

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

May 1, 2017

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
Jane Dlugos
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor
James Johnson
James Marshall
Ryan Rudegear

Members Excused: Sam Lyons

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
Sheila Boughner, Community Development Director and Recording Secretary
James Wetzal, Fire Chief
Marissa Dechant, Venango Newspapers, Inc.
Wendy Shardlow Thompson, Franklin YMCA
Ally-Karen D. Miller, Franklin YMCA
Jim McNally, 1352 Franklin Ave.
Renee Parker, 1346 Franklin Ave.
Tom Parker, 1346 Franklin Ave.
Matt Caldwell, Caldwell Signs

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Resolution No. 50

Mrs. Fletcher moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Dlugos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Resolution No. 51

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the Conditional Use Hearing of March 29, 2017, and the Regular Meeting of April 3, 2017, as presented. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS – Resolution No. 52

Mr. Rudegear moved to pay the bills as presented. Mrs. Dlugos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES – None

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS – Resolution No. 53

Mr. Marshall moved to issue certificates of appropriateness for a mural in Kiwanis Alley, for exterior painting at 1124 Elk St. and for a sign at 1309 Buffalo Street, as presented. Mrs. Dlugos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

YMCA UPDATES – POOL AND ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Resolution No. 54 – Annual Community Support Campaign: Mrs. Thompson thanked Council for its 2016 contribution and said that as a result of last year's campaign, 1,135 community members, roughly a third of the YMCA's membership base, received financial assistance in the form of membership scholarships and program fee subsidies. In 2016, \$68,482 was awarded in membership scholarships, and \$9,092 was awarded in program fee subsidies. The 2017 campaign goal is \$75,000. Mr. Marshall moved to contribute \$1,000 to the YMCA 2017 Annual Community Support Campaign. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Miller-Sibley Pool: Mrs. Miller thanked the City for once again being given the opportunity to manage the Miller-Sibley Pool. She said prices will remain the same for the coming season, and free swim lessons will again be provided on Saturdays and free aquatic exercise classes will be provided throughout the week. Attendance information will again be entered into a database that collects data on where pool users reside and distinguishes between those paying a daily fee and those using season passes. The pool season will be slightly shorter this year and will run from June 4 to Aug. 26. The pool will be closed this year on Father's Day and Fourth of July, because of very low attendance on those days. Season passes went on sale April 28, there was a great deal of interest in the pool on Healthy Kids Day. Council commended Mrs. Miller and thanked her for her management of the pool.

BID AWARD – DEMOLITION OF STRUCTURE – Resolution No. 55

Mrs. Jamieson reminded the Council that Wells Fargo's donation to the City of a duplex at 1424 Otter Street included a check in the amount of \$13,576.70 for demolition of the structure. The City put the demolition project out to bid and received a single bid from Bert Klapec, Inc., of Oil City in the amount of \$12,200. Mrs. Jamieson indicated the City has had favorable experience with this contractor in the past and recommended approval of the contract award. Once the property is cleared and the site restored, the City can decide the best use for the lot. Mr. Rudegeair moved to award the contract for the demolition to Bert Klapec, Inc., in the amount of \$12,200. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION RE: ONE-WAY STREETS

City Council discussed the possibility of converting Franklin Avenue and/or parts of Elk, Missouri and Buffalo streets to one-way in an effort to reduce traffic speeds and congestion in those areas. Mrs. Dlugos previously raised the possibility with regards to Franklin Avenue, and Mr. Rudegeair did so in relation to portions of Missouri, Buffalo and Elk. Mr. McNally and Mr. and Mrs. Parker, all residents of Franklin Avenue, shared their views from the audience. Council also considered the possibility of adding stop signs at 14th and Elk and/or 14th and Otter to help discourage speeding and reduce traffic on Franklin Avenue. Mr. Spaid pointed out that if Franklin Avenue is made one-way to 13th Street, residents will no longer be able to turn back to 14th Street but will have to exit at 13th Street, where there is no left turn at certain times of the day. Council agreed to have Mr. Spaid draft two ordinances for the June meeting, one for making Franklin Avenue one-way and the other for adding stop signs on 14th Street at Elk and Otter.

DISCUSSION RE: ANIMAL CARE ORDINANCE

Mr. Spaid advised City Council to delay action on pursuing a local animal care ordinance as a new animal cruelty statute is on the way for the state, which may address the concerns raised at Council's April meeting regarding the condition and treatment of dogs being left outside during extreme temperatures.

PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE PLAN UPDATE

Mrs. Jamieson provided the Council with an update on the final draft of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Connection Master Plan for the City, which is nearing completion. She said the framework for the plan inverts the traditional approach to transportation and prioritizes pedestrians first, then bicycles, followed by automobiles and trucks. She highlighted seven of the 10 priority projects proposed by the plan:

- The trail to town connection over the Eighth Street Bridge
- A separate limestone bike path through Riverfront Park to reduce bike and pedestrian conflicts
- Improvements at the exit from Riverfront Park at Ninth and Elk streets
- A shared lane loop on Ninth Street, to Buffalo, 14th and Elk
- Safety improvements at the intersection of 12th and Liberty streets
- A lane diet in the 1200 block of Liberty, which would reduce the traffic lanes from four to two with a middle turning lane, and provide room for bike lanes on both sides of the street, in addition to parking
- Above-the-curb cycle tracks along Liberty Street from Ninth to 12th

Traffic studies by PennDOT will be needed in the 1200 block of Liberty and at the intersection of 12th and Liberty to follow up on the recommendations for those areas. Consultation with PennDOT will also be required for the proposed improvements on the Eighth Street Bridge. Mrs. Jamieson noted that PennDOT is in the preliminary planning stages of a betterment project for Liberty Street, which could result in PennDOT assistance for some of the projects recommended in the Pedestrian Bicycle Connection Master Plan. A final public presentation of the plan will be made in May and the final plan will be presented to Council for approval at its June meeting.

DISCUSSION RE: RESIDENTIAL LERTA ORDINANCE

Council discussed the possibility of a Local Economic Revitalization Tax Abatement (LERTA) for residential property owners who make improvements to their property. Mr. Rudegeair raised the possibility at Council's April meeting. Such a measure would provide a graduated property tax break over a 10-year period based on the value of the property improvements. Mrs. Jamieson said the state's goal with the LERTA program for residential property owners is to encourage investment in blighted areas. Oil City has such an ordinance. Council opted to take more time to consider the matter before making a decision about an ordinance.

Parade & Park Requests – Resolution No. 56

Mrs. Dlugos moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve the following requests:

- June 3, July 1 and Aug. 5, 2017 – Bandstand Park – Yoga in the Park – Impel Pilates Studio
- June 5 to Aug. 25, 2017 – Atlantic Avenue Playground – Summer Food Program – Child Development Centers
- June 12 to July 14, 2017 – 11th Street Playground – Playground Program – Oil City YWCA
- June 14, 2017 – Bandstand Park – Flag Day Ceremony – Elks Club and Gardinier Funeral Home
- Aug. 9, 2017 – Bandstand Park – Duets – City of Franklin & Franklin Fine Arts Council

Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Manager

- **Resolution No. 57** -- Mrs. Jamieson recommended that Liquid Fuels funds be used to pave Elk Street, from Route 62 to 10th Street, and Buffalo, from Ninth to 10th Street. She also presented a list of streets that PennDOT will tar and chip through an agility agreement with the City, using the City's reclaimed millings. That list includes Gurney Road, Big oak Drive and Little Pine, in that order, as far as the materials will go. Mayor Baker moved to approve the paving and tar and chip projects. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Mrs. Jamieson asked Fire Chief and Deputy City Manager Jim Wetzel to address Council regarding the recent evaluation of the fire department's firefighting capacity by the Insurance Services Office of New Jersey. With the evaluation, Franklin Fire Department's ranking went from class 5 to class 3, on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 denoting an exemplary fire suppression program. Mr. Wetzel said the ranking places Franklin's department in the top 10 percent in the country. Commercial property owners in the City should see a significant reduction in their fire insurance premiums as a result of the ranking.
- Mrs. Jamieson told Council that the installation of a new pole and traffic light at the mid-block crossing in the 1200 block of Liberty Street to replace the one that fell last August will cost at least \$35,000. The light is needed, however, to improve pedestrian safety. Council indicated a desire to move forward with the replacement project.
- She requested an executive session to discuss negotiations and potential litigation.

Solicitor

- Mr. Spaid noted that he, too, would need an executive session to discuss potential litigation.

Mayor – Appointments

- Mr. Baker indicated he plans to make some appointments to boards/commissions at the June meeting of the Council.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Baker

- Issued a proclamation declaring May 13, 2017, to be Letter Carriers Food Drive Day in the City of Franklin. The event is part of the National Association of Letter Carriers 25th annual "Stamp Out Hunger" drive.
- Issued a proclamation declaring May 7, 2017 to May 13, 2017 to be Public Service Recognition week in the City of Franklin and he thanked City employees and volunteers serving on the City's boards and commissions for their contributions and service

Mr. Marshall

- Called attention to the new playground equipment at the 15th Street playground

Mrs. Fletcher

- Indicated garbage is piling up on the porch of a house on Elk Street
- Noted that there is a dip in the roadway in the 900 block of Liberty Street where line repairs were made. Mr. Wetzel said the area was temporarily filled with cold patch until permanent repairs can be made.

- Said she frequently sees Vantage trucks parked in the spaces in front of the Vantage building on Liberty Street. Those spaces were recently designated for 10-minute parking between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. to make customer parking available in that area.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Resolution No. 58

Mrs. Dlugos moved to go into executive session for purposes of negotiations and potential litigation at 9:07 p.m. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The executive session ended at 9:28 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

Resolution No. 59 – A motion was made by Mr. Rudegear to approve entering into a new agreement with the Oil Region Library Association for the leasing of the Franklin Library property, subject to final approval of the wording by the City Manager and City Solicitor. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Resolution No. 60 – Motion was made by Mayor Baker to approve the leasing of space to Dr. Frank Kunkel at the Franklin Professional Building. Mrs. Dlugos seconded the motion. The motion passed 6 to 1, with Mr. Rudegear voting “No.”

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sheila Boughner, Recording Secretary