

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Council Chambers, City Hall
March 6, 2023

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor (via Teleconference)
James Johnson
Christian Marshall
Samuel Lyons
Todd Zahner
Ryan Rudegear (via Teleconference)

Members Excused: None

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager
Harmony Motter, Finance Director
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary
Charles Gibbons, Code Enforcement Officer
Brian Spaid, Solicitor
Deb Eckelberger, FICDA
Helen Fielding, The Derrick
Bev Hart, 1333 Elk Street
Jake and Ashley Smith, 1346 Elk Street
Alex Spaid, Dale, Woodard, Gent, McFate
Matt Beith, 324 16th Street
Brenda Westover, Franklin Elks Lodge
Judy Mathews, Franklin Elks Lodge
Kneal Wiegel, Franklin Elks Lodge
Herb Bigley, Men's Softball League
Chris Simms, Franklin Moving Forward
Timothy Heller, Franklin Fire Dept.
Dan Wetzel, Franklin Fire Dept.
Mike Kearney, 1281 & 1283 Liberty Street
Jodi Lewis, Franklin Area Chamber/Franklin Moving Forward

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7:00 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.

March 6, 2023

an engineering firm to draft plans and assist PennDOT with clearance requirements and the bidding process. While this may seem to be an unnecessary expense, the City will still be able to accomplish over \$300,000 of paving that would not, otherwise, be possible. Mrs. Jamieson stated that she is seeking proposals for the engineering and hopes to find an engineer to draft the plans at a reasonable cost. She will present a quote to Council at its April meeting.

Mr. Johnson motioned to approve the resolution as presented. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DECISION ON CONDITIONAL USE REQUEST – 701 GRANT STREET – Resolution No. 31

Mr. Spaid confirmed with Council that their wish is to approve the Conditional Use request from Venango County Human Services to use the facility, located at 701 Grant Street, as a congregate living facility. He explained the following conditions he has outlined in the decision:

- The conditional use shall comply with the City's Zoning Ordinance, Section 1304.03
- Housing shall be limited to no more than sixteen (16) persons and no expansions of the facility is allowed unless the County requests an amendment to the Conditional Use Permit
- Any signage to be installed must comply with the City's Zoning Ordinance
- The permit shall not be transferrable to future owners/lessees without filing for a separate Conditional Use request

Mr. Johnson motioned and Mr. Lyons seconded the motion to approve the request for a Conditional Use Permit, as requested for 701 Grant Street, with the conditions outlined above and further described in the copy of the written decision filed with the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO PETITION THE PLCB – DOWNTOWN NOISE ORDINANCE EXEMPTION RENEWAL – Resolution No. 32

Mr. Spaid reminded Council of the local noise ordinance that was adopted in 2019 that would be used in lieu of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board's regulations regarding noise from establishments that have a liquor license. The first request for exemption occurred in 2019 and permission was granted for one (1) year. When the City petitioned for exemption again in 2020, permission was granted for three (3) years, but is set to run out by July 2023. Mr. Spaid advised Council to approve the attached resolution.

Mr. Johnson moved to adopt the resolution to file a petition for Approval of Exemption from Section 493(34) of the Liquor Code as presented. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON LIMITED OPEN CONTAINER EXEMPTION

As a follow-up to Dave Ballard's proposal at the February Council meeting, Mrs. Jamieson shared City staff's concerns about allowing open containers in the downtown area and also mentioned that it is unclear how the program will boost sales for the downtown

Franklin City Council Minutes

March 6, 2023

Mr. Johnson motioned and Mr. Lyons seconded to approve all requests. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Manager –

- Reported that the downtown light poles have been fabricated and are waiting to be powder coated. They are expected to be delivered at the beginning of April. Five of the bases for the poles are currently on back order, but are expected to be delivered at the end of April. Mrs. Jamieson stated that the poles can be installed while we wait for the bases, and all work is to be completed by the end of April
- Work is scheduled to begin tomorrow on the traffic signal controller at Coefield's Corners
- Has items of negotiations and personnel to discuss in Executive Session

Solicitor – Reported that Mr. Gibbons successfully prosecuted a long-standing property maintenance issue at 750 15th Street. The resident pled guilty to the charges and was fined \$1,000, but was given the opportunity to have the fine reduced by \$800 if the mess is cleaned up by April 14.

Mayor Appointments – Resolution No. 34

Mayor Baker motioned to ratify the following reappointments to the Redevelopment Authority:

- Ann Witherup-Rudegeair to serve the term ending July 31, 2026
- Doug Volmrich to serve the term ending July 31, 2026

Mr. Johnson seconded the motion to reappoint both members to the Redevelopment Authority. The motion passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Baker – None

Mrs. Fletcher – Received a complaint that the crosswalk at 9th and Elk Streets needs painted. Mrs. Jamieson advised that Elk Street is scheduled to be paved this spring and will not be painted until then.

Mr. Johnson –

- Congratulated the Franklin boys basketball team for winning their 3rd District championship
- Informed about a program at the library on Thursday evenings during March and April

Franklin City Council Minutes

March 6, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TJ Parks", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

TJ Parks, Recording Secretary