

August 23, 2004 meeting,

The Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen had a special meeting on Monday, August 23, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall Board Room. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the following items: (1) mayor/board photo for 150th Anniversary Celebration publication, (2) information on proposed “Neighborhood Commercial” zoning district, (3) presentation on room occupancy tax legislation, (4) update on system performance annual reports for wastewater treatment plant and wastewater collection system, (5) planning for trip to view water treatment facilities and (6) closed session – property acquisition. Mayor Joe Collins presided. Aldermen Verlin Curtis, Edwin Hall, Billy Mashburn, Charles Roper, Bob Scott and Jim Williamson were present.

Information on proposed “Neighborhood Commercial” zoning district

Mike Decker said Mayor Collins, Alderman Williamson, Alderman Hall and I met with Jeff Fischbach and have a draft version of a proposed “Neighborhood Commercial” zoning district. A copy is attached. He said this district would allow restricted commercial use. He said setbacks are required unlike in our business district. Mr. Decker said also there are design and appearance standards. He said my recommendations are: (1) the district can be renamed, (2) pass on this matter to the Franklin Planning Board for a recommendation, (3) change the text of the ordinance first, (4) talk about what areas need to be changed, (5) change one area at a time, (6) update the zoning map and (7) ask Jeff Fischbach for his input before he leaves the Department of Community Assistance. Alderman Scott at this time I couldn’t open a small photography studio at my home? Mr. Decker said no. Alderman Scott said we may need to change what is acceptable as a home occupation. Mayor Collins said I don’t think everybody on Porter Street is planning to live there. Alderman Curtis said the Planning Board would be a good start. **Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by Williamson to refer this information on to the Planning Board for a recommendation. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Presentation on Room Occupancy Tax legislation

Mike Decker made a brief presentation on the Room Occupancy Tax legislation. A copy is attached. Helen Henson said why am I being penalized with an extra three percent tax? She said I am having a hard time now. She said I will not be able to charge this three percent to my customers. Alderman Curtis said this tax will be used for tourism development. He said you would have the most to gain. Bruce Bryant said we are overloaded with taxes now. He said the state has overloaded us. He said I am complaining about being tax collectors for the state. Mayor Collins said this tax is designed to tax the persons using the services. He said without promotions we will be getting less of the tourist dollar. Barbara McRae said how much money are you talking about? Mike Decker said the estimate is around \$50,000.00 per year. Mr. Bryant said a lot of the persons that are staying in the motels are not tourists. He said they are here visiting their family who is sick. He said people are moving here to get away from the big cities taxes. Alderman Scott said how are we going to raise taxes to provide the services for these people? Mayor Collins said it is not fair for the private citizen to pay through property taxes. He said it is a matter of equality. Mayor Collins said we are not ready to vote on this matter tonight.

August 23, 2003 meeting continued,

Update on system performance annual reports

Mike Decker said the latest system performance annual reports for the wastewater treatment plant and the wastewater collection system are completed and will be advertised in *The Franklin Press*. Copies are attached.

Planning for trip to view water treatment facilities

Mike Decker said the plans are for us to meet at Town Hall on Wednesday, August 25, 2004 at 6:45 A.M. and drive to McGill Associates' office in Asheville where we will go with our engineers to Lincolnton, Forest City and Hendersonville to look at their raw water intake system.

Closed session – property acquisition

The Board went into closed session at 7:40 P.M., on motion by Williamson, seconded by Hall to discuss a possible property purchase. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

The Board came out of closed session at 8:15 P.M. and voted to seal the closed session minutes, on motion by Williamson, seconded by Curtis. Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.

Open session

No action was taken.

Mayor Collins adjourned the meeting at 8:16 P.M.

Joe Collins, Mayor

Janet A. Anderson, Town Clerk