

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 1, 2019

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
Michael Dulaney
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor
James Johnson
Samuel Lyons
Fred Mays
Ryan Rudegear

Members Excused: None.

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
James Wetzel, Deputy City Manager
Kevin Anundson, Chief of Police
Deb Eckelberger, Franklin Development Director
Sheila Boughner, Community Development Coordinator
Harmony Motter, Finance Director
Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary
Sarah Titley, Venango Newspapers, Inc.
Aly Delp, Explore Venango

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Resolution No. 87

Mr. Dulaney moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Resolution No. 88

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 3, 2019, as presented; the minutes of the public hearing of June 18, 2019, as presented; and the minutes of the special meeting of June 18, 2019, as presented. Mr. Rudegear seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS - Resolution No. 89

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

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES - none.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - Resolution No. 90

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign at 1029 Liberty Street, as presented; and for a sign at 1235 Liberty Street, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

2019 MMO ADJUSTMENT - Resolution No. 91

Mrs. Motter advised the Council that after an audit of the 2017 and 2018 Pension Plans, Joseph Yochim, auditor for the Department of the Auditor General, addressed a repeat observation concerning the City's anticipated administrative expense that they would like to see corrected on the 2019 MMO (line 4). Through coordination with Frank Conanico, Cowden Associates, Inc., the City's pension actuarial company, it was determined this revision would increase the 2019 MMO by \$48,000. Mr. Conanico suggests the City take an average of the actual 2017 and 2018 administrative expenses to calculate the \$48,000 increase, and distribute it as follows: \$20,000 - Police Pension Fund; \$11,000 - Fire Pension Fund; and \$17,000 - Non-Uniform Pension Fund.

Mrs. Motter explained that this amount had not been budgeted for in the 2019 budget; however, the City has set aside funds in a pension reserve account for issues such as this in previous years and will be able to use this reserve if net operating income will not cover the expense at year end. Her recommendation to Council would be to increase the administrative costs and revise the 2019 MMO as recommended using the pension reserve account if necessary. Mr. Lyons so moved. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FY-2019 CDBG PROGRAM UPDATE - Resolution No. 92

Ms. Boughner informed the Council that the Department of Community & Economic Development has announced the FY-2019 Community Development Block Grant allocations. The City of Franklin will receive \$298,505, up slightly from the 2018 allocation of \$296,249. Ms. Boughner noted that the application deadline is November 1, 2019. Mr. Rudegear then moved to hold the preliminary public hearing at 7 PM, prior to the August 5 Council meeting, and the final hearing at 7 PM, prior to the October 7 meeting. Mr. Dulaney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DISCUSSIONS OF CITY STREETS SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

Following a recent car crash at Elk & Washington Crossing, as well as several pedestrian safety complaints, staff raised a number of possibilities for improving safety in several areas. Chief Anundson proposed the placement of stop signs at the Elk and 11th Street intersection as a possible way to reduce speeds and thereby the number/severity of crashes at Elk Street & Washington Crossing. Council asked the chief to research the cost and benefits of interactive radar speed signs that display the speed of approaching vehicles. Mrs. Jamieson also raised the possibility of stop signs at the intersection of Ninth and Elk streets, an area heavily used by bicyclists and other visitors to Riverfront Park and City water department vehicles. She suggested that the addition of stop signs could help to raise the quality of life in many areas of the City. Mayor Baker agreed as to the benefits of traffic calming measures and indicated the City's should prioritize *"living here, not driving here."* He advised that Council take some time to consider the matter.

MODIFICATION OF DEP CONSENT ORDER AND AGREEMENT - Resolution No. 93

In response to a request made by the City of Franklin and the General Authority for an extension of the deadlines in Paragraphs 3.e.ii and 3.g. of the Consent Order and Agreement

until August 1, 2019, the Department of Environmental Protection provided said and requested three (3) signed originals be returned to them. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Dulaney seconded a motion to adopt and approve the resolution: "First Modification to Consent Order and Agreement dated April 5, 2019." Motion passed unanimously.

PARADE & PARK REQUESTS - Resolution No. 94

Mrs. Fletcher moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to approve the following requests:

- August 10, 2019 • Bandstand Park • Relay for Life • Yvonne Krizen
- August 17, 2019 • Riverfront Park • Rock In River Fest • City of Franklin
- August 17, 2019 • West Park Street • Book Bag Bash • 1st Presbyterian Church

Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Manager

- Reported the vehicle auction made \$9,602, which will go in the General Fund.
- Thanks to Ms. Boughner the City has received two grant awards, both for \$50,000, from the Samuel Justus Charitable Trust and the Frederick & Ellen Fair Memorial Fund for the Miller-Sibley Rehabilitation Project.
- The Little League restrooms have been renovated and are now handicapped accessible; and the Men's League fields has new fencing.

Solicitor

- Read a proclamation proclaiming April 26, 2019 as "Arbor Day" in the City of Franklin. He noted that in addition to providing many environmental benefits, the City's trees help to beautify the community.
- Reported the Shade Tree Committee now has a vacancy for anyone interested. Also advised the members that the Commission donated some of their budget back to the City for removal of trees that have fallen or have needed to be removed due to disease.
- Reported the PA Liquor Control Board hearing to bring the City's Noise Ordinance into effect has been scheduled for Friday, July 12 @ 10 AM, in Council Chambers. He noted that he would be representing the City, with Mrs. Jamieson, Police Chief Anundson, Deputy City Manager/Fire Chief Jim Wetzel, and Code Enforcement Officer Charles Gibbons in attendance. He explained, if passed, the City would be replacing Pennsylvania law with its own and enforcement of the ordinance would be by the City's Police Department.

Mayor • Appointments - none.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Baker

- Noted the LibertyFest Parade was held this past Saturday and Taste of Talent will be held @ 7 PM every Wednesday in July at Bandstand Park.

Mr. Johnson

- Reported the Bridge House is opening a second homeless shelter in Oil City that will have 8 beds for men and 8 for women. He noted that 60 people have used the shelter in Franklin, which has a success rate of more than 70%.

Mr. Dulaney

- Suggested City Council consider adding additional webcams, like the one setup by the Chamber, at dangerous intersections and/or in alleyways. He noted that the City's Police Department has used the Chamber's webcam on occasion. Mayor Baker asked Chief Anundson to review this matter and to return to City Council with a recommendation.

Mr. Rudegeair - none.

Mrs. Fletcher

- Reported a slow street drain in front of 835 Elk Street that backs up during heavy rains. Mrs. Jamieson said she would discuss this matter with City staff.

Mr. Lyons

- Ascertained that fireworks are now legal in Pennsylvania and asked if the Police or Fire Departments could restrict their use. They explained that it is now hard for local enforcement to restrict their use and the only resource they have would fall under disorderly conduct, but that safety setbacks still apply.

Mr. Mays - none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary