Code. Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing.

Mrs. Elaine Rayno spoke in favor of the part in the ordinance that closes Victory Drive from Central Street to the entrance to the cemetery stating she has serious concerns about the traffic that travels up this section of Victory Drive. She stated she has lived in that neighborhood all her life and it was always a very quiet neighborhood but now at certain times of the day it becomes a race track. People come racing up the road and they travel that to avoid the traffic lights that have been installed at Central and West Bow Street. The extreme speed these car travel is a danger to everyone in the neighborhood. She also commented the road is deteriorating on the left hand side and on the right hand side there are huge trees and you can see the roots that are coming through. Mr. Steve Rayno spoke in favor of the ordinance and closing that part of Victory Drive. He stated there is a speed limit posted by the cemetery of 25mph and they come racing up the hill at 60 mph and some people don't even stop at the stop sign. He also stated just last night 3 motorcycles came up over the hill and they all did wheelies right through the intersection. The road coming up over the hill, the guardrails are all rotted, it is also a dumping ground and people halfway up the hill throw TVs, tires, etc. over the bank. He advised that in places the road is washing away. He suggested barriers be put up and then the road could be used in the event of an emergency. Mr. Klingerman, resident spoke in favor of closing that portion of

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Victory Drive, he stated he has lived in the neighborhood for the last 7 years and he stated he can't tell how many time he has seen his neighbors' children almost get hit by the speeding cars and pets have been run over. He stated between the hours of 7 to 9 am, noon to 1 pm and 3 pm to 5 pm every day the speeding cars can be seen. He also commented there are hundreds of cars using the shortcut that might otherwise be driving through the downtown and might stop at one of the eating places or at the convenience store or gift store.

Resident James Ryba spoke against closing the road and stated the amount of traffic that utilizes the road, emergency situation, that road is the only east west thoroughfare that if that section is closed or an emergency situation should arise between Victory Drive and West Bow Street, you would either have to go up to Bristol or down to Boscawen. He stated with barricades and calling to have them moved in the case of an emergency by the time they are moved, it might be too late. The speed could be taken care by law enforcement. He stated he does know the guard rails need to be replaced and he might change his mind if he knew the cost factors but feels it would be shame to close the road. He also asked if a traffic impact study has been done on West Bow if that part of Victory Drive is closed. He was told a study has not been done.

Ms. Barbara Blinn, resident on Victory Drive spoke in favor of shutting down that part of Victory Drive stating she feels this road will create more emergencies. One of the problems is at the bottom of the hill there is a business that turns out onto the main street when cars are coming in. The road is extremely dangerous; however, if the street is vitally important to the City, it should be upgraded completely and perhaps put speed bumps in. Mr. Greenwood at 140 Victory Drive advised his front yard is used as a shortcut and people walking the road have to be on alert for the speeding cars. He recommended gates be used as the closure for the road as they can be opened quickly in an emergency. He also pointed out on that road there are no sidewalks so people have to walk on the road. He also commented there should be signs on the road "children at play", but he supports the closure of the road. He also pointed out many cars travel the road the opposite way.

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Mr. Greg Couture, 131 Victory Drive spoke in support of closing the road. He stated he has lived on Victory Drive for 36 years and the hill has been a nightmare. He agrees with everything people have said about the condition of the group and the speeding cars. He stated he has a flower garden in the front of his home and he has been hit while working in his garden. Dumping happens all the time and he stated he caught a person dumping the waste tank out of his motor home. He stated he has observed tractor trailers on this road and lots of school buses and he states when those kinds of vehicles travel through his house vibrates. He stated in the early am as long as he has lived there he sees 10 – 15 vehicles going down the hill every morning, which is the wrong way.

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

Ordinance #11-12 – this ordinance concerns Section 50-2 of the City Code concerning changing the time of the City Council Meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing. Mr. Lee Marriner, resident commented that he would think 7:00 p.m. would be a better time for the public to be able to make the meetings. Mr. Leigh Webb, resident commented we want to encourage more public to attend the Council meetings to understand what is going on in their City. He also stated as difficult as it is to find people to run for public office, most are working and it might be difficult for them to make a 6:00 p.m. meeting.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Legislative Comments

None

City Council Acknowledgement

Councilor Dzujna complimented the Fire Department and the Police Department concerning a fire at a house over in Ward I. The Fire Department responded very quickly and did everything in putting out the fire. It was learned by the Police Department that the fire was set and they acted very quickly and had arrested those responsible by that evening.

Councilor Boyd made a motion that the Franklin City Council consider taking up consideration on Agenda Item VII Ordinance #09-12 now, due to the fact so many residents are here concerning that ordinance, motion was seconded by Councilor Dzujna. All in favor, motion passes.

Ordinance #09-12 – amendments to Chapter 284, Vehicle and Traffic, of the Franklin City Code.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council adopts Ordinance #09-12 by a roll call vote. Motion seconded by Councilor Trudel.

Councilor Desrochers commented that he is torn between closing and not closing Victory Drive. He stated if Victory Drive is closed he agrees with Mr. Greenwood that Jersey Barriers would not solve the problem in an emergency, that gates would be needed with some kind of a lock on them and in that way we could get to it quickly and unlock the gates so whatever needs to be done can be done. He also stated the road if closed will still need to be plowed in case of an emergency. He stated he uses the road sometimes but he does sympathize with the residents in that area. Councilor Boyd comment he agrees with Councilor Desrochers and that a gate would be the way to go and a gate should be placed at the top also. Councilor Dzujna commented he does not use that road very often but he has seen where people dump items over the side of the road and he agrees with the idea of gates rather than the barriers. Councilor Feener stated he is very much in favor of closing the road and he would support using gates rather than barriers. Councilor Cournoyer stated he agrees with Councilor Desrochers

recommendation. He further commented that road has been a dump site, a party spot, etc. Councilor Starkweather commented this was discussed at the MSD Committee meeting. The road is in need of vast repairs, part of it is sliding down the hill, a good rainstorm would probably take it, the guardrails are just hanging on and if someone were to hit them, they would probably take them and keep right on going over the bank. There are not funds right now to fix roads with a higher priority than Victory Drive. Councilor Sharon stated he agrees with closing the road, he said 3 weeks ago he took that road as a shortcut and about half way up the road he met a truck coming down and he had to back down because it was a truck, so people are coming down that hill. The other dangerous section is the entrance to the cemetery, you pull out of the cemetery and there is a stone column and you have to get out beyond it to see down the hill and if someone is right there doing 60 mph you are going to have an accident. He also stated he supports gates.

Mayor Merrifield commented there are a number of other changes in this ordinance, not just closing Victory Drive. He asked if the option of gates versus barriers needs to be taken up as a separate issue. Director Sullivan commented he agrees with the plowing and a gate. Something special will have to be ordered that is well marked. Director Sullivan stated this needs to be well publicized and the peak times need to be looked at and the assistance of the Police Department, Webster Value gets out at 3:00 p.m. and the school gets out at the same time. His concern is preparing the public for the change. He stated he has no concerns about the gates or the plowing of snow. There is a concern as to the impact on West Bow Street. When West Bow was reconstructed there is a pretty good left turn holding lane, there may need to be adjustment to the light sequencing to accommodate left turns at peak times.

Councilor Boyd commented that Director Sullivan makes some good points but the issue at hand tonight is whether the Council is going to close the road or not. Councilor Desrochers inquired about changing the yield sign to a stop sign on Prospect Street at Central Street. He asked if that location has been a high accident location, what will we gain by changing a yield sign to a stop sign.

Councilor Desrochers commented in the winter time people coming down the hill are not going to be able to stop. Chief Goldstein stated the purpose for making that a stop sign is for traffic control. He further advised there have been a number of accidents there. Councilor Cournoyer commented that he favors having a stop sign there because then perhaps people will at least learn to yield.

Roll Call:

***Councilor Clarenbach – Yes
Councilor Starkweather – Yes
Councilor Sharon – Yes
Councilor Desrochers – Yes
Councilor Dzujna – Yes***

***Councilor Boyd – Yes
Councilor Feener – Yes
Councilor Trudel – Yes
Councilor Cournoyer – Yes***

All in favor, Ordinance #09-12 is adopted.

Mayor's Update

Mayor Merrifield stated he has received a letter from the Post Commander of VFW asking about the addition of a name to our Viet Nam Veterans Memorial and the Mayor is wondering how a name gets added. Director Sullivan volunteered to handle the question. Councilor Boyd will also read through the request and assist.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council approves the minutes of the March 26, 2012 City Council Budget Workshop Meeting and the April 2, 2012 City Council Meeting. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

Councilor Trudel noted that his name was misspelled throughout the March 26th minutes.

All in favor; minutes approved as corrected.

School Board Report

Mr. Lohmann, School Board member addressed the Mayor and Council he advised they have a technology card and 20 lab tops at Paul Smith School, computers paid for with grant funds were installed at the middle school and projector installs at the high school. The contract with G-4 Communications should double the internet and enhance communication. Franklin High School is 100% compliance with the New Hampshire DOE post secondary transition planning for students with disabilities. The 8th grade class came home from their trip to Washington DC and they learned a lot and did a lot of walking. Franklin High School will be recommending a change to Block 4 format schedules where individual classes are longer and most are studied for half year at a time like a college format. This will allow more intensive study and less wasted time changing classes. Where this has been studied in other district student achievement has increased using this method. The senior trip to New York City was successful, the students toured Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero, Times Square among others. The Drama Club also made a trip to New York City where they saw two plays. High School Graduation will be June 15th at 6:00 pm in the Middle School gym.

Renewal of Lease Agreement with Daniel Fife

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council approve the Agricultural Real Estate with Daniel L. Fife for the 34 acres City owned property located off River Street, identified as Tax Map 123, Lot 403, and authorize City Manager Dragon to duly execute the lease on behalf of the City. Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather. All in favor, motion passes.

Resolution #15-12 – this resolution outlines the proposed appropriations and expenditures of the Municipal Transportation Improvement Funds.

Motion made by Councilor Boyd that the Franklin City Council approves Resolution #15-12 which outlines the proposed appropriations and expenditures

of Municipal Transportation Improvement Funds to be associated with ongoing transportation improvement projects in the downtown area by a roll call vote. Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Clarenbach – Yes

Councilor Sharon – Yes

Councilor Boyd – Yes

Councilor Desrochers – Yes

Councilor Starkweather – Yes

Councilor Dzujna – Yes

Councilor Cournoyer – Yes

Councilor Feener – Yes

Councilor Trudel – Yes

All in favor, Resolution #15-12 is approved.

Ordinance #11-12 – the passing of this ordinance would change the time of City Council Meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Motion made by Councilor Cournoyer that the Franklin City Council approves Ordinance #11-12 by a roll call vote; motion seconded by Councilor Feener.

Mayor Merrifield read the ordinance into the record:

ORDINANCE #11-12

AN AMENDMENT TO THE FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL CODE:

In the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twelve;

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Franklin that the Franklin Municipal Code, Chapter 50, Meetings, Chapter 50-2 Regular Council Meetings be changed as follows:

The regular meetings of the City Council shall be held the first Monday of each month in City Hall at ~~7:00 p.m.~~ 6:00 p.m. in the evening.

Councilor Feener commented there have been concerns as to when we might initiate this new starting time and he suggested that the new start time begin with the new fiscal year in July, 2012.

Amendment made by Councilor Feener that the new 6:00 p.m. starting time be effective with the July City Council Meeting, motion seconded by Councilor Boyd. All in favor, amendment passes.

Councilor Dzujna commented his concern is to get more people to attend the Council meetings and he questioned if 6:00 p.m. is too early to get people to the meeting, he would be against it. Councilor Cournoyer commented in his opinion 6:00 p.m. would work for most of the community. Councilor Starkweather commented we make the change now but there is nothing that says we can go back to 7:00 p.m. if we find it is a real problem for the community. Councilor Boyd commented he agrees with Councilor Starkweather and the other thing is it will be very beneficial to the City departments. Council Feener stated he is in favor of this and he would be affected because he commutes and anyone that might run for Council should take that into consideration and make adjustments in their schedule.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Clarenbach – Yes

Councilor Sharon – No

Councilor Boyd – Yes

Councilor Desrochers – Yes

Councilor Starkweather – Yes

Councilor Dzujna – No

Councilor Cournoyer – Yes

Councilor Feener – Yes

Councilor Trudel – Yes

Ordinance #11-12 is passed by a vote of 7 in favor, 2 against.

Renewal of Non-Exclusive Lease with Central New Hampshire Amateur Radio Club

Motion made by Councilor Desrochers that the Franklin City Council approves the Non-Exclusive Lease for a one-year period beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013 with Central New Hampshire Amateur Radio Club and authorize the City Manager to execute said lease. Motion seconded by Councilor Cournoyer. All in favor; motion passes.

Opera House Lease

Motion made by Councilor Trudel that the Franklin City Council approve the Opera House lease entitled "Management Agreement between the City of Franklin and the Franklin Opera House May 2012 through May 2017. Motion seconded by Councilor Feener.

Mr. Steve Foley, Director of the Opera House stated he has reviewed the agreement, the Board has reviewed it and he stated they have no particular concerns. He stated the only hesitation he has had is that the City Manager has the authority to block any daytime programming that we might want to do for the schools. He stated he has had several meetings with the City Manager and there is a feeling of cooperation that will allow the Opera House to meet their goals and minimize the impact on the City's day to day activities.

All in favor, motion passes.

Donation of Monies found in City Hall to the Franklin Historical Society

Councilor Boyd made a motion that the Franklin City Council approves donation of four two dollar bills and one dollar bill = \$9.00 from the 1880s to the Franklin Historical Society and three checks written to the Town of Franklin in the 1800's. Motion seconded by Councilor Trudel. All in favor, motion passes.

Resolution #16-12 – this resolution concerns an alternate option for funding the ambulance purchase.

Motion made by Councilor Starkweather that the Franklin City Council considers an alternative option for funding the ambulance purchase. Motion seconded by Councilor Clarenbach.

Councilor Feener abstained.

All in favor, motion passes.

Motion made by Councilor Trudel that the Franklin City Council set a public hearing for Monday, June 4, 2012 at 7:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall regarding the approval of Resolution #16-12 concerning \$230,000 ambulance funding through Northway Bank for a term of 7 years at 1.83% interest. Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

Councilor Feener abstained.

Mayor Merrifield read Resolution #16-12 into the record:

RESOLUTION #16-12

A Resolution Relating to the authorization for the City of Franklin to issue a note through Northway Bank for the purchase of the replacement ambulance for ambulance 1.

In the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twelve,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin has approved, on March 26, 2012, the purchase of an ambulance to replace 11 year old ambulance 1 which recently suffered catastrophic engine failure through a 7 year term lease purchase program, and;

WHEREAS, the total cost of the replacement ambulance is not to exceed \$230,000, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to save the City over \$15,000 in interest costs by changing the funding mechanism from the previously approved lease purchase agreement to a 7 year term, 1.83% rate note issued by Northway Bank, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council understands that the note will contain no fees or prepayment penalties, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that the selected ambulance vendor has offered in writing to purchase back the ambulance for the balance of the note should the City not appropriate the note payment at any time during the duration of the note, Now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that at the scheduled meeting of the City Council on Monday, June 4, 2012, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire does hereby adopt Resolution #16-12 authorizing the City of Franklin to issue a note through Northway Bank not to exceed \$230,000 at a rate of 1.83% for a period of seven (7) years for the funding of the replacement of ambulance one (1) and authorizing the Mayor to sign all necessary documentation of same

By a roll call vote.

All in favor, motion passes to set public hearing.

Adoption of Tax Deeds

Motion made by Councilor Desrochers that the Franklin City Council accepts the tax deeds on the following parcels:

Map 078, Lot 006-7
Map 097, Lot 094-00

Map 118, Lot 003-00
Map 078, Lot 006-02

Motion seconded by Councilor Feener.

Councilor Feener inquired concerning Map 078, Lot 006-07 and Map 078, Lot 006-02 which are mobile homes and he commented his concern is if the City takes these two mobile homes will the City be responsible for the park rent? Manager Dragon responded that Map 078, Lot 006 -07 is a mobile home we have been dealing with for a period of time. For the past year the City has been working with him on a payment arrangement and it has not worked out. The other mobile home Map 078-006-02 is vacant; it appears the occupants have moved out. The one the City has been working with he is now so far behind we are back even further than before and this is the one where the park owner had an interest in purchasing that mobile home and we did not pursue that as the owner was attempting to salvage the mobile home and sell it. Councilor Clarenbach asked if we have had any conversation with the park owner as both of the mobile homes are in the same park. Councilor Clarenbach stated before taking these mobile homes he would be a lot more comfortable if we try to work with the owner of the park.

Councilor Desrochers commented on Map 118, Lot 003-00, located at 178 Franklin Street and inquired what does the City plan to do with that building if the City takes it; would it be knocked down or sell it to another slum lord? He stated right now it is a single family unit that in the last 15 years there has been all sorts of undesirables in the building and Code Enforcement has made several visits to that location. Councilor Desrochers stated if the City takes this building, he would recommend the building be knocked down. Manager Dragon commented her plans are that people pay their taxes and when they don't pay their taxes, it is not fair to everyone else that is paying their taxes. When we have to take a piece of property, we have to do that whether it is a mobile home or house. She stated she looks at each piece of property that the City takes and do the best that is possible with the property and sometimes it might be tearing it down and

sometimes it might be reselling it. She stated she does not look at the properties on the list until the actual reality takes place that the City takes the property as many on the list come in at the very last moment and pay their taxes. Once the property has been taken, then the discussions begin as to what should be done with the property. She commented mobile homes are a tough one but just like everyone else, mobile homes have to pay their taxes. She stated if the Council would want to defer action on the two mobile homes and talk with the park owner but ultimately she advised it is her recommendation regardless that the City takes those pieces of property. She stated we have worked with one owner of a mobile home for over a year and he has not made payments and the bill just gets larger and larger. She stated it is no fair to everyone else that is paying their taxes. Councilor Cournoyer commented that if we don't take these properties we are sending the wrong message, take it and deal with. Councilor Dzujna commented it isn't fair to others and this is almost like an ordinance that must be enforced.

Amendment to the motion made by Councilor Clarenbach that the Franklin City Council waive the taking of Tax Map 078, Lot 006-07 and Tax Map 078, Lot 006-02 from the motion; seconded by Councilor Boyd. All in favor, amendment to the motion passes.

Councilor Clarenbach commented that he agrees with everything that has been said but the problem is the City does not have the funds to deal with these properties appropriately.

Councilor Desrochers recused himself from voting on the motion because he owns a property across the street from the property on Franklin Street.

All in favor of the motion as amended.

Motion made by Councilor Clarenbach that the City Administration investigate Tax Map 078, Lot 006-07 and Tax Map 078, Lot 006-02 with the owner of the mobile home park and determine if there is something that could be worked out that would be agreeable to both parties. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

City Clerk Burbank stated that because the deeding date is tomorrow at noon (May 8th), those two mobile home properties have to either be accepted or waived so if you decide that you are not going to take them and you want to bring it up at a future meeting you have to waive them and then she would give an additional 30 days notice to those owners that there is a pending deed. It was understood that wording would be in the motion.

All in favor, motion passes.

Other Business

Committee Reports: Councilor Clarenbach stated there is a request for a Municipal Services Committee Meeting and he inquired as to the availability of the members the week of May 21st. The meeting was set for Wednesday, May 23rd at 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Merrifield inquired of Councilor Trudel, Chair of the School Liaison Committee stating he read the minutes from the last meeting and looked over some of the material and he requested Councilor Trudel take some questions back to the committee. Mayor Merrifield wondered if the committee could investigate why the State of New Hampshire equalizes property tax rates because the rates examined in the analysis are all local rates, they are not equalized rates and equalized rates that are used, for example when the County tax rate is set or a state-wide property tax for education, those rates are equalized. Mayor Merrifield stated he wonders if the committee's analysis is worthwhile in comparing community to community. He also questioned using the same analysis, the same communities that are considered, could the amount of State

aid for education be looked at that flows to those communities and the Mayor commented that he believes you would find a tremendous disparity between those communities. He also wondered if the committee could examine how much State funding flows to municipalities for fire protection, for solid waste removal and police protection. Mayor Merrifield stated he thinks you would find it's zero.

City Manager's Update

Manager Dragon advised the contingency grant line received \$3,150 for the Join NH Clique Seat Belt Grant and \$4,620 for the Franklin DWI/DUI Patrols Grant. The new website is up and running and she commented she hopes everyone will check out the new website. The City partnered with the Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force and FBIDC to build the new website. Council packets will be available on the website.

Manager Dragon announced Webster Valve is building onto their facility with a new addition of a foundry and Vitex is also expanding so economic growth is happening in Franklin.

Youth Government Week is May 29, May 30 and May 31 and she invited the Mayor, and Councilors to participate. The mock City Council meeting will be held at the Elks who host a banquet beginning at 6:30 p.m. She advised that on Sunday, April 29th, Loyalty Day, along with the Mayor and several Councilors attended a ceremony at the VFW honoring Lt. Clough, Retired Chief Smith and High School Teacher Cook.

The City has been awarded the Head Start Grant in the amount of \$350,000 which will relocate the Head Start program to the Bessie Rowell Community Center. Tiny Twisters is in the process of preparing their move to the Center using a CDBG Grant in the amount of \$238,957. Security cameras are being installed at the entrances to the building through some matching funds that Tiny Twisters had available for equipment. The Recreation Department will begin their move to the

Community Center after the summer program is completed. The funding and State approvals for the fishing pier project at Odell Park are in place and the project is ready to move forward. Work is also underway at Daniell Park and funding is in place for the basketball court; however, the focus is first on the picnic area and parking area improvements which should begin shortly.

Manager Dragon presented copies of the Manager's Proposed Budget for FY13 to the Mayor and Council. She advised the Manager's Budget is a month earlier this year due to results from the Council last year wanting to have more time in the budget process for workshops in order to prepare for the final City Budget. She advised she has met with all the department heads and the subcommittees of each department. Then she met with the Finance Committee to discuss wages and benefits and a meeting was held with assessing concerning values in the City and what would be necessary in the upcoming fiscal year. She stated she was hoping to get the final pickups; which is the last piece of the tax cap formula which is necessary in order to finalize the budget but she did not get those numbers as they are not finalized yet; therefore, she prepared her budget under the tax cap without the pickups. She commented that last year she had to cut over half million dollars to bring the City's budget under the tax cap, this year was a little better than last year and she stated he had to cut \$369,000.

Manager Dragon stated she would like to schedule some dates for budget workshops and that she has printed out the Opera House calendar to look at available dates that are not conflicting for May and June. She stated there is a need for at least 5 work sessions and a public hearing. She also advised she does not have the school budget. Her budget contains the City, the County budget and a number for the school according to the formula. She advised the meetings in May will require the bumping of high school rehearsals and she has talked to Director Foley about that. Dates were scheduled for May 15 and May 22. In June she advised there are plenty of open dates on the calendar and the following dates were chosen: June 5, June 11, June 19 and June 25. A public hearing will be needed in July.

Mayor Appointments to Franklin Library Board of Trustees

Mayor Merrifield reappointed Judith A. Ackerson to the Library Board of Trustees, Term of office to January, 2014.

Mayor Merrifield reappointed Stephanie Bendixsen to the Library Board of Trustees, Term of Office to January, 2014.

Mayor Merrifield appointed Judith O. Merriam to the Library Board of Trustees, Term of Office to January, 2014.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council enters into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II A, the dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Cournoyer – Yes

Councilor Trudel – Yes

Councilor Sharon – Yes

Councilor Starkweather – Yes

Councilor Clarenbach – Yes

Councilor Desrochers – Yes

Councilor Dzujna – Yes

Councilor Feener – Yes

Councilor Boyd – Yes

All in favor. A 5 minute recess was called and the City Council went into non-public session at 9:05 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilor Feener to come out of non-public session, seconded by Councilor Boyd. All in favor. The Council came out of non-public at 9:25 p.m.

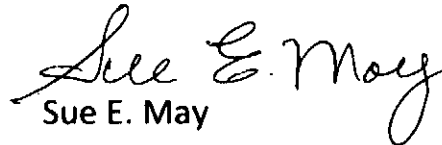
The teamsters' proposal under their agreement does not have the sick leave language as adopted by the City Council and is part of the City's personnel regulations.

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Motion was made by Councilor Desrochers that the Franklin City Council reject the proposal from the Teamsters, motion seconded by Councilor Boyd. All in favor, motion passes.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Feener, seconded by Councilor Starkweather. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sue E. May