

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Council Chambers, City Hall
May 6, 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
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary
Brian Spaid, Solicitor

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Resolution No. 61

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

FIRST READING – BILL NO. 4 – ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – Resolution No. 62

Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Johnson seconded to commence the First Reading of Bill No. 4 of 2024, “An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Franklin,” and that the meeting be automatically recessed upon the conclusion of the reading. City Council will reconvene at 7:00 P.M. for the regular City Council meeting.

Meeting recessed at 5:32 P.M.

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Christian Marshall
Samuel Lyons
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Todd Zahner

Members Excused: None

In Attendance: James Wetzel, City Manager
Harmony Motter, Deputy Manager
Cindi Power, City of Franklin
Charles Gibbons, City of Franklin
James Shreffler, City of Franklin
Andrew Eckel, Franklin Fire Department
Aaron Campbell, Franklin Police Department
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary
Brian Spaid, Solicitor
Helen Fielding, The Derrick
Bev Hart, 1333 Elk Street
Daniel Metz, Franklin Fire Department
James Smith, 1346 Elk Street
Jennifer Taylor, 1526 Buffalo Street
David Ballard and Melissa Ditzenberger, 233 Overlook Drive
Arlene McCabe
William Hoobler, Franklin Elks Lodge 110
Ally-Karen Miller, Franklin YMCA/Miller-Sibley Pool
Doug Volmrich, Franklin Blues and BBQ
Sharon Dorogy, Adelaide Avenue
Darius Hughes, 1309 Rocky Grove Avenue
Samantha Bookamer, 1309 Rocky Grove Avenue
Timothy Daniels, 1129 Chestnut Street

Mayor Baker reconvened the meeting at 7: 00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Resolution No. 63

Mrs. Fletcher motioned to approve the minutes of the FY-2021 and FY-2022 CDBG Modification Public Hearing and the regular City Council meeting, both of April 1, 2024, as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS – Resolution No. 64

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

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES –

Mr. Timothy Daniels, resident of Chestnut Street, discussed his frustration with the poor property conditions of a neighboring property.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS – Resolution No. 65

The following requests came before HARB at is April 23, 2024 meeting:

- 1007 Liberty Street – Signage
- 1246 Liberty Street – Signage
- 1309 Buffalo Street – Emergency Repair – Columns on front porch
- 1263 Elk Street – Signage

Mr. Marshall motioned and Mrs. Smith seconded to approve the requests as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

MILLER-SIBLEY POOL UPDATE

Ally-Karen Miller announced the Miller-Sibley pool 2024 summer season is scheduled for June 7, 2024 through August 17, 2024. She presented a flyer detailing daily admission fees and season passes costs, as well as hours of operations and schedule for free swimming lessons and exercise classes.

HANDYMAN PRESENTATION

The gentleman to give the presentation was unable to be in attendance due to illness. He asked to be added to the June Council agenda.

ADOPTION OF SAFE STREETS FOR ALL ACTION PLAN – Resolution No. 66

Mr. Wetzel announced that the City of Franklin's Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan that was prepared by Michael Baker International is complete and ready to be adopted by City Council.

Mr. Johnson motioned to approve the City of Franklin Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan as presented. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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USED BUCKET TRUCK BID RESULTS – Resolution No. 67

Mr. Wetzel announced that the lone bid the City received for a new bucket truck for the Street Department was for a 2011 Ford F-550 with a 37 foot boom in the amount of \$55,000.

Mr. Lyons motioned and Mr. Johnson seconded to accept the bid and proceed with the purchase of the 2011 Ford F-550 in the amount of \$55,000. The motion passed unanimously.

DISPOSAL OF VEHICLES BID RESULTS – Resolution No. 68

Mr. Wetzel reported on the bid results for disposition of the former Code Enforcement vehicle and the Street Department’s old bucket truck. The Code Enforcement car received twenty-five (25) bids with the highest being \$3,200, and fifty-four (54) bids for the bucket truck with the high bid coming in at \$7,400.

Mrs. Fletcher motioned and Mrs. Smith seconded to accept the bids as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL – 2 PARKING KIOSKS – LOTS A & B – Resolution No. 69

Mr. Wetzel requested approval to purchase two (2) kiosks in the amount of \$17,468. Doing so will put a kiosk in each of the City’s parking lots.

Mr. Johnson motioned to approve the purchase of one (1) kiosk each in Lots A and B for the amount of \$17,468. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL – ADVERTISE CITY HALL – HVAC/LIGHTING UPGRADES – Resolution No. 70

Mr. Wetzel reminded of the grants that the City was awarded to make HVAC and lighting upgrades to City Hall. The proposed architectural estimate for the upgrades is \$1,115,000, leaving a \$350,000 shortfall. He assured Council that there are funds in the budget to make up for the shortfall and requested permission to proceed with putting the project out for bid.

Mrs. Smith motioned and Mr. Johnson seconded to approve advertising for bids for the HVAC and lighting upgrades to City Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL – SUBMIT SECTION 902 RECYCLING GRANT APPLICATION – LEAF VACUUM – Resolution No. 71

Mr. Parks requested approval to submit a Section 902 Recycling Grant to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to purchase a leaf vacuum for the Street Department. The proposed equipment was estimated to cost \$180,387. There is a 10% match requirement, which would come out of the City’s Liquid Fuels funds.

Mrs. Fletcher motioned to approve submitting the grant and securing the 10% match. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

EADS SERVICES – FKL DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE EVALUATION & RECOMMENDATIONS

– Resolution No. 72

Mr. Wetzel updated Council on the EADS Group’s proposal to evaluate the FKL Development’s work on Evergreen Drive. EADS Group will evaluate the project at an estimated cost of \$2,500. If Council approves, the City will pay for 1/3 of the cost; the General Authority will be asked to pay for the remaining 2/3, to be split between the Water and Sewer funds.

Mrs. Fletcher motioned and Mrs. Smith seconded to approve the proposal from the EADS Group and pay 1/3 of the cost. The motion passed unanimously.

RATIFY RESOLUTION NO. 42 – AWARD OF LFAR PAVING CONTRACT – Resolution No. 73

Mr. Wetzel asked Council to ratify the award of the LFAR Paving Contract to IA Construction at last month’s City Council Meeting. The request to motion the award was not on the agenda.

Mr. Johnson motioned and Mr. Marshall seconded to ratify the motion as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

PARK AND PARADE ASSEMBLY REQUESTS

Mr. Wetzel introduced the following public assembly requests:

- Thursdays, May 23 – August 16, 2024 • Miller-Sibley Park Tennis Courts • Franklin Area Pickle Ball Organization • Pickle Ball League
 - **Resolution No. 74** – Motion by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Marshall to approve the request as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- June 14, 2024 • Bandstand Park • Franklin Elks Club • Flag Day Ceremony
 - **Resolution No. 75** – Motion by Mr. Lyons and seconded by Mrs. Fletcher to approve the request as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- June 14-16, 2024 • Bandstand & Fountain Parks and 12th Street Island • Doug Volmrich • Franklin Blues and Barbeque Fest
 - Mr. Wetzel explained that the Franklin Blues and Barbeque would like to expand the area where attendees are allowed to have alcohol to include the entirety of Bandstand Park and the surrounding sidewalks. In order to mitigate any potential issues, each cup will have a sticker defining the area allowable to the patron and receive verbal instructions from the server, and there will be stakes in place ready to rope off the area that has been previously used for alcoholic beverage consumption in past events in case there are any incidents. None of the events will occur within Fountain Park.
 - **Resolution No. 76** – Motion by Mr. Marshall and seconded by Mr. Lyons to approve the request as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- July 14, August 11 and September 8, 2024 • Bandstand Park • Redeemer Anglican Church • Worship Services in the Park
 - **Resolution No. 77** – Motion by Mr. Marshall and seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the request as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- Sundays and Wednesdays, July 14-August 18, 2024 • Miller-Sibley Basketball Courts • F.-R.O.C. Basketball Inc. • F.-R.O.C. Basketball League

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- Mr. Wetzel announced that the request for Sundays is to occupy the basketball courts from 10 A.M. until 10 P.M.
- **Resolution No. 78** – Motion by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve the request as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION – BILL NO. 4 – ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – SIGN REGULATIONS – Resolution No. 79

Mrs. Fletcher motioned to approve on first reading Bill No. 4, “Zoning Ordinance Amendment,” without the provisions for disallowing internally illuminated signs in any areas within the historic district. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-2, with Mrs. Smith and Mr. Marshall voting in opposition.

REPORTS

Manager –

- **Landowner Letter of Commitment – Watershed Restoration & Protection Program Grant**
 - Mr. Wetzel explained the purpose of the Landowner Letter of Commitment identifies the City as the property owner of the abandoned dam at 3rd Street and will allow the General Authority to apply for a grant to remediate the dam.
 - **Resolution No. 80** – Mr. Lyons motioned and Mrs. Fletcher seconded to accept the Landowner Letter of Commitment as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Service Line Warranties – Commercial Leak Adjustment Program & Water Heater Program**
 - Mr. Wetzel presented a request from ServiceLine, the company that has previously offered residents insurance coverage on their water lines to offer insurance to commercial customers. They are also offering hot water heater coverage. Council accepted the request.
- Mr. Wetzel requested approval for the following City positions:
 - Community & Economic Development Director
 - Business Outreach Coordinator
 - Facilities Manager
 - **Resolution No. 81** – Mrs. Fletcher motioned to accept all three (3) positions as presented, seconded by Mr. Lyons. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Wetzel presented a recommendation that Council consider being a fiduciary for the Department of Justice Byrne JAG Discretionary Spending Projects Account Funding. This relates to the Oil City Fire Department’s grant application submittal on behalf of the Franklin Fire Department for P25 digital radio equipment.
 - **Resolution No. 82** – Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the request as presented. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- The pension compliance audits were completed and approved.

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- FEMA will be in Franklin next week to conduct assistance visits within the region.
- Mrs. Power submitted a Community Facilities Grant in the amount of \$1.4 million to make various improvements to the Council Chambers and exterior improvements, as well ADA accessibility.
- Repairs to Fire Engine Tank #33 have been made and is ready to receive water.
- The Rotary Club has started to receive donations for the dog park. Mr. Wetzel advised Mr. Spaid begin drafting an agreement between the City and the Rotary. Mr. Spaid requested a formal motion to proceed.
 - **Resolution No. 83** – Mr. Marshall motioned and Mrs. Smith seconded to move forward with preparing an agreement between the City and the Franklin Rotary Club for the purposes of establishing a dog park on City-owned property in Sugarcreek Borough. The motion passed unanimously.
- Introduced Andrew Eckel as the new Fire Chief.
- Mrs. Fletcher was concerned about the cost associated with the new computers in the police vehicles. Lieutenant Campbell explained that the computers were purchased through a grant. He further explained that it is easier for the officers to run drivers' licenses and other identification in the vehicles, as opposed to reaching out to a dispatcher, especially at times when there is no dispatcher on duty.
- **Resolution No. 84** – Mr. Lyons motioned and Mr. Johnson seconded to schedule the public hearing for the adopting of the amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to occur at 7:00 P.M. on June 3, 2024, prior to the Regular City Council Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- Requested time in Executive Session for the purposes of personnel and negotiations.

Solicitor –

- Mr. Spaid reported on a conversation with Cohen Law Firm regarding the renewal of the Cable Franchise Agreement.
- Mr. Spaid clarified that the amendments to the Zoning Ordinance do exclude electronic message center (EMC) signs.

Mayor Appointments – none

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Baker – Mayor Baker read the Traffic Safety Awareness Month, Public Service Recognition Week, and the National Association of Letter Carriers' Food Drive Day proclamations.

Mrs. Fletcher –

- Announced that the Marketing and Events Coordinator is receiving applications for Taste of Talent competitors.
- Received many compliments on the 2024 and summer brochures.
- Enjoyed Jesus Christ Superstar at the Barrow.

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Mr. Johnson –

- Thanked Lt. Campbell for his help with the Honorable Knights.
- Witnessed poor driving behavior that put pedestrians at risk.

Mr. Marshall –

- Received a follow-up phone call from a resident in the 600 block of Elk who was at Council several months ago addressing concerns of speeding in his neighborhood.
- Downtown businesses have asked about painting parking lines in the City lots and West Park Street.

Mr. Lyons – Glad to see the crowds at May Mart.

Mrs. Smith –

- Will be attending a Strong Towns conference in Cincinnati next week
- Wanted to confirm that a left turn signal will be included at 13th and Liberty Streets with the Betterment Project.
- Heart and Soul program will be moving forward in the near future.

Mr. Zahner –

- Will follow up with Mr. Gibbons regarding a property complaint in the 500 block of Grant Street.
- Received an inquiry about a turning lane at Washington Crossing. Mr. Wetzel said that may be included in the Betterment Project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 84

Mr. Marshall motioned to enter into Executive Session at 8:30 P.M. for the purposes of negotiations and personnel. Mr. Zahner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS - None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary