

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
Council Chambers, City Hall  
January 9, 2023

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor  
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor  
James Johnson  
Christian Marshall  
Samuel Lyons  
Todd Zahner

Members Excused: Ryan Rudegeair

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager  
Harmony Motter, Finance Director  
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary  
Charles Gibbons, Code Enforcement  
Brian Spaid, Solicitor  
Deb Eckelberger, FICDA  
Helen Fielding, The Derrick  
Bev Hart, 1333 Elk Street  
Ashley Smith, 1346 Elk Street  
Alex Spaid, Dale, Woodard, Gent, McFate  
C. Robert Bowen, CROH  
Rey Santiago, CROH  
Judy Mathews, Franklin Elks Lodge  
Brenda Westover, Franklin Elks Lodge  
Pete O'Polka, General Authority

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Resolution No. 1**

Mrs. Fletcher moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Lyons. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Resolution No. 2**

Mr. Johnson motioned and Mr. Lyons seconded the motion to approve the 2023 Budget Hearing minutes and the regular meeting minutes of December 5, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

**PAY THE BILLS – Resolution No. 3**

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

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**FRANKLIN ELKS LODGE PRESENTATION TO CROH MEMBERS**

Brenda Westover and Judy Mathews of the Franklin Elks Lodge presented a certificate of gratitude to the Commission to Remember Our Heroes and to the City for their dedication in honoring the American flag. City Council thanked Ms. Mathews and Ms. Westover.

**CITIZENS' INQUIRIES** – Ashley Smith, of 1346 Elk Street, expressed concern over a large bump in the Route 8 4-lanes, once you come off the bridge at Washington Crossing, as you're entering town from Oil City. She worries that it could be dangerous during icy conditions, causing drivers to lose control of their vehicles. Mrs. Jamieson said she would contact PennDOT to see if they can do anything to smooth the surface or add signage to alert drivers of the uneven surface.

**CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS – Resolution No. 4**

The following request came before HARB at its December 27, 2022 meeting:

- 1245 Liberty Street – Sign

Mr. Marshall motioned to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE RESOLUTION – Resolution No. 5**

Mr. Spaid presented copies (attached) of the Certificate and the Note Resolution for the 2023 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note (TAN) with First United National Bank in the amount of \$450,000 at 3.99% interest, due and payable by June 30, 2023.

Mr. Lyons motioned to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

**ESTABLISH CONDITIONAL USE HEARING FOR 701 GRANT STREET – Resolution No. 6**

Mrs. Jamieson discussed the request from Taylor Landholding LLC for permission to use the property at 701 Grant Street as a congregate living facility. Previously, the building was a bar that was turned into a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility. Since the drug and alcohol program relocated to the former Vision Quest facility, the County has been using the space as a homeless shelter without receiving permission to do so. Mr. Marshall asked how long it has been operating as a homeless shelter. Mr. Gibbons did not know but stated he had received a complaint in December for a tripped fire alarm at that facility. Mrs. Fletcher requested information on whether or not police have had to respond to that location prior to the hearing.

Mayor Baker motioned to schedule the Conditional Use Hearing for February 6, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**PARK AND PARADE ASSEMBLY REQUESTS – None**

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## REPORTS

### Manager –

- Reported that DCED denied the use of the remaining \$105,221 of CDBG-CV money to revitalize the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Playground. Despite having been in contact with our representative at DCED, the request was denied because there was not enough time to issue a contract amendment for a time extension before the contract end date. The additional stipulations imposed on these types of funds made it very difficult to be able to expend them properly.
- Still waiting to hear when the downtown light poles will be delivered.
- The light at Coefields Corners, which has not been operating properly for a couple weeks, required a new traffic controller assembly to be built, which is about a 4-week lead time, plus additional time to install. In the meantime, the light will continue to blink red at all intersection points. A few Council members indicated that they preferred the current situation since it seemed more efficient. Mrs. Jamieson said the new controller has already been put into production and might not be able to be returned as it is designed specifically for that intersection and that the City is still required to abide by the current traffic signal permit. Mr. Zahner asked whether PennDOT could do a study to determine whether the City could do away with it altogether. Mrs. Jamieson said that she would follow up with PennDOT.
- Assured Mrs. Fletcher that quotes for Porta Johns will be in by January 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The City was awarded \$324,283 in funding to pave eight (8) road sections in Oak Hill and Franklin Heights that are designated as Local Federal Aid Routes. Still waiting for a contract to be issued, so she was not sure when the paving can begin.
- Informed Council that the Community Development Department is working on a grant under the Green Light Go Program to financially assist PennDOT with the 12<sup>th</sup> and Liberty St. Intersection Improvements, that will be rolled into PennDOT's Betterment Project. She reminded Council that PennDOT, in exchange for them taking on the engineering costs for that project, had indicated they would appreciate any grant assistance from the City to fully fund the improvements. There is a 20% match required for Green Light Go, for which we are hoping to use CDBG funds that have been designated to pave 12<sup>th</sup> Street as the City's match. If additional match funds are required, we can apply for County Liquid Fuels or our own future Liquid Fuels funds if necessary. Mrs. Jamieson further explained that the surveys for the one-way options on 12<sup>th</sup> Street have not been sent out, as we are waiting to receive sketches on how the 400 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Street might look with any alternate scenario.
- The lighting issues with the nativity scene have been fixed, but the faces of the figures could use a touch-up.
- Extended gratitude to Max and Helen Callaghan for their long presence in the community and wished them a happy retirement.
- Recreational survey results will be presented to Council at the February meeting.
- Request time in Executive Session for the purposes of potential litigation.

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### Solicitor –

- Working with Mr. Gibbons on rewriting the section of the Zoning Code regarding signs. Hopes to have something ready to present to Council at the April or May meeting.
- Noted that the Career Concepts sign had animated displays during the holiday season, which violates the issued Certificate of Appropriateness. Mr. Gibbons sent a friendly notice to the owner, in lieu of a citation.
- Request time in Executive Session for potential litigation and ongoing litigation.

**Mayor Appointments** – Mayor Baker motioned to make the following appointments and reappointments:

- **Resolution No. 7** – Marilyn Anderson, Mathew Beith and Bev Hart to serve on the Historic and Architectural Review Board for terms ending February 1, 2026. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 8** – Peter O’Polka and Chad Ellis to serve on the General Authority for terms ending January 1, 2028. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 9** – Brad Lena to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term ending January 31, 2027. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 10** – Walt Donaldson and Randy Stewart to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board for terms ending January 31, 2026. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 11** – Amos Rudolph to serve on the Uniform Construction Code Appeals Board for a term ending January 1, 2028. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Mayor Baker** – Commended the Franklin Fine Arts Council and all those responsible for the holiday decorations.

#### **Mrs. Fletcher –**

- Extended appreciation to the City’s police officers on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
- Noted February 4<sup>th</sup> is Franklin On Ice
- Announced Silver Coronet Band will be holding concerts at 7 P.M. instead of 7:30 P.M.

**Mr. Johnson** – Received positive feedback on community events and heard that people are excited for Franklin on Ice in February.

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**Mr. Marshall –**

- Asks property owners to **diligently** clear their sidewalks as winter weather approaches
- Would like to improved communication between contractors and residents that will be affected by construction projects

**Mr. Lyons – None**

**Mr. Rudegeair – None**

**Mr. Zahner – Eager to see the changes being made to the sign ordinance**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – Resolution No. 12**

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Lyons seconded to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of potential litigation and litigation at 7:40 P.M. The motion passed unanimously. The Executive Session ended at 8:09 P.M.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS – None**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



TJ Parks, Recording Secretary