

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
150 Prospect Avenue  
December 2, 2024

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

Members Excused: None

In Attendance: James Wetzel, City Manager  
Harmony Motter, Deputy Manager  
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor  
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary  
Kevin Siragian, Franklin Police Chief  
Amanda Power, Community Development  
Cindi Power, City of Franklin  
Alex Spaid, Dale, Woodard, Gent, McFate  
Helen Fielding, The Derrick  
Brian McNulty, PennDOT District 1  
Tom McClelland, PennDOT District 1  
Roxanne Spaid, Shade Tree Commission  
Jennifer Taylor, 1526 Buffalo Street  
Michael Dulaney, Applefest  
Jodi Lewis, Franklin Area Chamber

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Resolution No. 173**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Resolution No. 174**

Mrs. Fletcher motioned to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of November 11, 2024, and the special City Council meeting of November 25, 2024. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**PAY THE BILLS – Resolution No. 175**

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

**CITIZENS' INQUIRIES – None**

**CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS – Resolution No. 176**

The following requests came before HARB at its November 26, 2024 meeting:

- 415 13<sup>th</sup> Street – Vinyl Window Graphics
- 946 Elk Street – Replace Windows and Doors

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

**FRANKLIN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – APPLEFEST PRESENTATION**

Mr. Mike Dulaney extended his gratitude to the City for its assistance with Applefest and presented a check to help pay costs incurred to the City.

**FINAL READING – BILL NO. 7 – CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT – Resolution No. 177**

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 7, “Cable Franchise Agreement,” into the record.

Mr. Lyons motioned and Mr. Marshall seconded to pass on Final Reading Bill No. 7. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINAL READING – BILL NO. 8 – 2025 BUDGET – Resolution No. 178**

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 8, “2025 Budget,” into the record.

Mr. Johnson motioned to pass on Final Reading Bill No. 8. Ms. Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**FINAL READING – BILL NO. 9 – 2025 REAL ESTATE TAX – Resolution No. 179**

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 9, “2025 Real Estate Tax,” into the record.

Mr. Johnson motioned to pass on Final Reading Bill No. 9. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion which passed 6-1, with Mr. Lyons voting in opposition.

**FINAL READING – BILL NO. 10 – 2025 EARNED INCOME TAX – Resolution No. 180**

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 10, “2025 Earned Income Tax,” into the record.

Mr. Marshall motioned to pass on Final Reading Bill No. 10. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**FIRST READING – BILL NO 11 – TRAFFIC CODE AMENDMENT – ELK STREET – Resolution No. 181**

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 11, “Traffic Code Amendment to Elk Street,” in its entirety into the record.

Mr. Johnson motioned to pass on First Reading Bill No. 11. The motion was seconded by Ms. Smith and passed unanimously.

**PIERCE ENFORCER PUC PUMPER AWARD – GLICK FIRE EQUIPMENT –  
Resolution No. 182**

Mr. Wetzel presented a quote for a new fire engine in the amount of \$1,271,123. He explained that the City received an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for approximately \$660,000, as well as \$300,000 set aside in previous years' budgets. If payment of \$400,000 is made within 45 days of accepting the quote, the City will receive a discount of \$71,666.67, reducing the quoted price to \$1,199,456.33.

Mayor Baker asked if the proposed fire engine has any features that set it aside from the existing ones. Chief Eckel explained that the proposed truck will replace Engine 35 and is similar to the engines that the Fire Department currently uses but with modern upgrades to accommodate newer equipment. Mr. Marshall asked what will happen to Engine 35, to which Chief Eckel responded the AFG grant requires the old truck can no longer be used for fire prevention and will have to be retired. There is about a four (4) year lead time and the price on the quote should not increase during that time.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Fletcher seconded to accept the quote at the discounted amount of \$1,199,456.33 and to authorize the prepayment of \$400,000 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**PARK AND PARADE ASSEMBLY REQUESTS – Resolution No. 183**

Mr. Wetzel introduced the following public assembly request:

- June 21, 2025 • Riverfront Park • Matthew Bell • Bell/Tock Wedding

Mrs. Fletcher motioned to accept the request as presented, seconded by Mr. Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS**

**Manager –**

- DCED Risk Management Division conducted a fiscal monitoring of five (5) contracts for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024 with no findings or concerns.
- The City was awarded a Safe Streets for All grant in the amount of \$96,000 to conduct a Road Safety Audit on Elk Street. There is a match requirement of 20%.
- The City was awarded a Community and Urban Forestry grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in the amount of \$269,400 to prepare a City-wide tree canopy development plan, as well as the removal of dead and diseased trees and planting of new trees.
- The City Christmas luncheon will be Friday, December 20, 2024 from 11 A.M. until 1 P.M. at 150 Prospect Avenue, Suite 204.
- A plea for help was made by the City of Erie as they battled record snowfall over the Thanksgiving weekend. The City of Franklin's Street Department was en route to assist when they experienced mechanical issues and were forced to turn back.
- Chief Saragian presented new uniforms for the Police Department, which consist of navy blue shirts, long and short sleeved, with embroidered patches, matching pants, and a

carrier with body armor to fit the carrier. The Police Department received a grant in the amount of \$6,219 for body armor and requires a 50% match. The total cost after considering the awarded grant funds is \$18,176.07.

- Requested time in Executive Session to discuss matters of negotiations.

**Solicitor** – Nothing to report.

**Mayor Appointments** –

- **Resolution No. 184** – Mayor Baker motioned to appoint Tracy Jamieson to serve on the General Authority for the remainder of a term ending on January 1, 2029. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 185** – Mayor Baker motioned to reappoint John Eckel to serve an additional five (5) year term on the General Authority, expiring on January 1, 2030. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 186** – Mayor Baker motioned to reappoint Richard Mihalic and Rodney Griffin to serve additional five (5) year terms on the FICDA board, both expiring on January 1, 2030. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 187** – Mayor Baker motioned to appoint Michael Nightingale to the FICDA board to serve the remainder of a term ending on January 1, 2026. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Mayor Baker** – Enjoyed Light-Up Night and received positive feedback on the event. He thanked all the employees and volunteers involved in making it a success.

**Mrs. Fletcher** – Enjoyed Light-Up Night and gave a special shout out to Cindi Power and Allison and Paul Myers for setting up in the rain.

**Mr. Johnson** – Disappointed that he wasn't able to make it to the parade but enjoyed the positive feedback.

**Mr. Marshall** – Enjoyed shopping downtown this past weekend for Small Business Saturday.

**Mr. Lyons** – Wished everyone a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

**Ms. Smith** –

- Recognized the hard work of City staff and volunteers who helped decorate the downtown for the holidays and enjoyed Light-Up Night.
- Pleased to see the Feldman's Clock on Liberty Street
- Reminded everyone of the Retail Association's Old Fashioned Christmas on December 7, 2024 from 11 A.M. until 2 P.M.

**Mr. Zahner** – Wished everyone a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 188**

Mrs. Fletcher motioned to enter into Executive Session at 7:41 P.M. for the purposes of personnel, negotiations, litigation. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**APPROVE – CITY OF FRANKLIN POLICE WAGE AND POLICY UNIT  
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT – Resolution No. 189**

Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the terms of the three (3) year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Franklin Police Wage and Policy Unit, effective 2025 through 2027. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS** - None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary