

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM XIV



CITY OF FRANKLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT
City Council Meeting May 2012

Date: April 30, 2012
From: Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager
Subject: **Manager's Update**

Contingency Grant Line Activity: The City received the following in the contingent grant line this month: \$3,150 for the Join the NH Clique Seat Belt grant and \$4,620 for the Franklin DWI/DUI Patrols grant

Website- If you haven't had a chance, please take a look at the City's new website at the same location www.franklinnh.org departments are still adding content but the site went live a couple weeks ago and we are getting great feedback. The City partnered with the Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force & Franklin Business & Industrial Corp (FBIDC) to build a new website. Twin Designs contributed wonderful professional photos of Franklin to highlight the beauty of the community. We are very excited about all that the new website has to offer. A couple new powerful tools include the ability to subscribe to news and alerts with a click of a button (check out "subscribe to e-alerts") and the City's ability to add an emergency banner across the front page of the website for breaking news such as road closure or any type of emergency notice.

Vitex Tour: On Monday April 23rd I accompanied the Mayor, Jim Aberg (FBIDC), Governor Lynch, several PSNH representatives as well as others on a tour of Vitex Extrusions new production line here in Franklin. Last fall, partly funded through rebates from Public service of NH, the firm installed a new pumping system that enabled it to double its capacity from 18 million to 30 million pounds of "lineal extrusions" per year. Vitex is looking to add 100 employees to their company in the near future. Vitex discussed the challenges of finding the right kind of employees for the future. This news and the recent growth at Webster Valve are signs of economic growth right here in Franklin!

Youth Government: is currently scheduled for May 29th, 30th and 31st this year. Tuesday kick off at city hall (Mayor & any city councilors & local legislators are invited to speak) 12:15-2:30 alongside dept heads as we give an overview of city government Wed 12:15-2:30 students report to respective departments Thursday students work with their department heads all day (8am-2:30) and at 6:30pm the Elks host a banquet, present awards, and the students hold a mock city council meeting.

Loyalty Day: On Sunday April 29th at 2pm I attended along with the Mayor and several City Councilors a ceremony at Franklin VFW honoring LT Stephanie Clough, Retired Chief Brad Smith, and High School Teacher Kerry Cook. Congratulations to all three honorees!

Headstart Grant & Bessie Rowell Community Center Project update: Great news! The City of Franklin was awarded the Head Start grant for \$350,000. This grant will relocate the Head

Start program to the Bessie Rowell building which is in the process of becoming the ***Bessie Rowell Community Center***. Head Start receiving this grant was key to making this project viable. Currently Tiny Twisters is in the process of preparing to move using a CDBG grant recently awarded in the amount of \$238,957. The Tiny Twister's project just recently went out to bid and was awarded. Security Cameras are being installed at entrances of the building through some matching funds that Tiny Twisters had available for equipment purchases. Mango Security has already begun work on this piece of the project. There are so many exciting things about a project like this-the ability to share space, the re-use of a building that otherwise sat vacant in a residential neighborhood and was beginning to be vandalized, co-locating services that support one another, the many uses of a brand new commercial kitchen, the many uses of a multipurpose room including a stage and another meeting space in the community...all these things are now becoming a reality in the ***Bessie Rowell Community Center***.

City preparations are also in the works-The Recreation department will begin their move after the summer program however preparations at the Bessie Rowell building have already begun for the recreation department. Phone and computer networking for the city should be complete before the end of June. Misc aesthetic improvements such as cleaning, painting, organizing and general preparation of space are also beginning as well.

This project is an excellent example of a variety of organizations (city & nonprofits) coming together to make a project work for the betterment of the children and the seniors of the community. It is thanks to the vision of the City Council & Mayor through some challenging moments that this project is possible.

Recreation Department update: The funding and all state approvals for the fishing pier project at Odell Park are in place and the project is ready to move forward. (as of March 26, 2012). Next, coordination between contractors and city services will begin. The city will dig the trench area where the concrete will be poured (by Beck & Bellucci). We have not finalized anything with Beck & Bellucci yet due to scheduling constraints. The recreation department is working with them as well as other companies that may be able to fit us in sooner. Brian Barry - Municipal services department will construct the decking. The funding for this project was raised through the Odell park committee and the city is contributing labor (digging the trench and building the deck). This project, like the many other recently completed projects at Odell Park, will be completed through the combination of fundraising and grant funding obtained by the Recreation Director and volunteers, as well as volunteer & city labor. The asset will then become the property of the city. This is last project on the list at the Odell Park for the committee.

Work at Daniell Park is currently underway. Funding is in place for the basketball court. However, the focus is the picnic area and parking area improvements which is expected to begin this month. The work on the basketball area is planned for the summer/fall time.

Stone Park is in serious disrepair and staff has recently removed the slide and bouncy toys due to the unsafe condition and recommendation by the Local Government Center in their recent inspection of all city playgrounds. The Recreation Director has recently received \$15,000 from KaBoom which is only half of the funding needed for replacement. Replacement of this park equipment is hopeful for the Fall/Spring depending on successful fundraising efforts.

There has been a conversation with all department heads working with committees that the city is currently at our capacity (as discussed with the council during our no numbers workshop) regarding projects and staffing. Therefore, we are attempting to focus our efforts with committees and volunteers on improving assets that are currently in existence instead of adding assets that require future maintenance etc. We are also attempting to finish existing projects and improve communications with volunteers to ensure that everyone is working on the same page.