

**CITY OF FRANKLIN  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 4, 2013**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Merrifield called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall. Salute to the Flag was said led by Councilor Boyd.

**In Attendance**

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

**Absent**

Councilor Desrochers

Mayor Merrifield announced that Item X. on the agenda would be taken up right after the Mayor's Update.

**Public Hearings**

**Ordinance #07-13** – this ordinance concerns proposed changes to Chapter 4 of the Administrative Code. Mayor Merrifield requested that Manager Dragon give some information on the changes. Manager Dragon Advised there is some changing in titles such as Finance Administrator to Finance Director. There is a correction in the first section under Administration as apparently at some point the City Clerk's Office and the Assessing Office was listed under Finance, and that is not the case so that is being corrected. There are a few changes in the Purchasing Policies to reflect the current policies. Under boards, commissions, and committees the Board of Health and Housing Authority, they have not been in existence for a long time. The authority for the Board of Health actually lies with the City Council. She stated those are the main changes and she stated she is happy to answer any questions.

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Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing; no one came forth to speak. The Mayor closed the public hearing.

**Tax Relief Incentive** – this concerns adoption of a Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive. This would be the adoption of the provisions of RSA 79-E which would allow the City Council to make adjustments to the tax burden for increased value in property in the downtown area. Each application for the tax relief is reviewed on its own merits and each must demonstrate one or more public benefits that are outlined in the statute.

Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing. Mr. Jim Aberg, FBIDC and he stated he speaks strongly in support of this Tax Relief Incentive and hopes the City Council will adopt it. Together with the TIF District and other initiatives that the City has taken, this is one more tool in the tool box to encourage property owners, developers and investors to take advantage of this credit and invest in the buildings downtown. He further commented as the Mayor has said, the safety valve with this incentive is that each project would have to come and stand alone on its merits and the Council would have the opportunity to say yes or no.

Mayor Merrifield added the tax relief that the Council may on a case by case determine can also be terminated if a property owner fails to adhere to the terms that have been put in place.

**Ordinance #06-13** – this ordinance concerns Chapter 160, Fees of the Municipal Code and would establish a fee of \$20.00 for copies of audio tapes plus the cost of the tape. Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing.

Mr. Marti Russo, Ward I inquired if there is a history as to who requests these tapes, what is the demand for the tapes. Manager Dragon stated we do not have a history and sometimes this occurs at the Planning Office as well. He asked if there is a policy as to how long the tapes are kept before they are recorded or written over. Manager Dragon responded that once the official minutes are approved, we are not required to keep the tape any longer and the tapes are

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reused. Mr. Russo commented so if the tape is not going to be kept for a specific period of time, if you don't request that tape at that meeting, then within 5 days the minutes may be done and submitted. Manager Dragon advised the minutes are not submitted for approval until the next month's Council meeting so the tape would be available until then. Mr. Russo asked if something could be put in the ordinance that specifically outlines for people that are interested in getting copies of the tape that you have 30 days to get a copy of the tape. Mayor Merrifield responded that when the Council takes up the ordinance later in the meeting that could be discussed. Mr. Russo asked if there would be any cost if the requesting agency provides their own tapes. Manager Dragon what the ordinance states is the fee is \$20 plus the cost of the tape so if a tape/s are provided there would be no charge for the tapes.

Mrs. Annette Andreozzi, resident commented that she agrees people should pay for the cost of the tapes that should not come out of tax payers monies but since it takes only a couple of minutes to put the tape in the machine and the machine does the duping charging \$20 is too much. She stated she has looked into other towns and some charge for the tape and some charge \$5.00 in addition to the tape.

Representative Leigh Webb asked if this is the first time the meeting has also been digitally recorded and Manager Dragon stated this is actually the second time and we looking at putting the digital file on the website. Mr. Webb commented that it could be just a simple file that could be downloaded to a flash drive or off the website. He stated in drafting a new ordinance the new technology should be considered as it advances.

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

### **Comments from the Pubic**

Mr. Marti Russo, Ward I stated he has a couple of questions and points. In the Charter, Chapter 50-5 directs that all meetings in the City of Franklin be

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conducted under Roberts Rules of Order and he asked if it has been stipulated yet as a body what version of Roberts Rules, the current one is 2011 and the previous one is 2000. Has either been stipulated or is the 2011 version now used. Mayor Merrifield commented the City has not stipulated. Mr. Russo stated if that is the case then according to Roberts Rules it is intended automatically to be used as the newest version in the case of questions or parliamentary procedure. Mr. Russo asked if that is in conflict and Mayor Merrifield responded that the City Council has not stipulated. Mayor Merrifield further stated that the Charter does state unequivocally that the Mayor shall preside, if there is a challenge to point of order then that question is given to the assembly to decide under any version of Roberts Rules. Mr. Russo stated his question is whatever working copies the parliamentarian has to address any challenges if that is the current version. Mayor Merrifield stated unnecessary if the question is delivered to the body.

Mr. Russo questioned the reappointment of Zoning Board members at the January, 2013 City Council Meeting. He stated he had submitted his name as a member of the Zoning Board for reappointment and was unable to make the meeting because of work and he stated his name was removed from the agenda at the last minute and not considered for reappointment and he asked why that was done and by whom was it done as the posted agenda had the four names. Mayor Merrifield responded that Mr. Russo might be confusing agenda with Council packet. The agenda simply had appointments on it. Mr. Russo stated it was shown the City Council to reappoint the following members to the Zoning Board and the mayor would call for a second, discussion and the vote and Mayor Merrifield responded that is backup material and not an agenda. The Mayor stated he believes you are confusing a City Council agenda with backup material. The City Council does not have to follow every suggested motion in the backup material; the City Council can make any motions or amendments. Mr. Russo stated if you have an agenda you are stipulated to run that agenda and the Mayor responded we do. Mr. Russo asked if Zoning Board appointments were on the agenda, he asked why was his name taken off the list. Mayor Merrifield responded that he does not believe his name was taken off the list and simply there was no motion from the Council to appoint you. Mr. Russo stated there

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was a piece of paper that was handed out prior to the meeting at the meeting that had four different names on it than the four names that were submitted with the Council packet. Mayor Merrifield asked if anyone on the Council remembers a list with different names on it and the response was they do not know of a different list. Mayor Merrifield commented the City Council receives backup material with every packet, they do not have to use the language that is presented, what would be the purpose in meeting if they are just simply going to make the motions in every case that were handed to them. Mr. Russo stated that if he can find that second sheet of paper he would like to request a public hearing concerning his removal from the Zoning Board. Mayor Merrifield stated there was a prospective profile filled out by someone interested in serving on the Board and everyone received that and everyone received that paper.

Mr. Russo also spoke on pre-election during the filing period. He stated two prospective school board candidates for Ward II and Ward III were denied their right to sign up to run for the school board. Subsequent to that the City Attorney declared they were in fact eligible to be candidates for school board. Has anything been done to address that. Mr. Russo stated they were temporary or part-time substitute teachers for the District. City Clerk Burbank responded the student teacher was not refused her right to sign up for the School Board. She was told that based on NH State RSA, she should check with Supt. Ward to see if she was considered a salaried employee. City Clerk Burbank stated she then called and spoke with Deputy Secretary of State David Scanlon and asked if a substitute teacher would be able to run for a school board seat. He informed her that based on the RSA; we would need to find out if the employee was considered salaried, and that we should get further determination for the City's Attorney. City Clerk Burbank stated she then contacted Supt. Ward who verified that the position was not considered salaried. The City Attorney was also contacted and deemed that she was able to run for a school board seat; however, the substitute teacher never came back to sign up.

Mrs. Annette Andreozzi advised that this Thursday, February 7, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. Choose Franklin will meet and the survey offered by FBIDC will be discussed.

### **Legislative Comments**

Representative Leigh Webb advised he had talks with the AG's Office regarding the flood control land compensation which is ongoing. He also contacted DOT to learn when the Route 3/ Industrial Park Drive will be finally consummated and they are still in the phase of acquiring right-of-ways and they are now targeting Year 2014 for construction to start. He also advised that he was approached concerning some voting problems that occurred on November 6<sup>th</sup> and he is dealing with those with the Secretary of State and he stated he hopes those have been resolved. He has also had discussions concerning State Aid Grants and the process right now is they are asking for 8.4 million this year and the debt is about 54 million and he is hoping we can get more than that. SB64, which is the issue about DES coming in and asking the City as a municipality to be responsible for meetings that at the City's expense to post public notice. Representative Webb stated he will be in touch with Senator Woodburn and it is just a matter to change the wording to state that the owner is responsible for the notification and the expense. Representative Webb stated he has been contacted about Northern Pass issues and he will keep up with those. School funding is a key issue and he stated he now has monthly meetings with Finance Director Mike O'Neill and Dr. Ward to keep informed of issue as they involve. Councilor Feener thanked Representative Webb for his work on the issue regarding the election which had to do with absentee ballots as there are some grey areas that had to be dealt with that day. Mayor Merrifield commented something that is of grave concern to many is the fact that due to declining enrollment in the schools the published figures seem to indicate that the Franklin School District will lose nearly \$300,000 in funding next year. Representative Webb stated there is now a movement afoot to do monthly tracking of students so if they leave the school district in that month and each student lost is \$3,500 in funding.

### **City Council Acknowledgements**

Mayor Merrifield commented that the two On-Call Firefighters that were recently in an accident coming back to Franklin from a training session were not hurt

seriously and we are all grateful they are doing well.

### **Mayor's Update**

Mayor Merrifield commented he sent an email to everyone concerning a Joint Meeting with the School Board and the School Board has offered three dates to consider for the meeting which are February 7, February 21 and February 28. The date decided on was Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Councilor Dzujna inquired if a facilitator is set for the 21<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Merrifield commented that is a question to be asked. The moderator that is suggested by the School is Mr. Earl Sweeney. Councilor Boyd spoke highly of Mr. Sweeney. Manager Dragon had also suggested someone from the Local Government Center, Chris Fillmore and Ms. Fillmore was going to bring another person with her from LGC. Councilor Feener commented he would like to have the two from LGC. Councilor Dzujna stated he knows there is no cost to have someone from LGC but is there is a cost for Mr. Sweeney. Mr. Warner, school board member stated he does not believe there is any cost for Mr. Sweeney. Councilor Cournoyer agreed with Councilor Feener to have LGC. Councilor Boyd stated Mr. Sweeney would do an excellent job and would not take sides or be standing up for any one person. Councilor Starkweather stated he agrees with Councilor Boyd opinion concerning Mr. Sweeney. Councilor Feener suggested asking Mr. Sweeney first and if he is not available then go with Chris Fillmore. Mayor Merrifield advised the School Board left the location up to the City Council and Councilor Feener commented the Council Chambers is a public place with plenty of room which should be good. All agreed. Councilor Starkweather asked if the City will handle the public notification and it was agreed that the City would do the notification. Mayor Merrifield stated the School Board had decided that the retreat is just for board members and councilors and including the Mayor but not Administrators, the Superintendent and the City Manager would be excluded from the discussions. Councilor Dzujna stated he feels the administrators should be there, both the Superintendent and the City Manager and it should be open to the public. Councilor Boyd commented he agrees with Councilor Dzujna. Mayor Merrifield

stated we will offer to the school board that we would like administrators to be at the meeting.

### **Update on the Recreation Department's Afterschool Program**

Director Alpers advised the Afterschool Program was started in October with 9 children and 3 – 4 children have been added each month since October and are now up to 24 children and breaking even. She stated she began with one staff member and the Events Supervisor overseeing the program and was able to work with the Foster Grandparent Program and Plymouth State University as far as getting a grandmother to come in everyday to help and an intern as well from Plymouth State to keep to the 10 to 1 ratio. She stated now that she is up over the 24 mark she stated she is able to hire and have hired on an additional person to help run the program. She stated she hopes to continue to grow and the space at the Bessie Rowell Community Center is very conducive for the Afterschool Program and all the other programs. She stated recently she met with the New Hampshire Children's Auction Board to apply for funding for a scholarship program for the Afterschool Program and should hear something in the next couple of weeks. Councilor Feener commented it sounds like the program is a success as we all hoped it would be and is filling a need that was needed in the Community. Director Alpers commented she feels the program will continue to grow. Councilor Dzujna asked when the 50 mark is reached would there be any problem finding qualified people to help. Director Alpers stated no, that the schedule fits right in for some very qualified teachers that would like to pick up a couple of extra hours.

### **Approval of Minutes**

***Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council approves the minutes of the January 7, 2013 City Council Meeting and the 2013 Inaugural Program. Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather.***

Councilor Trudel pointed out his name was misspelled, should be one l, not two.



***All in favor; minutes approved as corrected.***

### **School Board Report**

School Board Member Mr. Al Warner announced some very good news that the Franklin School District is the most improved district in the State of New Hampshire. The Necap Index scores that have been received 3 of the 6 categories not only met the target growth index but exceeded it. All of the indexes for all three schools in reading and math increased. Some discussions have taken place on safety and because of recent event they are taking a look at the way things are done in the school system. Things like bolts, connecting classroom doors, replacing glass doors, card key entry on certain doors and more cameras will be installed. These are not major cost items for the budget. From the Middle School the student leadership travelled to local radio station MIX 94.1 and produced an announcement for the radio. The Boys and the Girls Basketball Teams took first in Andover during vacation. A Washington DC is being planned for 39 students to participate May 2 – 4, 2013.

### **School District's Custodian Contract**

Vice Chair of the School Board Ed Cogan stated this is a proposed contract for three years with an increase in Year 1 of 2%, Year 2 of 2% and Year 3 if 3%. There will be a shift differential for second shift from .60 cents/hour to .80 cents/hour. He stated one important note in this contract is there is no parity included, wherein the previous contract did. Councilor Feener inquired why this was sent marked confidential. Mr. Cogan stated it was discussed in non-public and the minutes were sealed and it was sent to the Council confidentially and there were other negotiations going on at the same time.

***Motion made by Councilor Boyd that the Franklin City Council approves the three-year cost of the School District's Custodial Contract. Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather. All in favor, motion passes.***

**Update from the Franklin Animal Shelter**

Mr. Jeff Brewer, Treasurer for the Animal Shelter advised many changes have taken place at the shelter during the past 6 months. During 2012 they have spent a lot of time reinventing themselves. They have attracted more Board members and more volunteers and a lot more activity taking place. Everyone involved with the shelter is making every effort to make certain the shelter is running much better than it had in the past. Concerning Operations the staffing model of the Shelter has been modified, some minor improvements have begun to the building, a software program has been installed thanks to a donation from Franklin Savings Bank to help with record keeping and it has been a major help. An Immunization Program has begun internally; in 2012 the shelter had an expense of approximately \$12,000 and that equated to \$140 per animal on average for just the direct cost of veterinary service and that is with discounts from the vets. Approximately \$27.00 was what the charge was for the shots for an animal and now with the shots being done in house the cost is about \$3.00. In 2012 59 dogs/puppies came to the shelter and 68 cats/kittens. Of those animals, 75 were placed, 32 returned to their owners and 11 euthanized. As of the end of December, 2012 the shelter had custody of 6 dogs and 3 cats. Mr. Brewer also gave a financial report which is attached to these minutes as well as a list of the board members. Mr. Brewer stated at the budget meeting in June someone had asked what the average stay was for an animal and in 2012 if all the dogs that were taken were considered the average stay was 43 days. For cats the numbers are about the same. He advised their financials have definitely improved, public support, fund raising and operational income are all better and we now have a positive income and expect that to continue and get better and a final resolution to the tax-exempt status will be accomplished. Manager Dragon inquired as to what the capacity of the shelter would be. Mr. Brewer responded they have crates for 9 cats and 7 dogs. He stated they rarely fill up the dogs but often fill up the cats and sometimes move cats into smaller crates and keep them in dog kennels because that is the room that is available. Manager Dragon commented when you reach capacity it must spill out to the other shelters. Mr. Brewer stated

so far they have not filled up to the point of needing other shelters but if they did they would call the SPCA in Bow. Manager Dragon stated maybe it has something to do with people thinking the Franklin Shelter is no longer open as the SPCA for 2012 has received 52 animals from Franklin and she stated she did not know if that was because we were full or people were just placing them there. Mr. Brewer stated apparently they are going directly there. He also advised that they have changed their phone which has saved money as well as their listing which use to say Granite State Animal League and now reads Franklin Animal Shelter.

**PILOT Agreement with the Mason Organization**

***Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council approves the proposed Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement with the Masonic Lodge from April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2018 and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement. Motion seconded by Councilor Sharon.***

Mr. John Benham was in attendance representing the Masonic Lodge and available to answer questions. There were no questions.

***All in favor, motion passes.***

**Ordinance #07-13 concerning changes to Chapter 4 of the Administrative Code**

***Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council approves Ordinance #07-13 concerning changes to Chapter 4 of the Administrative Code by a roll call vote. Motion seconded by Councilor Trudel.***

Councilor Starkweather stated he noticed under the different divisions Emergency Management was not listed. Manager Dragon responded that Emergency Management has most recently been with the Fire Chief and she stated she assumes it will be there for the foreseeable future. However, she stated she believes she can appoint someone else but doesn't know if it should be listed as a City Council Meeting

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separate department and if so would probably come under City Manager. Councilor Starkweather commented under City Health Officer it states issues burial permits and he asked if that is not handled through the City Clerk. Manager Dragon stated the City Clerk receives them but doesn't know if they are done by the funeral home. Councilor Starkweather suggested the language be changed to say receive burial permits rather than issue. Under Highway Division on the Street Lighting System Councilor Starkweather stated he gathers this gives them the authority to take down unnecessary street lights as deemed necessary to reduce that bill for the City. Manager Dragon commented somewhat. Under Parks and Recreation it states something about operating recreational activities including the ski area, Councilor Starkweather inquired are we running that, do we have any oversight over the ski area or should it not be in there. Manager Dragon stated that should not be in there. Purchasing Procedures shows a Purchasing Agent and Councilor Starkweather stated that earlier in the document that was combined with Finance. Manager Dragon responded it is part of the Finance and it was listed in accordance with what Finance Director Milner currently does but left it as titled Purchasing Agent but is a function of the Finance Office.

Councilor Clarenbach commented about the Housing Authority stating he knows the City has not had a Housing Authority Board for a while but he stated he believes by State Statute there is a fair amount of authority in having a Housing Authority as far as certificates and things like that and he stated his concern would be if we fully investigate what that gives us to do or not to do concerning the State Statute. He stated he does not have a problem striking it for now and it could always be brought back but it should be looked into. Manager Dragon stated she could talk to Welfare Director Sara Tracy who is a wealth of information as she was very active in the Housing Authority.

***Mayor Merrifield inquired if the correction Councilor Starkweather made can be understood in the motion and all agreed.***

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**Roll Call:**

**Councilor Boyd – Yes**

**Councilor Clarenbach – Yes**

**Councilor Cournoyer – Yes**

**Councilor Dzujna – Yes**

**Councilor Feener – Yes**

**Councilor Sharon – Yes**

**Councilor Starkweather – Yes**

**Councilor Trudel – Yes**

**All in favor; Ordinance #07-13 passes.**

**Adoption of RSA 79-E, the Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Program**

**Motion made by Councilor Dzujna that the Franklin City Council adopts the provisions of RSA 79-8, the Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Program. Motion seconded by Councilor Feener.**

Councilor Feener inquired who would be doing the review if a tax relief should be terminated for failure to adhere to the terms of the covenant. Mayor Merrifield stated he would expect it would be the City Council. If the Council is granting it, the Council can also terminate it. Manager Dragon stated it could be something Code Enforcement or the Planning Office would pick up on and then it would be brought forth to the Council.

**Roll Call:**

**Councilor Clarenbach – Yes**

**Councilor Sharon – Yes**

**Councilor Boyd – Yes**

**Councilor Starkweather – Yes**

**Councilor Dzujna – Yes**

**Councilor Cournoyer – Yes**

**Councilor Feener – Yes**

**Councilor Trudel - Yes**

**All in favor; Provisions of RSA 79-E are adopted.**

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**Ordinance #06-13 concerning Chapter 160/Fees**

***Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council approves Ordinance #06-13 concerning Chapter 160, fees establishing a \$20 fee for copies of audio tapes plus the cost of the tape by a roll call vote. Motion seconded by Councilor Dzujna.***

Councilor Clarenbach stated if this can be done digitally he can't see that a number of people would be requesting a tape and for those that request a copy of the tape and they provide the tape charging them a fee of \$20 is not needed. If they don't provide a tape, then the City can charge them the cost of a tape; however, if this can be accomplished digitally, probably very few, if any will want a copy of a tape. Manager Dragon stated she hopes people would be able to access it on the website for free but it is helpful when we receive a request we have a fee established for that. She stated right now and under the right to know law we are allowed to charge a reasonable fee for the amount of time/effort/cost. She stated while many of the tapes to copy may be quick, some of them go into multiple tapes and it takes a staff person to observe the copying. She advised she looked at other communities and some don't charge and some do. Councilor Starkweather how long would the digital version be on the website. Manager Dragon stated that needs to be discussed but she was thinking at least 30 days and then once the minutes have been approved and then the next one would be put on. The official minutes are the ones that are approved by the City Council. Councilor Starkweather commented so from the time of a meeting that is recorded until the minutes are approved by the Council it is draft form only, then after the minutes are approved would the minutes be on for another 30 days as approved minutes. Manager Dragon stated she was thinking it be cycled off after the minutes are approved but if the Council wants them to be on longer, perhaps 60 days, they could be. Councilor Feener asked if it has been determined that the minutes can be downloaded off the website. Manager Dragon stated they should be able to.

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**Roll Call:**

**Councilor Clarenbach – No**

**Councilor Starkweather – No**

**Councilor Sharon – No**

**Councilor Dzujna – No**

**Councilor Boyd – Yes**

**Councilor Feener – Yes**

**Councilor Trudel – Yes**

**Councilor Cournoyer – Yes**

**Vote: 4 Yes Votes; 4 No Votes - The Mayor is asked to break the tie. Mayor Merrifield votes no. Ordinance #06-13 Fails.**

**Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council authorizes the City Manager or her designate to remove digital recording of the minutes after the approval of the minutes of the meeting by the City Council. Motion seconded by Councilor Boyd.**

**Adoption of TIF District for the Franklin Industrial Park**

**Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council approves and adopts the Development Program and Financing Plan for the Franklin Business Park and Industrial Tax Increment Finance District, dated February 4, 2013. Motion seconded by Councilor Sharon.**

Councilor Clarenbach commented there was a TIF Plan adopted before and Manager Dragon responded that it is her belief that there was not any growth above the base from when it was set. Planner Lewis commented that the original TIF Plan for the Industrial Park, the primary work component was the construction of a roadway which was built and paid for under other funds. Mayor Merrifield commented unreserved fund balance was what was used.

