

Approved by City Council on February 1, 2016

**City Council Meeting
January 4, 2016**

Call to Order

Mayor Merrifield called the meeting to order in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall at 6:03 p.m.

In Attendance

Councilor Clarenbach, Councilor Starkweather, Councilor Feener, Councilor Giunta, Councilor Desrochers, Councilor Wells, Councilor-elect Zink, Councilor Dzujna, Mayor Merrifield, and City Manager Dragon.

Absent

Councilor Barton, Councilor Boyd

The Serendipity Singers and Three Rivers Chorale sang God Bless America. Presentation of the Color Guard was done by the Franklin Fire Department. Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Merrifield.

Kirk Young presented the National Anthem.

Invocation was given by Reverend Glen Carter.

Public Hearings

Resolution #07-16 - appropriating of up to \$500,000 of Community Development Block Grant Funding received for the CATCH Neighborhood Housing project.

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item I.

City Council to consider the minutes of the October 5, 2015 and December 14, 2015 City Council Meetings.

Motion: Councilor Dzujna moved that the Franklin City Council consider the minutes of the October 5, 2015 and December 14, 2015 City Council Meetings. Motion seconded by Councilor Feener.

All in favor; motion passes.

Agenda Item II.

City Council to consider the approval of Resolution #07-16 appropriating of up to \$500,000 of Community Development Block Grant Funding received for the CATCH Neighborhood Housing project.

Motion: Councilor Desrochers moved that the Franklin City Council approve Resolution #07-16 appropriating of up to \$500,000 of Community Development Block Grant Funding received for the CATCH Neighborhood Housing project. Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

All in favor; motion passes.

Roll Call:

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

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Feener and seconded by Councilor Desrochers. All in favor; meeting for 2015 business adjourned.

2016 INAUGURAL

City Attorney Paul Fitzgerald gave the oath of office to Mayor Merrifield (2 years) as well as the following councilors and school board members.

City Council

Term of Office Three Years: Councilor Giunta, Ward I
Councilor Zink, Ward II
Councilor Clarenbach, Ward III

School Board

Term of Office Three Years: Bill Grimm, Ward I
Deborah Brown, Ward III

Term of Office Two Years: Scott Burns, Ward II

Inaugural Address

A copy of Mayor Merrifield's inaugural address is attached to these minutes.

Citizen of the Year 2015

Mayor Merrifield chose Ms. Jennifer Creasey as Citizen of the Year and a copy of the Mayor's Citizen of the Year speech is attached.

Presentation to Councilor Glen Feener

Mayor Merrifield recognized Councilor Feener stating that Councilor Feener has been a tremendous friend to him personally all the years they have served on the council, even before that, and he has relied on his counsel, wisdom and his tremendous knowledge and members of the council would admit that Councilor Feener is very well schooled in all the technical and concerns of the council and ordinances. He has served really as the dean of the City Council since Clayton Gasset left the council some years ago. Councilor Feener may be the longest serving council member in Franklin's history that the Mayor knows of. I want to thank him for his service very much. Councilor Feener expressed thank you to City of Franklin for all the years of support for him to be on the City Council. Being in community service you have go in with no agenda and the biggest thing you have to remember is you are there for the community and that is what I feel I did for them. I am not going away and I will be back and Happy New Year to everybody.

Battle Hymn of the Republic was sung by the Serendipity Singers and Three Rivers Chorale. Recess was taken for reception and refreshments.

2016 City Council Meeting

Comments from the Public

Persons wishing to address the Council may speak for a maximum of three minutes. No more than thirty minutes will be devoted to public commentary.

Mrs. Tamara Feener, 70 Evergreen Ave, we lost power again, it was early Christmas morning and a beautiful day and the outage was brief but I would like it in the minutes that we did lose it again.

Robin Gargano, Chestnut St, on Proctor St there is a street light out and it is a major concern as many people walk and they noticed all the lights have been replaced but that one. It is half way down Clark & Chestnut on Proctor. Mayor Merrifield stated we will look into that.

Mr. Webb wanted to publically thank Dan Darling for an incredible First Day event. From his observations it was the biggest crowd yet and the weather was helpful. Dan did a great job organizing and making the day come off without any hitches. I just wanted to thank Dan Darling publically.

There were no further public comments, Mayor Merrifield closed public comment.

Agenda Item I.

Elizabeth Franson to come before the Council briefly to address the Council.

Elizabeth gave a summary of her experience of the program she was selected and allowed to participate in while attending Franklin High School and Lakes Region Community College, and wanted to thank everyone for the opportunity. Copy of her speech is attached.

Agenda Item II.

City Council to consider the sale of Tax Deeded Property located at 16 Colby Avenue, Map 076, Lot 079-00 and 17 Colby Avenue, Map 076 Lot 073-00 and vacant land on Colby Ave, Map 076 Lot 081-00.

Motion: Councilor Desrochers moved that the Franklin City Council approve the sale of Tax Deeded Property located at 16 Colby Avenue, Map 076, Lot 079-00 and 17 Colby Avenue, Map 076 Lot 073-00 and vacant land on Colby Ave, Map 076 Lot 081-00 vacant land on Colby Ave through a negotiated direct sale to an abutter with the conditions that the property owner do a lot line merger with their existing property and they use this parcel for green space or accessory structure only. Motion seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

All in favor; motion passes.

Agenda Item III.

City Council to consider setting a public hearing for Monday, February 1, at 6:07pm to accept approximately \$9,130 from the Albert Garneau Scholarship Fund for the purpose of placing the expendable scholarship fund with the City's Trustees of Trust Funds.

Motion: Councilor Clarenbach moved that the Franklin City Council set a public hearing for Monday, February 1, at 6:07pm to accept approximately \$9,130 from the Albert Garneau Scholarship Fund for the purpose of placing the expendable scholarship fund with the City's Trustees of Trust Funds. Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

All in favor; motion passes.

Agenda Item IV.

Other Business

1. City Manager's Update

City Manager Dragon advised that since we had a council meeting a few weeks ago there are no additional Contingency funds to the Grant Line.

City Manager Dragon did want to provide an update to the Downtown Coordinator position. We had formed a committee consisting of Manager Dragon Jim Aberg, Director Lewis who has been working to hire a Downtown Coordinator and we have selected Neil Cannon and we are in the works with him right now to start some initial meetings with stakeholders in the downtown area.

We did receive a resignation from a Ward I moderator since the printing of the packet. We will be posting that position on the website and in the library.

Mayor Appointments

Planning Board

Mayor Merrifield reappointed Tim Flaherty to the Planning Board, as an Alternate member (Seat PB10); term of service to January, 2019.

Mayor Merrifield reappointed Brian Sullivan to the Planning Board (Seat PB2); term of service to January, 2018.

Conservation Commission

Mayor Merrifield reappointed Roy Gilbreth to the Conservation Commission (Seat CC6); term of service to September, 2018.

Mayor Merrifield reappointed Robert Morin to the Conservation Commission (Seat CC5); term of service to September, 2016.

Heritage Commission

Mayor Merrifield reappointed Mike Mullavey to the Heritage Commission (Seat HC3); term of service to January, 2019.

Mayor Merrifield reappointed Robert Lucas to the Heritage Commission (Seat HC4); term of service to January, 2019.

Mayor Merrifield reappointed Glen Feener to the Heritage Commission, as an Alternate member (Seat HC6); term of service to January, 2019.

Highway Safety Commission

Mayor Merrifield reappointed Jared Caverly to the Highway Safety Commission (Seat HS4); term of service to September, 2018.

Trustees of the Trust Fund

Mayor Merrifield reappointed Julie Buker to the Trustees of the Trust Fund (Seat TT3); term of service to September, 2018.

City Council Appointments

Planning Board

Motion made by Councilor Clarenbach to reappoint Councilor Giunta to the Planning Board, as an alternate member (Seat PB12); term of service to January 2019. Seconded by Councilor Starkweather. All in favor, motion passes.

Zoning Board

Motion made by Councilor Desrochers to reappoint Kathlene Fleckenstein to the Franklin Zoning Board (Seat ZBA4); term of service to January 2019. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna. All in favor, motion passes.

Library Board of Trustees

Motion made by Councilor Dzujna to reappoint Mike Gula to the Library Board of Trustees (Seat LT3); term of service to January 2019. Seconded by Councilor Starkweather. All in favor, motion passes.

Motion made by Councilor Dzujna to reappoint Justine Kochto the Library Board of Trustees (Seat LT4); term of service to January 2019. Seconded by Councilor Starkweather. All in favor, motion passes.

School Board, Ward II

Councilor Clarenbach nominated Susan Hawlett-Cook to the School Board, Ward II (Seat SBW21), Councilor Dzujna nominated Tamara Feener to the School Board, Ward II (Seat SBW21); Motion by Councilor Giunta to close the nominations. Seconded by Councilor Clarenbach. All in favor, motion passes. Show of hands for Susan Hawlett-Cook – 4, Tamara Feener – 3. Appointed Susan Hawlett-Cook. term of service to January 2017.

Mayor Merrifield did state that we received another School Board, Ward II resignation today and if the council wanted to fill that office immediately or wait. Councilor Dzujna thinks we fill that now since we had people that applied for this position. We had 3 or 4 who did express interest.

Councilor Clarenbach nominated Marisa Carter to the School Board, Ward II (Seat SBW23), Councilor Desrochers nominated Tamara Feener to the School Board, Ward II (Seat SBW23), Councilor Dzujna nominated Gary Plourde to the School Board, Ward II (Seat SBW23); Mayor Merrifield closed nominations as all candidates were selected.. Show of hands for Marisa Carter – 4, Tamara Feener – 3, Gary Plourde - 0. Appointed Marisa Carter. term of service to January 2017.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Starkweather and seconded by Councilor Desrochers. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauraine G. Paquin



CITY OF FRANKLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

316 Central Street
Franklin, New Hampshire 03235
Telephone (603) 934-3900
Fax (603) 934-7413

-January 4, 2016-

Pastor Carter, honorable members of the City Council for 2015 and 2016, City Manager Dragon and Department Directors, honored School Board members, friends, and fellow citizens:

I wish to begin this new term of office with a personal note of thanks to our wonderful, generous community, for it was in the first week of October that you selected me to serve yet another term as Mayor. After eight years as the highest elected official in the city, and seven years of service on the City Council, and eight more years on the school board before that - one might understand if voters wanted to "kick the tires" with someone else.

It is astonishing to me, personally, that this fifth term that you have given me will make me, God willing, the longest serving Mayor in Franklin history. I have seen friends in other NH cities come and go in this role. But you have sent me back into office by the largest margin I have ever had here in a contested election - with nearly 75% of your ballots. It is extraordinary, historic, and the message has been received: "Keep doing what you're doing." And lest you conclude that I think this is all about me, I absolutely believe that this message was intended for all of us, whether in city government, in volunteer roles, or in our ordinary work.

Because, looking back on the year past, we should all be proud of what has been happening here. An entrepreneurial spirit has seized downtown Franklin. From the bold and broad vision of Todd Workman, to Jo Brown's Franklin Studio, to Tom Charbono's Central Sweets, to Mr. Mansfield's cozy used bookstore - and on and on - brave friends are taking a risk on our city again in increasing numbers and standing alongside veteran businesses that have weathered the Great Recession. It is a marvelous turnaround to behold. We applaud it, we encourage it, and this city government must do all it can to accelerate it.

The "Franklin For A Lifetime" project inspired a couple of exciting developments - a USDA grant sought by Director Lewis to hire a downtown coordinator, and

Franklin - The Three Rivers City

also the advent of the Riverbend Mill renovation. That project may well be the single greatest investment in downtown Franklin in our entire history - coming as it does with a price tag of almost 12 million dollars. This is something we will all see with our own eyes because construction starts soon.

And I know it has been very expensive and difficult for many of our residents - but we can honestly say that today we have the cleanest water in the State. The Water Department under Director Sullivan was honored as the "Utility of the Year" in 2015 as a result.

We also move ahead into 2016 with work on the largest municipal solar project in NH history, which will deliver new revenue approaching \$100,000 annually. Sincere thanks to Mayor Giunta, City Manager Dragon, Directors Sullivan & Lewis and all city staff who have worked so hard on these projects.

One accomplishment that makes me particularly proud this year is the renewal of our Drug Free Community grant, which funds the Mayor's Drug Task Force. I am very pleased that this effort will continue for another five years, because we can't have a healthy city without healthy individuals and healthy families. And we know this problem lurks in the shadows all around us. My deepest thanks go to all involved in helping their neighbors and making a difference. As a grieving mom said to me this year: "We must save every single person we can."

There are other successes, but we must also look ahead. Given new revenues and retiring debt service payments - I believe the City Council will have an opportunity to address some serious infrastructure concerns, including roads. We must be wise and cautious in our approaches - because every million dollars spent in the general fund represents 10% of your property tax bill. I expect the esteemed and honored City Council to be forthright with any proposal to appropriate additional property tax revenue. We know it is the people's City Charter, not ours. We must ask the people before ever going beyond its bounds.

Indeed - there is one project that makes a lot of exciting improvements possible for our schools, for our roads, for buildings and equipment, and even for recreation - without burdening our current taxpayers. One week from tonight, the NH Site Evaluation Committee will hold an open house and hearing in this room to discuss the Northern Pass Project. If we truly want greater funding for our schools, roads, and other needs - it is imperative that our community speak out in

Franklin - The Three Rivers City

favor of this project, as the honorable City Council has unanimously done in recent days. This project will nearly double the taxable value of our city and yield an additional \$7 million each year. We are now in the fourth quarter of this game and we can see the end zone. It is time for Franklin to win this one.

In this, and in all things, we must persevere. We must "keep doing what we are doing". We must work hard to make our businesses profitable because a hot economy solves almost everything. We must work with our young people and help them achieve in school and in life. We must be generous and caring towards each other as neighbors. We must celebrate our successes and push them forward into a bright future.

I paraphrase Nobel laureate William Faulkner in saying: Franklin will not only endure. Franklin will prevail.

For the 60th chapter of Isaiah commands us to:

"Rise up in splendor ... your light has come, the glory of the LORD shines upon you.... Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, [and] the wealth of nations shall be brought to you..."

So let it be said of Franklin, New Hampshire in 2016.

Again, I thank you all and wish you the very best.

Good luck and may God bless Franklin.



CITY OF FRANKLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

316 Central Street
Franklin, New Hampshire 03235
Telephone (603) 934-3900
Fax (603) 934-7413

Citizen of the Year 2015

I have often mentioned how difficult it is to choose a "Citizen of the Year". Many deserving people work tirelessly to improve our community in so many ways. Throughout the year, I receive a number of superb suggestions about who should be honored tonight. That makes it all the more difficult... because I have had so many choices to consider before choosing her.

In my own lifetime, I did not really get involved in community until I was about 30 years old, and as the years have gone on and my own children became adults, I found myself more and more involved - to the point that some duties and some groups are not really getting the attention and the hours that they deserve from me. But all that has come after 20 years of community involvement. But no matter. Our Citizen of the Year has the energy and determination to fill any gap I leave.

One of my favorites, Emily Dickinson, reminded us all that: "We never know how high we are - till we are called to rise; And then, if we are true to plan, our statures touch the skies—" Our Citizen of the Year is "true to plan". And she is all for Franklin, and I hope she appreciates that I would call her a "Catcher in the Rye".

So with some help from those close to her, we've compiled a "partial" list of what she does for Franklin:

- She is on the planning team and creates all the scenes and scripts for "Odell Park After Dark"
- She organizes the Community Day parade and serves on the planning committee for that day-long event in downtown Franklin.
- She facilitates the book club for 7th & 8th grade students – and assists with funding requests to help sustain the program
- She is deeply involved in Franklin Footlight Theater, as an actress and board member.
- She was honored as the Franklin Business & Professional Women's Club "Young Careerist" and then won the same award at the state level. She went on to Vermont to compete for the northeast US title and came in 2nd place.
- She is deeply involved in her church, assisting with the Annual Angel Fair, participating in the RCIA program, and the parish council, and along with myself, Mayor & Councilor Tony Giunta, Library Trustee Chairman Mike Gula, and Father Ray Gagnon, Jen teaches confirmation classes to high school students at St. Gabriel Parish.

Would you all please join me in thanking our Citizen of the Year, Jennifer Creasey--- for making Franklin NH a better place to live every day.

Franklin - The Three Rivers City

Good Evening, and Thank you for having me tonight. Please excuse my voice I've been getting over a cold. My Name is Elizabeth Franson. I am a Senior at Franklin High School, and a Freshman at Lakes Region Community College. Tonight, I am here to give thanks for this opportunity of uniqueness, and to speak for future students as well as the student body.

I am one of the first students to have been given this opportunity of scholastic enrichment, and I have been honored to lead the way for the future scholars who are also chosen for this dual enrollment program.

This program delivers reachable college credit for high school students, and an early experience to the adaptation of college life style.

This program is helpful, because it has given me time to adjust and flourish in a change of environment, arrange my time management, and heightened my ~~own~~ responsibility in personal choices.

As we know Franklin High School is a community of learning, that challenges students to achieve high levels of success and social responsibility. During my four years at Franklin High School there have been many trials as well as successes. I was homeschooled before I came to high school, and

I find it hard to wrap up or summarize but I have continued to learn more about myself daily. One should never stop striving for a personal best, but one must always remain humble to achieve greater things. The 2014-15 school year was my most challenging. I filled my schedule, and took two other classes on VLACS.

An offer had been made for the 2015-16 school year. Two students could attend Lakes Region Community College while still enrolled as a high school student. I could accumulate college credit that would later be transferred to a future college degree program. I was awarded \$2,000 from the school district to cover fees. Courses were offered at reduced cost to early college goers for \$250

per class. The previous semester I completed a math program that drastically improved my testing skills, a college composition course that helped me understand academic success is not repeating what I have learned, but the value in thought as well as interpretation. I also completed a psychology

to work with them. Next semester consists of another algebra course, to further strengthen my math skills and testing confidence. An advanced chemistry class, and Biology. These will be my prerequisites for next years programs. These classes are four credits each, and the science classes are 3 and a half hours long.

The resources made available to me from the LRCC library to the student center were all more than generous, and very helpful. I currently have a 3.6 gpa with LRCC and continue my community service here in town while working at genesis health care center. Since LRCC classes run 3 times a week, it has opened my schedule for working while completing at least 2 hours worth of homework, for every hour

spent in class. It has been a privilege, to be entrusted with the responsibility of myself a year in advance, and that I was considered to be the recipient of such an honor. Previously in October I was chosen for national honors society, while still maintaining work and the full time school schedule!

This year has helped me make a sure decision, that my future choice to attend college will not be changed, and I will succeed. As it stands, my dream is to attend The University of Rhode Island for a PhD program that is completed in six years. This degree is for Pharmacology, which allows for research and development, as well as herbalistic medicines, and even manufacturing.

Though this is considered college, the lack of communication on student progress and updates on school events was not considered last semester. I applied to colleges through early application over Thanksgiving break, and I have concern that my transcripts will not be updated in time for the colleges to review and make decision since I can no longer update the common application.

My time at Franklin High School has been a learning experience. This year has truly been my best, and it's been an honor to open a doorway of opportunities for future students. However there are a few small things that must be worked out for future recipients. Books and requirements added to nearly 1,000 and the books

To find the least expensive way.
Six classes at reduced cost come to
1,500\$. The remaining money should
be given as reimbursement to the
parent as students must be prepared
for this expense prior to attending LRCC.
Also, students must have means
of transportation. I would like to
thank you for taking the time to
hear me tonight, and specially
thank those who help me as often as

Possible with communications.
Again thank you for the opportunity
and selecting me, for such a gift.