

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Council Chambers, City Hall
December 4, 2023

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

Members Excused: None

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager
James Wetzel, Fire Chief
Harmony Motter, Finance Director
Cindi Power, City of Franklin
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary
Brian Spaid, Solicitor
Jason Wible, FICDA
Tom Jamieson, 1445 Elk Street
Deb Eckelberger, FICDA
Roger McCauley, FICDA
Jennifer Taylor, 1526 Buffalo Street
Barbara Matthews, 1239 Liberty Street
Jake and Ashley Smith, 1346 Elk Street
Vince Witherup, FICDA
Rich Mihalic, FICDA
David Ballard, Trails to Ales
Melissa Ditzenberger, 233 Overlook Drive
Helen Fielding, The Derrick
Matt Beith, HARB
Michael Harris, A. Crivelli

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Resolution No. 175

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

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Resolution No. 176

Mr. Johnson motioned to approve the minutes of the Conditional Use Hearing, the Conditional Use Hearing Continuation, and the regular City Council meeting, all of November 13, 2023, as presented. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS – Resolution No. 177

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

FICDA/CITY PARTNERSHIP

Jason Wible, Vice Chairman of the FICDA Board, congratulated Mrs. Jamieson on her upcoming retirement and thanked her for her dedication to community development, strategic planning and strong leadership throughout her career with the City.

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES

- Dave Ballard asked Council to consider continuing the Sip N' Shop program since there have been no reported issues and has been successful. If Council agrees to extend the program, Mr. Ballard requested to include the following: 1) Extend the program until 5 P.M.; 2) Set the boundaries to a geographical area of town rather than streets; and 3) Coordinate the program with some of the downtown events. Since the current ordinance that allows the program to occur will sunset on January 1, 2024, Mr. Spaid advised that there is not enough time to amend the ordinance and read it twice before January. Mrs. Jamieson recommended that Mr. Ballard send Mr. Wetzel his list of suggestions for a new ordinance so that staff can review them before a new ordinance is developed for Council's review.
- Jennifer Taylor from the Franklin Retail and Business Association thanked everyone involved in setting up the kiosk in Fountain Park.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS – Resolution No. 178

The following request came before HARB at its November 28, 2023 meeting:

1. 802 Liberty Street – Sign

Mr. Rudegear motioned to approve the request as presented. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DECISION ON CONDITIONAL USE REQUEST – 300 LIBERTY STREET – Resolution No. 179

Mr. Spaid confirmed with Council that their wish is to approve the Conditional Use request from D&L Holdings to expand the building located at 300 Liberty Street onto the adjacent parcel of land at 304 Liberty Street, subject to the following conditions:

- The conditional use shall comply with the City's Zoning Ordinance, Section 1304.03
- The conditional use permit shall be revoked if D&L Holding fails to comply with the conditions set by City Council

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- D&L Holding shall comply with all state, federal and local construction code regulations

Mr. Rudegear motioned and Mr. Johnson seconded to approve the request for a Conditional Use Permit for 300 Liberty Street with the conditions outlined above and further described in the copy of the written decision filed with the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

FINAL READING – BILL NO. 9 – BUDGET 2024 – Resolution No. 180

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 9, “Budget 2024” into the record.

Mr. Rudegear motioned to pass, on Final Reading, Bill No. 9. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

FINAL READING – BILL NO. 10 – REAL ESTATE TAX 2024 – Resolution No. 181

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 10, “Real Estate Tax 2024” into the record.

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

FINAL READING – BILL NO. 11 – EARNED INCOME TAX 2024 – Resolution No. 182

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 11, “Earned Income Tax 2024” into the record.

Mr. Rudegear motioned to pass, on Final Reading, Bill No. 11. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

FINAL READING – BILL NO. 12 – AMENDMENTS TO THE GARBAGE ORDINANCE – Resolution No. 183

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 12, “Amendments to the Garbage Ordinance” into the record.

Mr. Rudegear motioned and Mr. Marshall seconded to pass, on Final Reading, Bill No. 12. The motion passed unanimously.

DESINGATE RIGHT TO KNOW OFFICER & CITY CLERK – Resolution Nos. 184 and 185

Mrs. Jamieson added that, in addition to designating Mr. Wetzel the Right to Know Officer and City Clerk, he will also need to be listed as the signatory on all the City’s bank accounts and the CFO on all pension plans.

Mr. Rudegear motioned to designate James L. Wetzel as signatory on the City’s bank accounts and CFO on all pension plans. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Rudegear moved and Mr. Johnson seconded to designate Mr. Wetzel as the City’s Right to Know Officer and City Clerk. The motion passed unanimously.

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REQUEST TO DISPOSE OF DEMO LOTS – Resolution No. 186

Mrs. Jamieson presented a list of twenty-one (21) properties that the City has taken ownership of in order to demolish the blighted structures on the properties. Now that the structures have been demolished and site restoration is completed, the properties are now ready to be put out for public bid (attached to minutes).

Mr. Johnson motioned and Mr. Rudegear seconded to allow the vacant lots to put out for public bid. The motion passed unanimously.

PARK AND PARADE ASSEMBLY REQUESTS – Resolution No. 187

Mrs. Jamieson introduced the following public assembly request:

- February 3, 2024 • Fountain Park • FFAC • Franklin On Ice

Mrs. Fletcher motioned and Mr. Lyons seconded to approve all requests as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Manager –

- Mrs. Jamieson announced that the electrical issues with the decorative lights on Liberty Street seem to have been resolved.
- Mrs. Jamieson presented a draft of the amendment to the Management Agreement between the City and FICDA which discusses how the City will repay FICDA over a ten (10) year period for paving the City's portion of Howard Street. One payment has already been made to FICDA in November.
 - **Resolution No. 188** – Mr. Rudegear motioned to approve the first amendment to the FICDA Management Agreement to be executed by the appropriate officers after review and approval by the solicitors. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- The public meeting that PennDOT held regarding the Route 62 Betterment Project was well presented and carefully thought out in taking both pedestrian safety and driving efficiency into consideration.
- Mrs. Jamieson commented on how nice the downtown looks for the holidays and commended those involved in setting it up.
- Mrs. Jamieson extended her heartfelt gratitude to all past and present co-workers, authority and board members, and City Council for their expertise, knowledge and support over her years with the City.
- Requested time in Executive Session for the purposes of personnel, negotiations and potential litigation.

Solicitor –

- Mr. Spaid enjoyed being a parade announcer at Light Up Night and thanked Pat Dolecki, James Shreffler and everyone involved for putting the evening together.
- Distributed the preliminary changes to the sign ordinance, which is part of the zoning ordinance, to the Planning and Zoning Commission for their review.
- He thanked Mr. Rudegeair for his years of service representing the Second District.
- Congratulated Mrs. Jamieson on her retirement and commended her for bringing the City out of the tight spot that it was in when she was appointed manager.

Mayor Appointments –

- **Resolution No. 189** – Mayor Baker motioned to reappointment Timothy Dunkle and Fred Leyda to serve additional five (5) year terms on the General Authority. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 190** – Mayor Baker motioned to reappoint Michelle Hartzell to serve an additional five (5) year term on the Franklin Industrial and Commercial Development board. Mr. Rudegeair seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 191** – Mayor Baker motioned to reappoint Kenneth Garland, Jr. and Daniel Weiland to serve additional five (5) year terms on the Uniform Construction Code Appeals Board. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Baker –

- Extended his regards to Mrs. Jamieson and Mr. Rudegeair
- Very appreciative of the efforts put in to make the downtown so beautiful for the holidays

Mrs. Fletcher –

- Thanked Pat Dolecki, James Shreffler and FFAC for all their efforts in making the downtown so beautiful
- Thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their help with the Santa Express event
- Congratulated Mrs. Jamieson on her retirement and stated that she will be missed

Mr. Johnson –

- Had a good time at Light Up Night
- Wished Mrs. Jamieson and Mr. Rudegeair good luck in their future endeavors

Mr. Marshall –

- Received positive feedback on downtown events
- Received a complaint about the partially burnt house on Railroad Street. Mrs. Jamieson will look into it, but believed that the owner had applied for a permit to rebuild.

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- Thanked Mrs. Jamieson and Mr. Rudegear for their services to the City

Mr. Lyons –

- Asked if the traffic light at 9th and Liberty could be set to stay green on Liberty Street until a vehicle approaches the intersection at 9th Street. Mr. Wetzel said it is set up that way but is possibly being tripped by vehicles in the Little Caesar's parking lot.
- Extended best wishes to Mr. Rudegear and Mrs. Jamieson

Mr. Rudegear – Thanked everyone for their kind remarks

Mr. Zahner –

- Wished Mr. Rudegear and Mrs. Jamieson good luck

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 192

Mr. Rudegear motioned to enter into executive session at 7:36 P.M. for the purposes of personnel, negotiations and potential litigation. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Executive Session ended at 8:05 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary