

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Council Chambers, City Hall
March 3, 2025

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
James Johnson
Christian Marshall
Ashley Zaccari
Todd Zahner

Members Excused: Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor
Samuel Lyons

In Attendance: James Wetzel, City Manager
Harmony Motter, Deputy Manager
Cindi Power, City of Franklin
Kevin Saragian, Police Chief
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary
Amanda Power, City of Franklin
Brian Spaid, Solicitor
Alex Spaid, Dale Woodard Gent McFate
Helen Fielding, The Derrick
Terry Schultz, 620 Sibley Avenue
Travis Hicks, Franklin Housing Authority
James Smith, 1212 Elk Street

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Resolution No. 25

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Resolution No. 26

Mr. Marshall motioned to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of February 3, 2025, as presented. Ms. Zaccari seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS – Resolution No. 27

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

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES – None

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CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS – Resolution No. 28

The following requests came before HARB at its February 25, 2025 meeting:

- 1030 Liberty Street – Ramp
- 1259 Liberty Street – Paint and Awning
- 1288 Liberty Street – Windows
- 1324 Liberty Street – Sign

Mr. Johnson motioned and Ms. Zaccari seconded to approve both requests as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

FIRST READING – BILL NO. 1 – SIDEWALK CAFÉ AMENDMENT – Resolution No. 29

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 1, “Sidewalk Café Ordinance Amendment,” in its entirety into the record.

Mr. Marshall motioned to pass Bill No. 1 on First Reading. Ms. Zaccari seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

BALLFIELD AGREEMENTS – FRANKLIN LITTLE LEAGUE & FRANKLIN MEN’S SOFTBALL LEAGUE – Resolution No. 30

Mr. Wetzel presented the annual agreements with the Franklin Area Men’s Softball League and the Franklin Little League Association. He stated that all terms and conditions of the contract remain the same as previous years; however the Men’s League agreement was signed by Mr. Bigley who passed away shortly after signing.

Mr. Marshall motioned and Mr. Johnson seconded to approve the ball agreements, subject to the execution of the Men’s Softball League agreement by a new league president. The motion passed unanimously.

PROCLAMATION – APRIL 2025 PENNSYLVANIA 811 SAFE DIGGING MONTH – Resolution No. 31

Mayor Baker read a proclamation issued by PA-One Call, recognizing April 2025 as 811 Safe Digging Month.

Mr. Johnson motioned to adopt the proclamation in recognition of Safe Digging Month, seconded by Mr. Marshall. The motion passed unanimously.

PARK AND PARADE ASSEMBLY REQUESTS – Resolution No. 32

Mr. Wetzel introduced the following public assembly requests:

- May 3-4, 2025 • West Park/Fountain Park • Franklin Gardeners Association • May Garden Mart
- May 26, 2025 • 13th Street Bridge, Bandstand Park • Vets Honor Guard • Memorial Day Events

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- June 6, 2025 • Miller-Sibley Pickleball Courts • Franklin Rotary • Rotary Pickleball Tournament
- September 13, 2025 • Bandstand Park • Precious Paws • PetFest

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

REPORTS

Manager –

- Mr. Wetzel presented a Right to Know policy that maps the procedures for submitting a Right to Know request, the City's responsibilities to respond, the appeals and mediation processes and record retention requirements.
 - **Resolution No. 33** – Mr. Johnson motioned to adopt the Right to Know Policy as presented. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- The area between 3rd Street and the Waste Water Treatment Plant has been designated as no parking along the river side of the street which was possibly established when the former Joy was in operation. However, people continue to park there, particularly patrons of the Outdoor Allegheny River Services. Mr. Wetzel spoke with various department heads about allowing parking and they all agreed that it would not be an issue. Mr. Wetzel will provide specific measurements for Mr. Spaid to draft a revision to the traffic ordinance.
- The YMCA will begin kicking off their capital campaign to repave West Park Street in order to add handicapped parking and make the entrance to the facility ADA compliant.
- When the Fire Department's newest fire engine was out for repairs, it was discovered that there was a crack in the frame. While the cost of the repairs will be covered under warranty, there is no idea how long it could take to fix and if there would be any additional repairs needed that are not covered under warranty. Oil City is willing share an engine.
- Requested time in Executive Session for matters of personnel, negotiations and potential litigation.

Solicitor –

- Mr. Spaid has a rough draft of the Dog Park Agreement. Once he has tweaked a few things, he will share it with Mr. Wetzel to review before sharing it with the Rotary Club.
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- Requested time in Executive Session to discuss matters of litigation regarding the Joy Manufacturing tax appeal, condemnation of Rose Tracy property, and real estate negotiations.

Mayor Appointments – **Resolution No. 34**

Mayor Baker motioned to appoint Denise Jones to the Housing Authority to serve the remainder of a term set to expire on November 11, 2027. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Baker – Nothing to report.

Mrs. Fletcher – Mrs. Fletcher was absent.

Mr. Johnson – Mr. Johnson extended his condolences to Herb Bigley’s family and recalled fond memories of working with him in the community.

Mr. Marshall –

- Mr. Marshall acknowledged the passing of Senator Mary Jo White.
- Thanked all involved with making Franklin On Ice a success.
- Received positive feedback from residents regarding the posting of construction progress for the General Authority’s A-108 project.
- In response to multiple complaints about the lack of snow removal along the Allegheny Boulevard multimodal trail, Mr. Marshall confirmed that the City will maintain the portion of sidewalk from Elk Street to the Sugarcreek Borough side of the bridge. Mr. Wetzel added that it will be a challenge due to the width of the sidewalk and snow being pushed up onto the sidewalk when the street gets plowed. He asked those who traverse the trail to be patient as the City crews continue to work their rounds.

Mr. Lyons – Mr. Lyons was absent.

Ms. Zaccari –

- Ms. Zaccari commended the Youth Theater’s performance during Franklin On Ice.
- Appreciated the opportunity to be a judge for the Vo-Tech Culinary Program’s contest for developing food for NASA.
- Met with Mr. Smith of the Housing Authority to discuss the Buffalo Street bus shelter
- Received complaints from residents in the heights that some lights are too bright.

Mr. Zahner – Nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 35

Mr. Johnson motioned to enter into Executive Session at 7:30 P.M. to discuss matters of personnel, negotiations, litigation, potential litigation and various real estate matters. Ms. Zaccari seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Executive Session ended at 8:16 P.M.

APPROVE OFFER OF JUST COMPENSATION – CONDEMNATION ACTION 533 AND 533 ½ THIRD STREET – Resolution No. 36

Mr. Johnson motioned to make an Offer of Just Compensation in the amount of \$100 to Rose Tracy for the taking of the properties located at 533 and 533½ 3rd Street. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

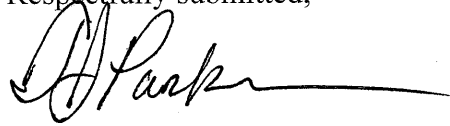
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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T.J. Parks', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary