

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Council Chambers, City Hall
January 5, 2026

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor (via teleconference)
James Johnson
Travis Young
Christian Marshall
Ashley Zaccari

Members Excused: Todd Zahner

In Attendance: James Wetzel, City Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary
Harmony Motter, Deputy Manager
Amanda Power, Community Development
Cindi Power, City of Franklin
Alex Spaid, Dale, Woodard, Gent, McFate
Helen Fielding, The Derrick
Jim Fair, Franklin Moose Lodge
Steve Vidovicit, Franklin Moose Lodge
Elijah Daubenspeck, Franklin Citizen
Tom Myers, City of Franklin
Barbara Matthews, 1239 Liberty Street
Jodi Lewis, 1255 Liberty Street
Jennifer Taylor, 1526 Buffalo Street
Ashlynnne Commesser, 415 Elk Street

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Mr. Spaid administered Oaths of Office to incumbent Councilmen, Messrs. Baker, Johnson, and Marshall, and newly-elected Councilman Young.

DEPUTY MAYOR ELECTION – Resolution No. 1

Mayor Baker motioned and Ms. Zaccari seconded to appoint Mr. Marshall to serve as Deputy Mayor. The motion passed unanimously.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Resolution No. 2

Mr. Johnson moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Marshall. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Resolution No. 3

Mr. Marshall motioned to approve the minutes of the Mechanical Amusement Devices Tax Public Hearing, the 2026 Budget Public Hearing, and the regular City Council meeting, all of December 1, 2025 as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS – Resolution No. 4

Mr. Johnson moved to pay the bills as presented. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES – None

FRANKLIN MOOSE PRESENTATION

Steve Vidovicit and Jim Fair of the Franklin Moose Lodge presented two (2) checks, each for \$1,000, to the Police and Fire Departments. They also presented two (2) boxes of Tommy Moose stuffed animals for each department to distribute to children.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS – None

PARK AND PARADE ASSEMBLY REQUESTS – Resolution No. 5

Mr. Wetzel introduced the following public assembly request:

- February 6-7, 2026 • Franklin Park • FFAC • Franklin On Ice

Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the public assembly request as presented, seconded by Ms. Zaccari. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Manager –

- Vehicle drove into Fountain Park and damaged a bench. An insurance claim was filed and the funds have been received to replace the bench.
- The LSA grant that was submitted in 2024 for City Hall improvements was not approved.
- Applications for the Mechanical Device Amusement Tax is now available for businesses that have those devices.
- Spectrum will be increasing their prices on January 15, 2026.
- Requested to nominate a replacement for Mr. Lyons on the Police Pension Board
 - **Resolution No. 6** – Mr. Marshall motioned to nominate Mr. Young to serve on the Police Pension Board. Ms. Zaccari seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- Requested time in Executive Session to discuss matters of contract negotiations.

Solicitor – Nothing to report

Mayor Appointments – Mayor Baker motioned to make the following reappointments:

- **Resolution No. 7** – Bev Hart and Marilyn Anderson to serve an additional three (3) year term on the Historic and Architectural Review Board to expire on February 1, 2029. Ms. Zaccari seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 8** – Walt Donaldson and Randy Stewart to serve an additional three (3) year term on the Zoning Hearing Board to expire on January 31, 2029. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 9** – Jarold Hatch to serve an additional five (5) year term on the Uniform Construction Code Appeals Board to expire on January 1, 2031. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Baker – Nothing to report.

Mrs. Fletcher – Offered condolences to the family of Fred Blackhurst

Mr. Johnson –

- Received compliments on the City’s parks from out-of-town visitors
- Has matters to discuss in Executive Session

Mr. Marshall –

- Numerous residents have expressed concern over this year’s tax increase and tax increases in the coming years. Moving forward, Mr. Marshall would like to be more proactive about planning for funding future capital projects.
 - Mr. Marshall would like to be able to plan for the Fire Department’s roof replacement if the LSA grant application that was submitted in November is unsuccessful.
- Welcomed Mr. Young to City Council

Mr. Young – Looking forward to being on City Council. As his primary focus will be on public safety, he would like to create a public safety board.

Ms. Zaccari –

- Free bowling night at Buffalo Street Lanes for young professionals ages 18-40 on Saturday, January 10. The event is sponsored by FLEX.
- The Rotary Club will be hosting a fundraiser for the dog park at Elevated at Dawndi’s on January 15 from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. and 4 P.M. to 8 P.M.
- On January 17, the Barrow-Civic Theatre will host the first annual Barry Awards to recognize outstanding artists and productions of the 2025 season. Program begins at 7 P.M.
- Reminded of Franklin On Ice sponsored by FFAC and the Nature Art Showcase and Sale sponsored by the Council on Greenways and Trails and PennSoil the weekend of February 6.
- The Venango Chamber will be issuing a new interactive community calendar

Mr. Zahner – Absent

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 10

Mr. Johnson motioned to enter into Executive Session at 7:21 P.M. to discuss matters of contract negotiations and other matters. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Executive Session ended at 8:18 P.M.

APPROVAL – FRANKLIN MOVING FORWARD MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT – Resolution No. 11

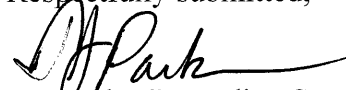
Mr. Marshall motioned and Ms. Zaccari seconded to approve the Franklin Moving Forward Management Agreement, subject to the approval of the solicitor. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS – None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary