

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

March 2, 2020

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor  
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor (via video conference)  
James Johnson  
Samuel Lyons  
Christian Marshall  
Fred Mays  
Ryan Rudegear

Members Excused: None.

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager  
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor  
Harmony Motter, City Finance Director  
Jim Wetzel, Fire Chief  
Kevin Anundson, Police Chief  
Sheila Boughner, Recording Secretary & Community Development  
Deb Eckelberger, Franklin Development Director  
Sarah Titley, Venango Newspapers, Inc.  
Ashley Smith, 1346 Elk St.  
James Smith, 1346 Elk St.  
Bev Hart, City Resident  
Ashley Schmidt, Franklin Little League Association

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Resolution No. 25**

Mr. Rudegear moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Resolution No. 26**

Mr. Rudegear moved to approve the minutes of both the regular meeting of Feb. 3, 2020, and the special meeting of Feb. 3, 2020, as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**PAY THE BILLS - Resolution No. 27**

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

**CITIZENS' INQUIRIES**

Ashley Smith urged the Council to reopen its discussion of the possibility of adding stop signs to help make residential corridors safer. She specifically asked for consideration of a stop

sign at the intersection of 14<sup>th</sup> and Elk. She said she lives near that intersection and worries that when she slows to enter her driveway off of Elk, vehicles moving through the intersection behind her will collide with her vehicle or another vehicle. She said there is a constant flow of traffic at that intersection and too many close calls.

Mayor Baker said the Council will revisit the issue.

**CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS** – None.

**BALL LEAGUE AGREEMENTS - Resolution No. 28**

Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Rudegeair seconded a motion to approve both the Franklin Area Men's Softball League and the Franklin Little League Association agreements for use of the Miller-Sibley ballfields for another year. Motion passed unanimously.

**LIQUID FUELS STREET RECOMMENDATIONS - Resolution No. 29**

Mrs. Jamieson reported that the City has \$110,000 in Liquid Fuels funds available in 2020 for paving, and Street Department Supervisor Jeff Reed is recommending two street segments for paving:

- 200 Block of Elk Street
- 1200 Block of Buffalo Street

She reminded the Council that residents of the 200 Block of Elk Street attended the FY-2019 CDBG public hearing to ask that their street be paved. While paving in that area would not be eligible for CDBG funding, Liquid Fuels funds can be used for the project.

She indicated the 1200 Block of Buffalo Street is heavily traveled and is in very poor condition. Additionally, the street improvements will complement other improvements on the way for that block including a new bus shelter, crosswalk and pedestrian path linking to Liberty Street.

Mr. Rudegeair moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to approve the 200 Block of Elk Street (from Third Street to the new pavement) and the 1200 Block of Buffalo Street for milling and paving with Liquid Fuels funds that have been set aside in the budget. Motion passed unanimously.

**MILLER-SIBLEY ENGINEERING CONTRACT PROPOSAL - Resolution No. 30**

Mrs. Jamieson presented a proposal from Amos E. Rudolph Architecture, LLC, for the provision of architectural and engineering services for the first phase of the planned improvements at the Miller-Sibley Recreational Complex for a fixed fee of \$10,000. The \$520,000 improvement project will be funded by grants from the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PNC Charitable Trusts and the McElhattan Foundation.

Mr. Johnson moved to award the contract for the architectural and engineering services for Phase One of the Miller-Sibley project to Amos E. Rudolph Architecture, LLC, in the amount of \$10,000. Mr. Mays seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**REQUEST TO VENANGO COUNTY LAND BANK - Resolution No. 31**

Ms. Boughner reported that the Venango County Land Bank is asking the county's municipalities to submit their formal requests by March 12 for any properties they would like

the Land Bank to acquire for them at the May judicial sale. She recommended that the Council approve a request that the Venango County Land Bank acquire the fire-damaged structure at 603 10<sup>th</sup> Street for the City and demolish it using existing Land Bank funds. Mrs. Jamieson added that the request should include the caveat that the City is only interested in acquiring the property at this time if the Land Bank can fund the demolition, as the City currently has no funds set aside to remove the structure.

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the request as presented and Mr. Rudegeair seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION TO PETITION PLCB ON NOISE ORDINANCE - Resolution No. 32**

Mr. Rudegeair moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to approve a resolution of the Council of the City of Franklin "authorizing support to petition the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to substitute and enforce the City of Franklin Noise Ordinance for Section 493(34) of the Liquor Code for all licensees in the designated area of the Central Business District." Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Spaid indicated that the City will be required to hold another public hearing as it did last year when it first made the original petition that was then approved for one year.

**PARADE & PARK REQUESTS - Resolution No. 33**

Mr. Rudegeair moved and Mr. Marshall seconded a motion to approve the following requests:

- April 4, 2020 • Fountain Park • Easter Egg Hunt • City of Franklin
- April 10, 2020 • Downtown Streets • Good Friday Crosswalk • Franklin Ministerium
- April 12, 2020 • Riverfront Park • Sunrise Service • Franklin Alliance Church
- April 25, 2020 • Bandstand Park; Walk from Bandstand Park to Franklin VFW and Back • Venango Country Second Amendment Gun Rights Rally and Walk • James Kronmiller
- May 2-3, 2020 • Fountain Park • May Garden Mart • Franklin Gardeners Association
- May 4, 2020 • Front Sidewalk of Barrow Little Theatre • 50-Year Commemoration of the Kent State Shootings • John Mitchell, Jr.
- May 25, 2020 • Bandstand Park; 13<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut to Liberty Street, ending at South Park Street near Bandstand Park • Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony • V.E.T.S. Honor Guard
- June 19-20-21, 2020 • Fountain & Bandstand Parks • Franklin Blues & BBQ Festival • Douglas Volmrich
- July 31, 2020 • Bandstand Park • Venango County Employee Picnic • Sabrina Backer

Motion passed unanimously.

## REPORTS

### Manager

- Reminded the Council that the City did not hold the Bill Beith Memorial Golf Tournament last year because Ronnie Beith was under the weather. This year, it is proposed that the City work with the Franklin Retail Merchants Association to plan and carry out the tournament and then split the proceeds.
- **Resolution No. 34** – Explained that Dianne Hall requested permission to bring in local stonemason Angelo Gatto to inspect, clean and repair cracks in the Civil War Monument in South Park. The work will require scaffolding, electric service and water. The Historic Franklin Preservation Association will pay for the work, which will be completed by May 14. Mr. Johnson moved to grant permission for the work, and Mr. Rudegear seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Updated the Council on Franklin Library Roof Replacement Project, which is out to bid, with bids to be received by March 27. The Oil Region Library Association put together a grant application, and the City was awarded \$75,672 toward the project. The contract will be between ORLA and the contractor, and the City is administering the grant.
- Updated the Council as well on the variety of projects planned by the Franklin General Authority including the Chub Run Project to correct a combined sewer overflow, now in the design phase; a water transmission line replacement project from the Miller Hill tank to an area on 16<sup>th</sup> Street; and the installation of a new manhole and storm inlet on Liberty Street near the new mid-block crossing poles, currently out to bid. She indicated the Barrett Flats water plant is again producing water and the new temporary clearwell tank is functioning as envisioned.
- Outlined two other grant-funded projects that are in the engineering phase: the Buffalo Street Bus Shelter and Pedestrian Connection Project and the Liberty Street Improvement Project, which will address street lighting and the failing brick pavers.
- Indicated she had one personnel item to discuss in executive session.

### Solicitor

- Indicated that in the near future, the Franklin General Authority will request that the City transfer some rights-of-way at the base of 15<sup>th</sup> Street Hill to the authority. The transfers are necessary for the Chub Run CSO elimination project.
- **Resolution No. 35** -- Informed the Council that Vantage Home Medical Equipment will be required to enter into a license agreement with the City for the ADA ramp it plans to install in front of its building at 1283 Liberty Street. The ramp will be located on the sidewalk within the City/PennDOT right-of-way. Mr. Rudegear made a motion to approve a resolution authorizing Mrs. Jamieson and Mayor Baker to execute the agreement on behalf of the City. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6 to 1, with Mrs. Fletcher casting the lone vote against the measure.
- Indicated that Deep Harbour Properties, LLC, is looking into the possibility of

installing a canopy at the front entrance of its building at 1243 Liberty Street. That too would be situated in the right-of-way and would require a license agreement with the City, as well as HARB and PennDOT approval.

- Indicated that there may be a need to develop a policy for the installation of memorial structures – such as trees, fountains, benches and statues – on City-owned properties. Fund-raising is apparently already underway for one such statue that has not yet been approved by Council. Mrs. Jamieson pointed to the frequent requests for these types of structures and said a policy would be helpful. Mayor Baker suggested that since such memorials become the City's responsibility, a policy would be prudent. Mr. Spaid said he would work with Mrs. Jamieson to draft something for Council's consideration.

### **Mayor • Appointments**

- **Resolution No. 36** – Mayor Baker moved to appoint Emily Aubele to the City's Planning & Zoning Commission and to the Redevelopment Authority. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

#### **Mayor Baker**

- Informed board members of the upcoming meeting of the Northwest District of the Pennsylvania Municipal League in Bradford.

#### **Mr. Johnson**

- Congratulated Franklin High School's boys basketball team for making the playoffs and indicated the Emmaus Haven homeless shelter in Oil City is going to be very nice. Mr. Johnson serves on the board of Emmaus Haven of Venango County, which also operates a homeless shelter in Franklin.

#### **Mr. Marshall**

- Discussed policing and said he would like to see the City's force up to full staff.

#### **Mr. Rudegear**

- Agreed with the goal of further staffing the police department.

#### **Mrs. Fletcher**

- Indicated she has received complaints from neighbors of a property in the 800 Block of Elk Street that is owned by the County and used for housing. She said she discussed the matter with the County's housing manager, who said she intended to meet with the neighbors to resolve the issues.

#### **Mr. Lyons**

- Also agreed with the goal of further staffing the police department.

#### **Mr. Mays**

- Also agreed with the goal of further staffing the police department.

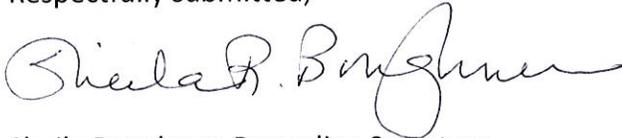
**EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 37**

Mr. Rudegear moved to enter into executive session at 7:45 PM to discuss personnel. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The executive session ended at 8:01 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sheila R. Boughner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Sheila Boughner, Recording Secretary