

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
August 5, 2019

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

Members Excused: None.

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
Kevin Anundson, Chief of Police
Charles Gibbons, Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer
Deb Eckelberger, Franklin Development Director
Sheila Boughner, Community Development Coordinator
Harmony Motter, Finance Director
Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary
Alan & Alaina Wallace, 217 Elk Street
Chris Dolan, 215 Elk Street
Diane W Dickey, 219 Elk Street
John Andrew & Karla S. Bell, 223 Elk Street
Joseph Hart, 312 Tenth Street
Julie Angele, 612 Tenth Street
Ginny Kellogg, Venango Co Animal Response Team
Lorri Warner, Venango Co Animal Response Team
Bev Hart, Venango Co Animal Response Team
Bob Smith, Venango Co Animal Response Team
June Rankin, no address listed
Sarah Titley, Venango Newspapers, Inc.
Chris Rossetti, Explore Venango

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Resolution No. 95

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Resolution No. 96

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 1, 2019, as presented. Mr. Mays seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS - Resolution No. 97

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

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES

Ms. Julie Angele was in attendance to request Council's help in cleaning up a property owned by Jeff McFadden, located at 610 Tenth Street. She advised she has been in contact with City staff since 2015 but on July 4 the residents of the home caught their front porch on fire, which sparked a sense of urgency for her request. Mr. Gibbons noted this is a rental unit and it was his understanding that the landlord is presently trying to evict the tenant. Mayor Baker sympathized noting several neighborhoods in the City were in serious decline, with property maintenance being a big issue. He advised the City is trying to come up with better solutions. Ms. Angele asked about the garbage issue at the property. Mayor Baker replied, that it would be addressed.

Ms. Ginny Kellogg, a member of the Venango County Animal Response Team, was in attendance to advise Council of the purpose of their team. She explained that they are dispatched by 911 during emergencies when animals are involved to help with their transport but are also available to help in non-emergency situations as well.

Ms. Rankin asked Council to look at the sidewalks across from Sanders Market and St. Patrick's parking lot, noting they are obstructed by vegetation in one area and, in her opinion, in need of repair.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

Resolution No. 98 - Mr. Rudegear moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for replacement windows, porch railing & posts, and exterior paint at 312 - 10th Street, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

FIRST READING - BILL NO. 6 - ZONING MAP AMENDMENT (8th & Elk) - Resolution No. 99

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 6, "Zoning Map Amendment (8th & Elk) in its entirety, into the record. This Bill amends *"the designation of In-Lot Nos. 379, 382, and 383, located at the southwest corner of the intersection of 8th Street & Elk Street from an R-2 Residential District to a TRC Transitional Residential Commercial District."* Mr. Spaid advised that Venango County is interested in purchasing the building located at 737 Elk Street and plans to turn the sanctuary area into a large meeting space for groups, and to create three apartments in what was once called the education wing. Mayor Baker moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to approve on First Reading, Bill No. 6, "Zoning Map Amendment (8th & Elk). Mrs. Fletcher raised concerns about another County-owned residential property on Elk Street near 8th Street. Mr. Rudegear took issue with the fact that the zoning change request is the second such request for the same project, noting that for each change, there is a cost to the City. Mr. Spaid explained that the Planning and Zoning Commission had the same reservations; however, they

only agreed to the change because they felt, in the end, it would benefit the neighborhood. A vote was then taken on the motion, which passed 5-2, with Mr. Rudegeair and Mrs. Fletcher voting “no.”

SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING - Resolution No. 99

Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Dulaney seconded a motion to schedule a public hearing on Bill No. 6, “Zoning Map Amendment (8th & Elk),” at 7 PM on Monday, September 9. Motion passed unanimously.

HISTORIC BUILDING PRESERVATION PROGRAM (HBPP) GUIDELINES - Resolution No. 100

Mrs. Jamieson reminded the Council of the \$25,000 that Dr. Cenedella donated to the City to use as we saw fit. In light of Mrs. Cenedella’s efforts to help the City establish the Historic District, staff felt using the money to help businesses update their historically significant buildings would honor her legacy. Mrs. Jamieson then presented Guidelines for the Historic Building Preservation Program (HBPP) and reviewed same including:

- *Eligibility of Applicants:* Applicants are eligible to apply for up to \$5,000 in grant funding for architecturally significant buildings within the Franklin Historic District. They must be a mostly-commercial building; property owners must not be in arrears on property taxes or with water/sewer/garbage payments and have no existing code enforcement notices of violations associated with the property, unless the subject project is designed to address said code violations.
- *Eligible Projects:* Projects must be only for exterior building improvements, and are NOT intended for general repair items that are considered normal maintenance, such as roofing, etc. Examples of approved projects would include: restoration/replacement of historical features; removal of inappropriate materials and/or replacement with appropriate materials; installation of historically appropriate awning, canopies, etc.; brick cleaning & re-pointing; facade painting, if entire facade will be addressed.
- *Matching Requirements:* Up to \$5,000 may be granted by Franklin City Council toward the project. For every \$1 granted, another \$4 must be privately injected into the project. The “private” match can include sidewalk replacement, landscaping, historically appropriate signage & painting.

Mr. Rudegeair then moved to approve the Historic Building Preservation Program (HBPP) Guidelines. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

HBPP REQUEST FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE - Resolution No. 101

Mrs. Jamieson advised the Council that Mr. Chris Simms, owner of the Whitmer Building (319 - 13th Street & 1280 Liberty Street) requested \$3,616 from the HBPP , for facade improvements to include the repair of damage to cement, trim, face boards & corbels on the Liberty Street side of the building and new paint at a total cost of \$18,080. It was ascertained that the improvements had been approved by the Historic & Architectural Review Board. Mrs. Fletcher moved to approve the request for \$3,616 to be given to Mr. Simms for improvements

of the Whitmer Building. Mr. Rudegeair seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PARADE & PARK REQUESTS - Resolution No. 102

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

- August 10, 2019 • Miller-Sibley Complex • Free Basketball & Soccer Clinic • Ron Richburg
- August 12, 2019 • Bandstand Park • Just a Vision: What You Can Spare, They Can Wear Clothing Drive • Jaquell Taylor
- August 23, 2019 • Fountain Park (rain location: Bandstand Park) • Eric & Darlene Fike Wedding • Darlene Whitman

Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Manager

- **Resolution No. 103** - Reported that **Utility Service Partners**, a national company that offers a water and sewer service line warranty program to all property owners in cities and towns, has asked permission to make a presentation at a City Council meeting. The program is endorsed by the PA Municipal League as a way to help educate homeowners of their responsibilities for their own service lines and offers protection from unanticipated service line repair costs. According to the literature, Franklin's role would only be to approve the offering of the program to residents. Mr. Dulaney moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to invite Utility Service Partners to attend an upcoming Council meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 104 - Public Access Channel:** A request has been made by Lucas R and Amy Phelps Ruot d/b/a Lightning Strike Productions/Stream Media to enter into an agreement with the City of Franklin that would allow their company to arrange for community programming and broadcasting over the City's one designated public, education and governmental channel. Mrs. Jamieson included a copy of the agreement the company made with the City of Oil City in packets for Council's review. Mr. Dulaney moved and Mr. Mays seconded a motion to invite Mr. Ruot to attend an upcoming Council meeting to discuss his proposal. Motion passed unanimously.
- **13th Street & Atlantic Avenue PennDOT Project** - Reported the 30-day trial period for the new traffic signal became effective July 26. She noted that it is important that the City report any concerns with the signals, such as sitting extra long at a light or lanes moving more frequently than others, during the trial period because on August 24 the infrastructure will become the City's responsibility.
- Reported the **mid-1200 block Traffic Signal Project** is underway. The first priority is to get the remaining signal pole down and then the contractor will begin the necessary electric work. She advised that, instead of trenching across Liberty Street, they are planning to bore under the street. Once the electrical work is set, the concrete crews will come in and do their work. The project must be fully completed by September 23.

- Reported that PennDOT has hired an engineering firm to study the **12th & Liberty Streets intersection** for alternatives to make for a safer intersection. They held their first stakeholders meeting last Thursday and are asking for input from the community regarding that area. Mrs. Jamieson passed out sheets to the members for their feedback and asked they be returned to her by the end of the week.
- Ms. Boughner reported that the City has put the demolition of two vacant, dilapidated structures, located at **327 Pacific Street and 207 Liberty Street**, out for bid. The bid opening will be held at 10 AM on September 3, with the hope that Council will be able to award a contract for the demolitions at its September 9 meeting.
- **CDBG Accessibility Project at City Hall Update** - Ms. Boughner reported that work on the men's downstairs restroom, drinking fountains and the interior doors has been completed and that work is presently being done on the ladies restroom.
- Will need an executive session to discuss negotiations and litigation.

Solicitor

- Reported that PLCB has granted the City's exception to the Noise Law under the Liquor Code for one year. The exception will expire @ 2 AM on July 31, 2020 and the City will need to reapply. He advised that the discussions regarding the decision to reapply be held in March. Mr. Spaid warned that should businesses abuse the exception and a number of complaints are received, another exception will not be granted.
- Will need an executive session to discuss litigation.

Mayor • Appointments

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Baker

- Reported that the Municipal League Summit will be held in Gettysburg in September. Should any member wish to attend, they should let him know.

Mr. Johnson

- Reported the exception to the Noise Law under the Liquor Code was discussed at the last Oil Region Alliance meeting.
- Reported the YMCA would be holding its annual gun raffle at Camp Coffman Saturday, August 10. The cost is \$20 and is BYOB.

Mr. Dulaney - no report.

Mr. Rudegeair - no report.

Mrs. Fletcher

- Thanked the Taste of Franklin volunteers.
- Asked if something could be done to make the crosswalk at West Park & Liberty Street less dangerous.

Mr. Lyons

- Reported that the house located at 1152 Elk Street has hedges growing out over the sidewalk. Mr. Spaid noted that, on the trimming and mowing of high grass, the Code Enforcement Officer must issue a notice giving the property owner 20 days to address the issue. Should the issue not be resolved, then he can begin issuing citations.

Bev Hart reported that in front of the Reitz house on Liberty Street, across from St. Patrick's Church, the hedges are also growing out over the sidewalk.

Mr. Mays - no report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 105

Mayor Baker moved to enter into executive session at 8:31 PM to discuss litigation and negotiations. Mr. Rudegear seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The executive session ended at 9:07 PM.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS - none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary