

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Council Chambers, City Hall
August 1, 2022

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

Members Excused: Ryan Rudegear

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
James Wetzel, Fire Chief
Harmony Motter, Finance Director
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary
Helen Fielding, The Derrick
Bev Hart, 1333 Elk Street
Deb Eckelberger, FICDA
Jaimi Hajzus, Reproductive Freedom Action Committee
Veronica Santee, Reproductive Freedom Action Committee
Nicole Bulven, Reproductive Freedom Action Committee
David Psybylek, Elk Street
Matt Parson, Franklin
Joy Strain, McGill, Power, Bell
Ashley Smith, 1346 Elk Street
Shawn Ulery, representing 1280 Elk Street (via teleconference)

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7:11 P.M.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Resolution No. 105

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Resolution No. 106

Mr. Lyons motioned and Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 11, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS – Resolution No. 107

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

August 1, 2022

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES – None

PRESENTATION OF THE 2021 AUDIT – MCGILL, POWER, BELL

Ms. Strain, of McGill, Power, Bell & Associates, presented the City's financial summary as of December 31, 2021 and included 2020's audit summary for comparison. She indicated that the audit resulted in a clean opinion, indicating the city's financial statements were presented fairly and there were no significant deficiencies. She focused primarily on the General Fund. The total General Fund revenues for 2021 were \$5,361,857, down \$12,302 slightly from 2020, which were reported to be \$5,374,159. Ms. Strain then went on to discuss expenditures, which totaled \$5,393,024 for 2021, \$693,195 more than what was reported for 2020. For further information, refer to the attached financial summaries. There being no questions from Council members, Ms. Strain was thanked for her presentation.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS – Resolution No. 108

The following five requests came before HARB at its July 26, 2022 meeting:

1. 1280 Elk Street – Polyethylene fence designed to look like stone around proposed generator and AC units and installation of black bollards
2. 1 Park Way – Raising and enlarging rear deck
3. 1323 Elk Street – Paint
4. 1282 Liberty Street – Sign
5. 1309 Buffalo Street – Remove windows and replace with double entry doors

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

FICDA REQUEST TO MILL AND PAVE HOWARD STREET – Resolution No. 109

Mrs. Jamieson reminded Council of FICDA's request to have the City's portion of Howard Street paved at the same time the board has its portion of Howard Street repaved. The most recent estimate for the City's portion was \$63,215. FICDA has offered to cover the City's costs of the paving upfront, by reducing the General Management fee over a five year period, which would be \$12,643 per year, depending on the final project cost. Mrs. Jamieson stated that she reached out to the chairman of FICDA to see if they would be willing to consider a ten year payback period to help the City on its revenue side. She noted that she has not received a response, but believed the FICDA board would be willing to negotiate. Mr. Lyons asked if there was an estimated start time. Mrs. Eckelberger responded that, while there isn't a start time in place, the project must be completed by June of 2024.

Mayor Baker motioned to authorize FICDA to cover the upfront costs to repave the City portion of Howard Street and allow FICDA to reduce its General Management fee to the City over a 10 year period as reimbursement to FICDA. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

August 1, 2022

MILLER PARK STORM SEWER STUDY PROPOSAL – Resolution No. 110

Mrs. Jamieson presented a proposal from The EADS Group to conduct a comprehensive plan to coordinate with the General Authority’s projects in the Miller Park area. The proposal includes field verification and conceptual mapping and design, proposed phasing with cost estimates, a summarized narrative, and a presentation to City Council. The cost for this service will be \$17,800 and would be completed in early October. Doing the early field work now would save about \$8,000 to \$10,000 in engineering costs and would provide useful maps of that area.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Lyons seconded the motion to approve entering into contract with The EADS Group to provide the services outlined in their proposal dated July 25, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

FRANKLIN RECREATION PROJECTS SURVEY

Mrs. Jamieson informed Council that since the last meeting, Mrs. Power spoke with the region’s representative at DCNR about applying for funds to help pay for the cost of conducting a feasibility study for constructing a recreation trail to connect the heights to the downtown. In that discussion, DCNR stated that they would need a resolution from City Council that the City would provide the required financial match, and would want the City to show public support, via a community-based survey, since it would require a survey of property lines in some heights residents’ backyards. The grant submission deadline was August 1, 2022, which did not give staff enough time to compile the information.

Mrs. Jamieson recommended putting together a comprehensive survey, by way of social media, newspaper publications, mailings to residents, etc., to get feedback from the community to help gauge public interest in the City’s many existing recreational venues, including prospective ones, such as the trail. City Council members agreed in support of this way forward.

PARK AND PARADE ASSEMBLY REQUESTS – Resolution No. 111

Mrs. Jamieson introduced the following requests, noting that requests 2, 3 and 4 were not submitted until the day of the Council meeting so they were not in members’ packets:

1. August 19, 2022 • Riverfront Park • Annual Greenways Awards Ceremony • Council on Greenways and Trails
2. August 13, 2022 • Bandstand Park and in front of Courthouse • Reproductive Freedom Rally • Reproductive Freedom Action Committee
3. September 17, 2022 • March from City Hall, down Liberty St. to the Courthouse • Reproductive Freedom March • Reproductive Freedom Action Committee
4. October 5-9, 2022 • Downtown Parks, Liberty, W. Park, S. Park and 12th Streets, • Applefest • Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce
5. October 8, 2022 • Liberty Street (13th Street to 3rd Street) • Applefest 5k • Franklin YMCA

August 1, 2022

Mr. Marshall motioned to approve all requests. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mrs. Jamieson reminded all applicants that were present to provide the required insurance certificates.

REPORTS

Manager –

- **Downtown Pedestrian Safety Project** – Mrs. Jamieson reported that all but ten of the light poles along the project area of Liberty Street have been removed. Only one electrical conduit was hit when new anchor bolts were being drilled, so the contractor is working diligently to prepare the foundations for the new poles. Unfortunately, due to supply issues, the new poles will now not be delivered until November 18th. This means that Liberty Street will be darker than normal in late fall, there won't be any poles to hang lights from during the holiday season, and the remaining poles may not be able to be completed if temperatures are too cold for properly addressing the remaining foundations. She requested that the community and Council help brainstorm solutions to keep the street lit up as much as possible, especially for Light Up Night festivities.
- **General Authority's Waterline Replacement Project** – It was reported that the main line tie-in at 11th and Elk is complete and the contractor will continue paving the ditch line on Elk through the rest of the week, and only two service connections are remaining on Chestnut Street. The main line tie-in at 14th and Chestnut is scheduled for Wednesday, followed by ditch line paving down the affected area of Chestnut Street next week which will complete the project. Mrs. Fletcher asked if street sweeping will occur along Elk Street. Mrs. Jamieson assured that it will, whether it is done by the Street Department or the contractor.
- **Resolution No. 112** – Mrs. Jamieson reported on an e-mail she received today from Northwest Commission regarding **Local Federal Aid Routes Program**, which provides funding to pave streets that are designated as local federal aid routes. The grant is due to be submitted at the end of August. She noted there may be some financial responsibilities of the City in applying and that was still to be determined.

Mayor Baker motioned and Mrs. Fletcher seconded to allow the City to submit an application and cover any potential costs associated with any requirements necessary to obtain funds. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mrs. Jamieson informed of a virtual meeting with PennDOT and WRA Engineering to discuss the best way to utilize the \$1 million grant to make improvements to the 12th and Liberty St. intersection and coordinate with PennDOT's betterment project to occur on Liberty Street. She anticipated needing to contract with WRA for the engineering design and noted that the City had estimated \$120,000 in engineering costs.

Franklin City Council Minutes

August 1, 2022

- Mrs. Jamieson asked Council to start thinking about what goals they might have for the City in order to start preparing the 2023 budget and suggested a workshop with Council and City staff present to discuss options.
- Mrs. Jamieson mentioned that due to the excessive amount of garbage coming out of the City every week and the decrease of manpower Tri-County can provide, Tri-County will be limiting the amount of trash they will take, to match the amounts described in their contract with the City. Residents were receiving notification of such in their water, sewer and garbage bills.
- Mr. Wetzel informed that USG, a contractor for the General Authority, will have the lower access to the boat ramp blocked off while they work on cleaning the large sewer interceptor that runs through there.
- Has an item for negotiations in Executive Session

Solicitor – Has items for Executive Session

Mayor Appointments – Resolution No. 113

Mayor Baker moved to reappoint Travis Hicks to the Redevelopment Authority for a term ending July 31, 2027. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Baker – Informed Council that the Pennsylvania Municipal League Summit will be held in Pittsburgh on October 5-8, 2022 and requires Council to select a delegate to represent the City.

- **Resolution No. 114** – Mr. Lyons motioned to nominate Mayor Baker as the City's delegate for the 2022 Pennsylvania Municipal League Summit. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Fletcher –

- Asked when the Pedestrian Safety Committee will meet again and when the parking signs behind the courthouse will be relocated. Mr. Wetzel replied that August 18, 2022 has been established as the next Ped Safety Committee meeting, and that the Street Department has it on their schedule to put up the new signs, but he wasn't sure when.
- Asked if anything will be replacing T&T's Corner Cupboard. Mr. Marshall stated that Trails to Ales II might have plans to expand into that storefront.
- Asked if anyone knew where Homegrown Kitchen will be relocating.

Mr. Johnson –

- Enjoyed the City picnic and extended his gratitude for City employees
- Had fun attending the boat contest at the Miller-Sibley Pool

August 1, 2022

Mr. Marshall – Reported that the residents of Elk Street appreciate the increase in communications regarding the waterline replacement project

Mr. Lyons – Wanted to confirm that the patchwork along Elk Street is temporary. Mrs. Jamieson answered that the street will be newly milled and paved next year.

Mr. Zahner – Glad to see the abandoned JM factory in 3rd Ward being cleaned up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 115

Mr. Lyons motioned to enter into executive session at 8:06 P.M. for the purposes of litigation, potential litigation, and negotiations. Mrs. Fletcher seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T.J. Parks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary