

CITY COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 2, 2014

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 led by Councilor Desrochers.

In Attendance

Councilor Dzujna, Councilor Giunta, Councilor Cournoyer, Councilor Desrochers, Councilor Feener, Councilor Starkweather, Councilor Boyd, Councilor Clarenbach, Councilor Barton, City Manager Dragon and Mayor Merrifield.

Councilor Desrochers requested a moment of silence in memory of Memorial Day and he commented A Company landed on Normandy and there were 95% casualties; the Army Corp bombing over Germany, 60% of the planes were shot down; the other 40% were all torn up; the U.S. Marines 4th Division landing on Iwo Jima 13,000 casualties.

Comments from the Public

Franklin High School Student Sadie Kaplan addressed the Mayor and Councilor concerning the Public Boat Ramp that is located behind the high school. She advised there are 5 or 6 giant pot holes, it is very tricky to get down to the ramp and she stated she has almost popped a tire going down there. She stated she does not understand how it is a school issue when the City put the boat ramp down there and it brings a bad image to Franklin. She advised the fishing area is all torn up. She stated she estimates a repair would cost maybe \$6,000 to \$9,000.

Choose Franklin

Co-Chair Annette Andreozzi addressed the Mayor and Council that Community Day was very successful and this coming Thursday (June 5th) Finance Director Judie Milner will be the guest speaker at Choose Franklin and will be talking about the City Budget. She stated their next big project is the Candidates Forum on September 29, 2014.

Legislative Comments

Representative Webb addressed the Mayor and Council advising that SB370 the flood control compensation bill was killed in the house but was brought up again by the Senate as attached to a House Bill and it has survived and the compromise is instead of both years being forwarded to those communities only one of those years will happen which would be about \$26,000 for Franklin. SB369, the MET which is the Medicaid enhancement tax, it was a tax to the hospitals, they paid the State, the State then got a match from the Federal Government and then reimbursed the hospitals. The reimbursement was stopped in 2011 which caused lawsuits and a hole in the current budget between \$160,000,000 to \$200,000,000. HB1410 a bill Representative Webb sponsored on behalf of Chief Goldstein has survived so far and will be coming to a vote this Wednesday (June 4th).

June 17th, 6 pm there will be a public meeting in the upper level of the Public Library where public comment will be heard from the DOT in reference to reducing the speed limit on Route 3 from the Armory to the Fife Farm from 50 miles per hour to 40 miles per hour.

City Council Acknowledgement

Mayor Merrifield commented how wonderful the show Shrek was that took place at the Opera House this weekend.

Mayor's Update

Mayor Merrifield advised he is still waiting for all the City Manager's evaluation to be returned. He also advised that June 3rd is the Senior Banquet at the High School at the same time the Council will be having a Budget Workshop and he will be delivering the Mayor's Scholarship so he will be late to the Budget Meeting. He appointed Councilor Giunta to run the meeting in his absence.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Councilor Dzujna that the Franklin City Council approves the minutes of the May 5, 2014 City Council Meeting and the April 28 and May 13, 2014 City Council Budget Workshop Meetings. Motion seconded by Councilor Cournoyer.

Councilor Feener pointed out that in the May 5th minutes, Page 2 Community Day should be May 10th not May 17th. He further advised that on Page 3 of the May 5th minutes under Legislative Comments the word food should be flood for flood control and lastly the April 28th minutes, Page 1 second sentence from the bottom, the word should be forth and not forty.

All in favor; minutes approved as corrected.

Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health

Ms. Lisa Morris, Agency Director and Ms. Kathy Merriam, CERT Coordinator presented the Mayor and Council with an update on their involvements and activities. This organization was developed in 2005 with a staff of 19 and their budget is approximately one million dollars. They had been serving only the Lakes Region area up until recently when the State of New Hampshire changed the regional makeup of public health so now their region is Belknap County, Franklin, Hill, Danbury and Northfield. She stated public health versus healthcare, they look at population healthcare versus one on one healthcare and they use data to determine the needs of the region are. In the past Caring Coming Network of the Twin River has been the public health agent for Franklin and she advised they now work in partnership with them to serve the Franklin area. They have identified 8 priority areas: Emergency Preparedness; Alcohol and Drug Abuse; Obesity, Diabetes, heart disease and strokes; Access to healthcare; Access to behavioral health service; the functional issues of aging and disability; Consumer navigation of the healthcare system; Social determines of health. A regional public health council has been established and from Franklin Karen Grzelak and Jane White are members of this council.

Ms. Kathy Merriam talked about the Community Emergency Response Team which is a team of 34 volunteers, they have been trained, and their mission is to educate the public about preparedness during disasters and emergencies and to support the first responders.

Manager Dragon inquired now that the regions have changed and the City was very action in the region the City was in before in creating those plans, and now we are rolled into the Lakes Region so is that plan being updated to reflect some of the needs and Ms. Morris responded yes, they are looking at the needs of both regions but as one now. Manager Dragon stated she wants to make sure that Franklin's concerns are incorporated into the plan and asked when they would be updating the plan. Ms. Morris advised they have the plans and they are being reviewed by the Council to come up with a complete plan for the region.

School Board Report

School Board Chair Tam Feener gave the report. June 9th is the Class Day Parade and June 13th is the High School Graduation. May 29th through June 1 the Franklin School District presented the Musical Shrek at the Franklin Opera House and was very well received. June 24th will be the Joint Meeting with the Council and School Board and the guest speaker will be Carl Weber. The next School Board meeting will be August 18th and the guest speaker will be Tom Raffio, CEO and President of Delta Dental.

Primex Loss Mitigation Agreement

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council adopts Resolution #13-14 Loss Mitigation Agreement with Primex insurance carrier for the City's Worker's Compensation Program. Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather. All in favor; motion passes.

Renewal of the Central New Hampshire Amateur Radio Club Lease

Motion made by Councilor Desrochers that the Franklin City Council approves the Non-Exclusive Lease for a one-year period beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015 with Central New Hampshire Amateur Radio Club and authorize the City Manager to execute said lease. Motion seconded by Councilor Dzujna. All in favor; motion passes.

NH DOT Proposal for a Forcer Account Agreement and Grant Authorization to the City Manager, regarding the State Funded Improvements to Industrial Park Drive and South Main Street

The motion concerning this project was brought forth at the May 5, 2014 City Council Meeting and then tabled.

Motion made by Councilor Giunta to remove the motion from the table, seconded by Councilor Starkweather. All in favor; motion passes.

Councilor Clarenbach advised that a Municipal Services Committee Meeting was held last week in reference to this project and since Director Sullivan is back he can provide us with comments/additional information concerning this project.

Director Sullivan advised there is a new proposed motion for this project in the revised Council Agenda Report.

Director Sullivan stated this project goes back quite a ways beginning with an intersection improvement project in year 2000, an 80% State 20% City match and the project involved 880 feet of roadway at the intersection and was deferred. Along comes DOT in the 10-year plan 2005-2006 there was a 1.2 million dollar appropriation for a study designated to evaluate a by-pass road on Route 93 to West Franklin and the money was removed from the 10-year plan and City Manager Doyon was able to get that money

reallocated as the State was going to scrap the project. The money was earmarked to be used towards the Intersection Improvements for Industrial Park Drive and Route 3. What has happened since then is DOT has increased the scope of the project from 880 feet to 6,600 feet. In doing so they project a cost of 4.8 million dollars versus \$850,000. Director Sullivan advised he and Mr. Turcotte met with DOT back in February, 2014 and a letter came back to the City requesting relocation of existing water mains. There is a water main in South Main Street, where South Main Street comes off the bridge there is a hydrant and we go all the way down to Holy Cross Road. What they are looking for is to authorize the City Manager to execute a force account agreement. What the agreement does it works similar to what we did on West Bow Street, an appropriation is made out of the City's budget (Fiscal 2016). We give an appropriation to the State, the State manages it, and the City is reimbursed for trenching and backfill. The City is responsible for new pipe and the labor to put the pipe in the ground and any service corrections and the City is responsible for engineering and design.

The estimated cost is approximately \$90,000 to do 12,000 linear feet plus some engineering funds and \$10,000 in non-reimbursable engineering. It is assumed that some of the \$90,000 will be returned to the City once the final numbers are calculated. The options are we don't move forward which could jeopardize the project; we don't go along with the force account agreement and they potentially could deduct the money spent which would not be in our best interest from the State Aid Block Grant money; or just table the project completely and scrap it. There is no match required from the City other than to relocate the City's public utility.

Councilor Barton asked what happens if we just scrap this project. Director Sullivan responded the State has proposed 6,600 linear feet of full depth reconstruction, and the project could be deferred or it could be scraped altogether and there would be no intersection improvements and no full depth reconstruction.

Motion that was brought from the table was defeated.

Motion made by Councilor Giunta that the Franklin City Council accepts the terms of the Forced Account Agreement which addresses obligations of the City of Franklin to participate in the engineering and construction costs associated with the necessary relocation of water mains that are in conflict with the State-funded construction work on Industrial Park Drive and South Main Street. The City Manager is authorized to sign all documents associated with this agreement. Motion seconded by Councilor Clarenbach.

Councilor Desrochers commented so the City will get 4.8 million dollars' worth of roadwork and it will cost the City \$90,000 to relocate the water mains. If we don't do it, the State will pull the plug and Director Sullivan responded potentially yes. Councilor Feener commented that at the last meeting it was discussed where the source of funding would come from and it was mentioned to take it out of the Water Account and it was then brought up why we wouldn't consider doing this under the Highway Department.

Mayor Merrifield commented one thing the State could do is get their money by withholding it from other payments to the City and he stated he does not know if the State views it as a highway project. Director Sullivan stated Hooksett did a very large project with a contribution from the General Fund to the Water Fund. He stated we could go all Water Fund and there is a balance of approximately \$475,000 to \$500,000. Councilor Desrochers commented with the raising of the water rates, he is not sure how the customers will react to the City spending \$90,000 to move water mains for a road that maybe doesn't need to have work done on it. However, he stated he is in favor of the project but stated there are a couple of bonds the City will be paying off and he would rather see that monies used rather than funds from the Water Fund.

Councilor Giunta inquired once they start to dig this is there a possibility of other utility problems. Director Sullivan responded it is strictly water main; there is no sewer or gas main.

All in favor; motion passes.

Other Business

Committee Reports – Councilor Clarenbach advised the Municipal Services Committee met last week and the Forced Account Agreement as well as the water and sewer rates which will be presented in the budget review.

Councilor Giunta, Commissioner to the Lakes Region Planning Commission commented that the Planning Commission often gets Federal Grants and under those grants chooses either consultants, engineering firms, etc. to carry out the conditions of the grant. There was a Brownsfield Grant that Lakes Region Planning received and went through a process of requesting proposals to carry out the Brownsfield assessment work. The RFP was reviewed and the contract was awarded to a company in Maine. He stated this City; the tax payer's dollars support Lakes Region Planning Commission to the tune of \$6,000 per year. He stated he does not think it is right that taxpayers' dollars from the City of Franklin are going to a firm in Vermont. Other firms that had applied for this contract live in this Community (Lakes Region) and he stated with permission he plans to bring this forth at the next Commission Meeting and see if there is a way to grant extra points for New Hampshire companies. He also commented that he recently learned that Lakes Region Planning overspent their annual budget by \$20,000 and they said they would take monies out of the rainy day fund to pay for being in the red. Councilor Giunta asked where is the rainy day money coming from, are they charging the City of Franklin more than they should be.

City Manager's Update

Manager Dragon stated the following has been received in the contingency grant line this month: \$500 from SAMHSA for Drug Task Force Meeting at City Hall; \$1,000 from Wal-Mart for Fire Department; \$5,000 from NH Charitable Foundation for BBall hoops at Bessie Rowell; \$500 from Webster Valve for the Pavilion at Griffin Beach; \$3,024 from the Bow Wow Ball and after expenses a net profit of \$1,435; and \$835.74 from Join the NH Clique Grant. The Mayor's Drug Task Force had a very busy month

with five events in May. They had a booth at Community Day which took in 100 surveys, hosted a lunch and learn on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and how to use and interpret the data; we held the Bow Wow Ball; a meeting was hosted with US Senator Shaheen, Michael Botticelli, Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Policy and many other substance abuse prevention specialists and partners. Manager Dragon commented that Director Botticelli is the one who determines who receives the grants and it was a real honor for him to come to Franklin and learn about our Drug Task Force.

Manager Dragon also commented that she had a resident come in and had inquired as to what the process was for requesting the City to consider adopting a disability exemption from taxes and wanted to make the Council aware of this request. Manager Dragon explained to the resident that the Council would have a difficult time determining a cost for this and you could be dealing with physical and mental disabilities.

Late Item

Support Staff Contract for Franklin School District

School Board Member Al Warner advised that the School Board has approved the contract. This is a two-year contract and over the two-year period the cost would be \$125,885. Two steps are being added in 2014-15 and one step in 2015-2016 and everyone will go up one step and the increase to the entire salary schedule will be 1.50% per year. Mr. Warner stated the Union has ratified this contract but the School has not signed it until approval from the Council. Councilor Clarenbach inquired as to the number of support staff covered by the contract and Mr. Warner stated he is not sure on the exact number but 17 part-time employees are included in this contract and comment was further made probably 40 or 50.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council approves the Support Staff Contract for the Franklin School District. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers. All in favor; motion passes.

City Council to enter into Non-Public

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

Roll Call:

<i>Councilor Clarenbach – Yes</i>	<i>Councilor Boyd – Yes</i>
<i>Councilor Starkweather – Yes</i>	<i>Councilor Cournoyer – Yes</i>
<i>Councilor Barton – Yes</i>	<i>Councilor Feener – Yes</i>
<i>Councilor Dzujna – Yes</i>	<i>Councilor Giunta – Yes</i>
<i>Councilor Desrochers – Yes</i>	

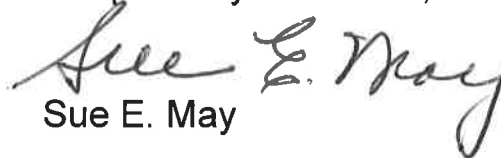
Motion made by Councilor Desrochers that the Franklin City Council seals the minutes of the non-public session by a roll call vote because releasing them would make the action taken ineffectual. Motion seconded by Councilor Feener.

Roll Call:

<i>Councilor Clarenbach – No</i>	<i>Councilor Boyd – Yes</i>
<i>Councilor Starkweather – Yes</i>	<i>Councilor Cournoyer – Yes</i>
<i>Councilor Barton – Yes</i>	<i>Councilor Feener – No</i>
<i>Councilor Dzujna – Yes</i>	<i>Councilor Giunta – Yes</i>
<i>Councilor Desrochers – No</i>	

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Feener, seconded by Councilor Desrochers. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sue E. May