

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Council Chambers, City Hall
July 1, 2024

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

Members Excused: None

In Attendance: James Wetzel, City Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
Harmony Motter, Finance Director
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary
Amanda Power, Community Development Director
Cindi Power, City of Franklin
Kevin Saragian, Police Chief
Helen Fielding, The Derrick
Alex Spaid, Dale, Woodard, Gent, McFate
Bruce Smeal, Whalen Contracting
George Tice and Michaela Brown, 1140 Buffalo Street
Tye and Andre Duvall, 1340 Liberty Street
Stephanie Felmlee, 313 13th Street
Aracelis Carela, 1107 Buffalo Street

Mayor Baker reconvened the meeting at 7:07 P.M.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Resolution No. 102

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Resolution No. 103

Mr. Johnson motioned to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of June 3, 2024. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS – Resolution No. 104

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

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES –

- Mr. Alex Spaid commended the County for the Pride event that was held in June in Oil City and looks forward to next year's event.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS –

The following requests came before HARB at its June 25, 2024 meeting:

- 842 Liberty Street – Garage
- 1038 Elk Street – Paint
- 1040 Elk Street – House Repair and Paint
- 1022 Elk Street – Sign
- 1340 Liberty Street – Porch Repair and Paint
- 1107 Buffalo Street – Paint and Porch Railing
- 1288 Liberty Street – Windows
- 1411 Liberty Street – Sign
- 324 16th Street – Porch and Window Repair, Door Replacement

Mr. Bruce Smeal from Whalen Contracting, Inc. was present to represent All Seasons Temporaries at 1288 Liberty Street, whose application was recommended for denial by HARB due to questions that could not be answered as a representative was not present at the HARB meeting. After discussion, Council decided to deny the application, and advised the property owner to resubmit the application and be present at the next HARB meeting. Mr. Smeal provided his email address and asked that any questions be emailed to him beforehand so he can be prepared at the meeting.

Resolution No. 105 – Mrs. Smith motioned and Mr. Marshall seconded to deny the application for 1288 Liberty Street due to a lack of information. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 106 – Mr. Lyons motioned and Mrs. Smith seconded to approve all other requests as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

FIRST READING – BILL NO. 5 – SIDEWALK CAFÉ REQUIREMENT AMENDMENTS – Resolution No. 107

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 5, “Sidewalk Café Requirement Amendments,” in its entirety into the record.

Mrs. Fletcher advised that there is a conflict between Benjamin's Roadhouse and Trails to Ales II on Friday evenings, as each establishment provides live music.

Mayor Baker motioned and Mr. Lyons seconded to pass on First Reading Bill No. 5. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF EASEMENT AGREEMENTS – GENERAL AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN – Resolution No. 108

Mr. Wetzel presented four (4) easement agreements for work to be done on City property during the General Authority's A-108 project.

Mr. Lyons motioned to accept the easement agreements as presented. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY HALL HVAC BID RESULTS –

Mr. Wetzel announced the results of the bid opening held on June 28, 2024. The four (4) bids received ranged from \$1,247,000 to \$1,407,000, the low bid coming from Considine, Biebel and Company of Erie. The projected cost for the project was \$1,150,000, which does not include contingencies or permits. Mr. Wetzel recommended allocating an addition \$125,000 to cover those costs, which would bring the contract amount to \$1,446,450. After considering the funds received from the Local Share Account grant, ARPA, and the amount due from the General Authority's under their Management Agreement, there is a remaining \$414,000. He proposes that \$241,000 be transferred from reserves, \$72,000 from capital funds, and \$100,000 from the Professional Building account.

Resolution No. 109 – Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the bid from Considine, Biebel and Company in the amount of \$1,247,000 as presented. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 110 – Mrs. Smith motioned to authorize the City Manager to approve change orders in the amount of \$25,000 or less in regards to this project. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PARK AND PARADE ASSEMBLY REQUESTS – Resolution No. 111

Mr. Wetzel introduced the following public assembly requests:

1. August 18 and September 15, 2024 • 12th Street • Andrea Reiser • Artfully Crafted Franklin
2. July 12, 2024 • Bandstand Park • Barrow-Civic Theater • Shakespeare in the Park

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

REPORTS

Manager –

- **Resolution No. 112** – Mrs. Fletcher motioned and Mr. Marshall seconded to approve a handicap parking request made by Donald Brown in the 900 block of Elm Street. The motion passed unanimously.
- Charter Communications/Spectrum announced rate increases effective July 16, 2024.
- **Resolution No. 113** – Mrs. Fletcher motioned and Mr. Johnson seconded to provide a Letter of Support to the County's petition for floodplain mitigation funds for

municipalities to be included the Pennsylvania state budget. The motion passed unanimously.

- The Local Federal Aid Routes paving is completed.
- On July 15, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the Professional Building, DCED will present the results of the fire study that was conducted for Franklin, Oil City and Sugarcreek Borough.
- Reminded Council that the City picnic is Friday, August 2nd from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
- Requested time in Executive Session for matters of personnel, negotiations and potential litigation.

Solicitor –

- Requested time in Executive Session for matters of personnel, negotiations and potential litigation.

Mayor Appointments –

- **Resolution No. 114** – Mayor Baker motioned to reappoint George Jolley and Sharon Thornton to serve additional three (3) year terms on the Commission to Remember Our Heroes, which will expire on July 12, 2027. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 115** – Mayor Baker motioned to reappoint Linda Lusher to serve an additional five (5) year term on the Redevelopment Authority, which will expire on July 31, 2029. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Baker – Congratulated staff and others for the hard work on the parade.

Mrs. Fletcher –

- Asked if there is consideration for installing cameras in playgrounds. Mr. Wetzel said City staff are working on it.
- Commended the police department for their increased presence

Mr. Johnson – Had a good time at Blues and Barbeque festival.

Mr. Marshall –

- Thanked City staff for all the work with the 4th of July Festivities Week
- Noticing more police patrol in neighborhoods
- Requested better use of the Rave alert system and Facebook notifications when issues such as traffic impediments arise
- Asked if there was a cost for temporary speed humps. Mr. Wetzel advised that they are roughly \$1,500.
- Asked if more line painting is scheduled. Mr. Wetzel said they were planning to resume within the next week.

Mr. Lyons – None

Mrs. Smith –

- Thanked Mr. Shreffler and FFAC for their successful 4th of July Festivities Week
- Appreciates the new retail space at the formal Fitness World location

Mr. Zahner – None

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 116

Mr. Johnson motioned to enter into Executive Session at 7:49 P.M. for the purposes of personnel, negotiations and potential litigation. Mrs. Fletcher seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS - None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary