

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM IV



**CITY OF FRANKLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

City Council Meeting December 3, 2012

Date: November 27, 2012
From: Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager
Subject: **Council Resolution #05-13 regarding Downtown Code Enforcement**

Motion: *“I move that the Franklin City Council adopts Resolution #05-13 concerning Downtown Code Enforcement.”*

Mayor will call for second, discussion and the roll call vote; he will then read the resolution into the record or motion can be made to read in title only.

Discussion:

As a group several departments have met with the Mayor to discuss the best way to enhance code enforcement in a strategic way. The Council has heard through both the recent survey conducted by FBIDC and comments by residents & business owners-that the people of Franklin want the ongoing issues in the downtown area to be addressed.

As a result the attached Enforcement Resolution has been prepared for the Council to consider.

While enhancing enforcement can mean at some point in the future- increases in the budget needed for staff if we are going to be able to truly ramp up our enforcement efforts. We believe there are things the City can do now with current staff and current codes to improve in this area. However, support of the City Council is needed, as we work through these delicate and sometimes emotionally charged issues.



CITY OF FRANKLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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A resolution for the Enhancement and Improvement of the Franklin Downtown Area

[Enforcement Resolution # 05-13]

Whereas:

1. The City of Franklin's core downtown area, located along Central Street between Church and Prospect Streets, is a critical economic, cultural, and social center for the City and its residents.
2. When the downtown mills were operating, this downtown area was a thriving and bustling city center. With the passing of the mills, the City has faced the same economic misfortunes that have impacted cities and town throughout New England and the country.
3. The fate of the City of Franklin though is not constrained by its history. The Mayor and the City Council always have the long term interests of the City in mind and we recognize the need to always look toward the future.
4. The City's elected officials and staff recognize that this downtown area, through which approximately 20,000 cars a day pass, is an important component of the community which often helps to create the first impressions for our visitors.
5. It is the belief of the City Council that the downtown area has its own community consisting of the property owners, the business owners and managers, and residents. Further, it is our belief that all parties must work cooperatively together, and must take their share of the responsibility to make the downtown area a vibrant community of which we can all be proud.
6. The City Council is keenly aware of concerns raised by the members of the downtown community, as well as visitors to the downtown, regarding the current conditions that exist in the downtown.
7. The City Manager and all City employees, who are also a part of the downtown community, are not afraid to work cooperatively and innovatively towards the creation of solutions to a variety of issues and problems.

8. The Council understands that City staff will enforce the City Codes and Ordinances adopted by the City Council in order to help protect the integrity and interests of the downtown area.
9. Returning vibrancy to the downtown area is, and should be, the goal of all interested parties.

Therefore be it resolved that,

- a. It is the goal of the City Council to raise the level of both expectations and results relative to the enforcement activities in the downtown area.
- b. The City Council endorses the efforts of the City Manager and City staff to conduct meetings and strategy sessions with property owners, business managers, and concerned residents to discuss the issues confronting downtown and possible solutions to the identified problems. It is the goal of the Council that staff, in working through the enforcement process, seeks solutions and compliance through open communication.
- c. The City Council also recognizes that, in cases where open communication and cooperative steps with property owners are not effective, stricter enforcement measures may be needed to resolve the more significant issues confronting the downtown.
- d. The City Council supports the work of the City Manager and Staff to enforce, and where necessary litigate on behalf of, all of the available City Codes and State Statues in order to address the problems existing in the downtown area. Where new codes or enforcement options can be effective, the City Council will strongly consider the adoption of new tools to solve these important problems that impact the economic vibrancy of the downtown.

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Councilor Boyd	_____	Councilor Feener	_____
Councilor Clarenbach	_____	Councilor Sharon	_____
Councilor Cournoyer	_____	Councilor Starkweather	_____

Councilor Desrochers _____

Councilor Trudel _____

Councilor Dzujna _____

A True Copy Attested:

City Clerk

Approved: _____
Mayor

Passed: _____