

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM I



**CITY OF FRANKLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**
January 7, 2013 City Council Meeting

Subject: Approval of Minutes

Motion: "I move that the Franklin City Council approves the minutes of the December 3, 2012 City Council Meeting."

Mayor calls for a second, discussion and the vote.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2012**

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 the Franklin High School Football Team.

In Attendance

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

Franklin High School Division VI Football Champions

Mayor Merrifield read a Resolution honoring the State Champions and Declared December 3, 2012 as Franklin Football Championship Day. Head Coach Husband spoke thanking his team and Mayor Merrifield as well as the Franklin Fire Department and Police Department for escorting them in the parade.

Public Hearing

New Tax Increment Financing Plan

Mayor Merrifield stated the purpose of this public hearing is to gather any comments from the Merrimack County Commissioners, the Franklin School Board, and the public regarding the adoption of a new Tax Increment Financing Plan for the Franklin Industrial Business Park and the surrounding area. Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing for comments.

Mr. Jim Aberg, Franklin Business and Industrial Development Corporation (FBIDC) stated he would heartily support this new TIF Plan. One of the benefits of the program will be a marketing tool and would be a wise adoption for the City.

Mrs. Kathy Russo stated she is speaking as a resident and referenced on Page 14 if property owners know what is going on that their taxes and property values would be going up. Mayor Merrifield stated what is being talked about is market appreciation and the value of that property over time. We are drawing a line at a point in time at the assessed values as they are. As those assessed values naturally increase through the improvement of property or through market conditions, then we would capture the taxable portion of that for return to the District in the form of investment in the District. She also asked how captured revenues would benefit the School District. Mayor Merrifield commented you have to view this TIF Plan as a spur to people to invest in that District. It is a tool to encourage people to invest in the District. Absent the assurance that the capital improvements will take place, the other improvements that are described in the plan, absent those improvements, we suspect that the investment does not occur. So by holding all other values in the District, values outside the District, holding the District harmless, the District doesn't lose anything, it is a gain for the City of Franklin as a whole because the increased investment comes as a result of assuring investors that money will be put back into the District. Mrs. Russo inquired concerning the Advisory Board, would there be a School Board member appointed to the Board. Mayor Merrifield commented that is an excellent suggestion.

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

Mayor Merrifield advised that another public hearing scheduled this evening on Ordinance #06-13, however, it will not be held this evening due to an error by the newspaper and the public hearing was not properly noticed.

Comments from the Public

Mr. Keith Lohmann, Ward III stated he is speaking tonight as a private citizen and not a member of the School Board stating he did not run for re-election and he stated his remarks reflect only his own thoughts. He stated his reasons for not running for School Board were his soon to be 15 year old daughter complained he

was not spending enough time at home. He stated also he works in Concord and his work life keeps him quite busy and budget cuts have caused additional work to be placed in his job. As a member of the school board he stated about two years ago what he hoped to accomplish which were open lines of communication and genuine discussions between the school board and the City Council. He stated after two years he has accomplished nothing toward that end and the conclusion he stated he has drawn is there is no desire currently for some of the ones serving on the Council to stop talking at others instead of talking to others. He stated he tried to provide that opportunity to no avail. He thanked the members of the School Board that have supported him on his journey to better the schools and the City and he thanked Councilor Trudel and the other members of the Liaison Committee who traveled the road with him. He stated please consider if what you are doing is in the best interest of the City as a whole because if either the City or the School fails, we all fail. Do what you can to foster true communication and stop the games as what you have in front of you is far too important; it is all about we and not us versus them.

Representative Leigh Webb reminded everyone that there is Merrimack County Delegation meeting a week from this Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. which includes a public hearing, it is in Concord, 4 Court Street. Mayor Merrifield commented for Councilors who have not seen the proposed budget yet, the total increase in taxes being projected, the amount to be raised by taxes is only increasing .29%.

Choose Franklin

Mrs. Annette Andreozzi, Co-Chair of Choose Franklin advised a couple months ago a tour was done throughout Franklin in order to get feedback from the businesses. Several Councilors and Manager Dragon were among those doing the tour. She advised they will be doing another tour in March. One of the goals was to connect with people that are not able to attend the Choose Franklin Meetings. She advised that in February FBIDC will be coming to the Choose Franklin meeting to share dialog concerning the survey that was offered on line by them.

City Council Acknowledgements

Councilor Sharon thanked City Clerk Burbank and her staff for the wonderful job handling the Election. Councilor Dzujna thanked Curt Wyant from Three Rivers Wreath Company who made and put up the wreaths on the wheel in the park.

Mayor's Update

Mayor shared his activities of the last month beginning with November 8 where he attended the Drug Task Force meeting; November 11th he attended the annual gathering of music as well as Veterans Day observances; November 12th the SAU Budget Meeting; on November 15th the Franklin Opera House Board Meeting; November 18th he shared the podium with the Mayor Nashua concerning a celebrations of a gentleman's 80th Birthday who in his boyhood lived in the City of Franklin; November 20th he attended a Capital Region Coalition on Substance Abuse Board meeting; November 25th he met with the new State Representative Scott Burns; November 27th a Revenue Commission Meeting was held and heard an update on the Northern Pass Project; November 29th he attended the Drug Task Force Leadership Team Meeting; and this weekend he stated he was very honored to attend the Veterans Memorial Ski Area and honoring remember Flag Presentation in Memory of J. Barker who is a Metal of Honor recipient from Franklin. The same day he attended the 80th birthday of a long-term Franklin educator, Janet Jurta; and on December 2nd attended the Lights of Memory ceremony at Franklin Regional Hospital.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Councilor Dzujna that the Franklin City Council approves the minutes of the November 5, 2012 City Council Meeting, motion seconded by Councilor Sharon.

Councilor Feener stated on Page 3, under School Board Report the request was to Mr. Lohmann not Mr. Warner concerning FY11 reconciliation.

All in favor; minutes approved as corrected.

School Board Report

Mr. Ed Cogan, School Board member gave the report. The Kindergarten students at Paul Smith attended a play at the Capital Theatre. Student Council elections were held; mock elections were held for the Presidential election and it was a landslide victory for President Obama. NECAP assembly was held at the Middle School and went smoothly. The academic intervention program is in the process of establishing an academic support group who grant funds and the purpose of the program is to provide more intensive support for students who are falling behind in their classes. Students will be referred by Teachers or Parents and will be assigned to a guidance study that will be staffed by an experienced teacher who has experience with reluctant learners. He advised at the last School Board meeting they had the pleasure of witnessing 3 presentations for a teacher from each school.

Resolution #05-13 – This resolution concerns Downtown Code Enforcement

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council adopts Resolution #05-13 concerning Downtown Code Enforcement. Motion seconded by Councilor Trudel.

Roll Call Vote:

***Councilor Boyd – Yes
Councilor Clarenbach – Yes
Councilor Cournoyer – Yes
Councilor Desrochers – Yes
Councilor Dzujna – Yes***

***Councilor Feener – Yes
Councilor Sharon – Yes
Councilor Starkweather – Yes
Councilor Trudel – Yes***

Resolution #05-13 is adopted.

Two-Year Employee Labor Contract with the State Employee Association of New Hampshire (SEA) representing the Municipal Services Department positions

Motion made by Councilor Clarenbach that the Franklin City Council approves a two-year agreement as presented from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014 between the City of Franklin and the SEA of New Hampshire Municipal Services Department employee. Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather. All in favor; motion passes.

Renewal of Police Chief Goldstein's Contract

Manager Dragon advised this renewal is the same terms as the current contract; it is just extending the contract. She stated she is very glad Chief Goldstein is extending his contract and has been doing a great job.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council approves the extension of Police Chief Goldstein's contract to December 31, 2015. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

Councilor Feener commented that Chief Goldstein has done a terrific job for the City. Councilor Dzujna thanked Chief Goldstein for all his work and hopes he can stay on for many more years. Councilor Boyd commented that in the event at some point in time Chief Goldstein decides to leave that he would let us know way in advance and would assist the City in finding someone that is as good as he has been. Mayor Merrifield stated as everyone knows the City has a Drug Free Community Grant which is something not every community in the State has. Since the grant's inception and before the grant Chief Goldstein has been very supportive. He also commented meeting people from outside of Franklin who know the Chief and have nothing but praise for the Chief. Councilor Cournoyer stated he is very glad Chief Goldstein is staying with the City.

Motion passes; all in favor of extending Chief Goldstein's contract.

Other Business

Committee Reports

Councilor Trudel advised that he made an appearance before the School Board as a citizen of the City of Franklin requesting a joint meeting between the School Board and the City Council and he stated he is making that same proposal to the Franklin City Council that we as a group consider meeting with the School Board holding a joint meeting to try and resolve some of the issues that Mr. Lohmann spoke of earlier. Mayor Merrifield commented that this sort of thing has been done in the past when he was a member of the School Board; Mayor Matzke held a similar type joint meeting; you might call it a retreat. State Law requires that any such meeting be held in public. Mayor Merrifield advised that he has been in touch with School Board Chair Yonaitis and it appears a meeting could be set in January.

Motion made by Councilor Desrochers that the Franklin City Council hold a joint meeting with the School Board to be held in the City Council Chambers during the month of January, 2013. Motion seconded by Councilor Feener. All in favor, motion passes.

City Manager's Update

Manager Dragon advised the LRGH Pilot renewal that the Council approved at the November Council Meeting had an amount of \$17,836.00 and the correct amount is \$17,755.56.

She also advised that the department heads have been busy, code enforcement is not only being looked at but they are also looking at the codes in general. She commented one of the good things about being a City is that we are able to make changes to the Code in a very timely fashion by setting a public hearing and then making the amendments that are needed. In the Administrative Code and some policies that have been reviewed, it appears that there is need for some

housekeeping. She advised that she has already drafted an ordinance which will be brought to the Council for consideration in January to set a public hearing for February, 2013.

Manager Dragon informed the Council that there will be a drawdown of Chance Pond in order to complete repairs to the dam associated with Chance Pond and Webster Lake. DES is the one doing the repairs, however, they have advised us that the City needs to hold the informational public hearing which will be held prior to the Planning Board Meeting on Wednesday, December 12th at 6:30 p.m.

Manager Dragon advised that Traci Fowler, the Mayor's Drug Task Force Coordinator is moving on to be the Regional Drug Task Force Coordinator. She will be working with Franklin in her new position but will be staying on through the month of December. Manager Dragon stated she has already posted for this position and has so far received one resume.

Rescheduling of the Public Hearing on Ordinance #06-13

Manager Dragon commented there has been some discussion on digital recordings and the City has purchased a digital recorder and tonight is the first time that recorder is being used. One of the benefits of digital recording is it can be upload the audio file to the website if that is something the Council would be interested in doing.

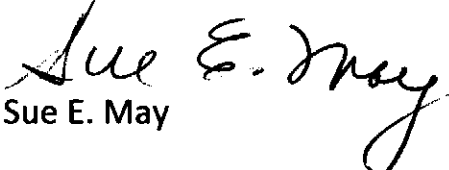
Motion made by Councilor Clarenbach that the Franklin City Council reschedules the public hearing on Ordinance #06-13 concerning Chapter 160, Fees to Monday, February 4, 2012 at 6:06 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Feener. All in favor, motion to reschedule passes.

Mayor Merrifield read Ordinance #06-13 into the record at the November, 2012 City Council Meeting.

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***Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Clarenbach; seconded by Councilor Trudel.
All in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,


Sue E. May