**Councilor Clarenbach made an amendment to the motion that the Development Program and Financing Plan for the Franklin Business Park and Industrial Tax Increment Finance District, dated February 4, 2013 is to supersede any previous**

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***plans on the same parcels that had been previously adopted by the City Council. Amendment seconded by Councilor Boyd. All in favor, amendment passes.***

Mayor Merrifield commented as we go into a budget cycle remembering that we are restricted by a tax cap, if we do not approve a budget that takes into account those sequestered dollars, you run the risk of effectively violating the tax cap. You have to approve a budget that accounts for the sequestered funds for the TIF in advance of filling out all the paper work for the assessments.

Councilor Clarenbach inquired if the pickups for next year which would include the new construction at Webster Valve that will actually be counted towards the increase under the cap even though those funds can only be spent in the Industrial Park.

***All in favor, motion passes as amended.***

### **Committee Reports**

None

### **City Manager's Update**

Manager Dragon advised the City has received several grants to the Contingency Grant Line which is working very well. \$200 from the Franklin Lodge and \$200 from Subway for the concert series; \$38 for letter from Santa; \$15,000 from NH Charitable Foundation for Stone Park playground; \$500 from LGC for the Wellness Program and \$6,632.90 from the State of NH for Fire Training.

Manager Dragon advised the Council of legislative bills that are being proposed that would delay or kill the Northern Pass project and she as well as others will be attending hearing on this February 12<sup>th</sup> and February 19<sup>th</sup>. She also announced that March 15<sup>th</sup> at Opechee Inn & Conference Center PSNH will be holding an

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informational meeting and if anyone is interested in attending to let her know by March 8<sup>th</sup>.

FBIDC has announced that Performance chemicals LLC is moving into the Industrial Park as they have purchased the ISOLA building. They are locally owned and managed and hope to double in size with this move.

Manager Dragon advised that she and Mayor Merrifield had a teleconference with CGI Communications and they partner with the National League of cities each year to highlight ten communities. This service is free to Franklin and they will create a video program to show Franklin assets and seek Franklin businesses to sponsor the program as well as be highlighted on the video.

The Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce for the second year in a row awarded the City of Franklin the "Golden Hammer" award for the Water Treatment Plant which is now up and running. Manager Dragon thanked Director Sullivan who did so much work on bring this plant to a reality for Franklin as well as many others. Manager Dragon congratulated Chief Goldstein for receiving the Valor Award which is Violence Against Women Act and \$30,000 is once again being awarded to the Franklin Police Department.

Manager Dragon advised that during the budget process funds were approved to do a Pay and Classification study and an RFP was distributed and four responses have been received and the proposals are being reviewed and hopefully a firm will be retained shortly.

Manager Dragon advised negotiations are continuing with the MetroCast and it will probably be another year before an agreement is reached. She advised she is attempting to add a technology grant and if MetroCast would approve then video could be done for the website of the Council meetings. She further stated an origination point would have to be designated and she assumes it would be here at City Hall. She stated the school might be interested in a designation point and if not, perhaps Bessie Rowell Community Center.

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Manager Dragon advised at a recent Finance Committee Meeting the consolidation of financial services with the City and the School. One of the things that happened after that meeting is the Superintendent and myself are attempting to enhance communications between the two organizations as it does not make sense to wait until the next Finance Committee to talk about what the concerns might be, how these processes are handled at the school and that everyone has all the same facts to work with.

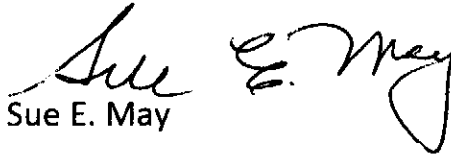
**Appointments to the Library Board of Trustees**

***Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council reappoints Mike Gula to the Library Board of Trustees. Term of Service to January, 2016. Motion seconded by Councilor Clarenbach. All in favor.***

***Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council reappoints Robert Morin to the Library Board of Trustees. Term of Service to January, 2016. Motion seconded by Councilor Clarenbach. All in favor.***

***Motion made by Councilor Feener to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Clarenbach. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sue E. May