

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
April 3, 2023**

THE FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April, 3, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room located at 95 East Main Street Franklin, NC.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jack Horton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Vice Mayor Joe Collins, Council Members David Culpepper, Stacy Guffey, Adam Kimsey-via zoom, Mike Lewis and Rita Salain.

*Council Member Kimsey had to abstain from voting since the North Carolina COVID State of Emergency allowing for remote attendance was lifted on August 15, 2022 and attending via Zoom does not meet the definition of present for open meeting purposes.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Joe Collins.

3. ADOPTION OF THE APRIL 3, 2023 TOWN COUNCIL REVISED AGENDA

Council Member Mike Lewis made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rita Salain to adopt the Town Council Agenda for April 3, 2023 as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5 – 0.

4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR APRIL 3, 2023

- A.) Approval of Minutes of the March 6, 2023 Town Council regular meeting
- B.) Budget Amendments- Water/Sewer Fund

Vice Mayor Joe Collins made a motion, seconded by Council Member Stacy Guffey to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote 5 – 0.

5. INTRODUCTIONS

- A.) Aaron Fosler, Meter Reader by Bill Deal, Public Works Director

6. PROCLAMATION

- A.) Mayor Jack Horton presented Dave Linn and other Shriners ~~members present~~ with a Proclamation ~~to proclaim recognizing~~ August 4 & 5, 2023 as a special celebration of the 80's Flashback/Shriners Hospital Weekend in Franklin, North Carolina.

7. PUBLIC SESSION

Graham Norris, Lazy Higher Head Brewer, spoke in favor of establishing a Social District on Main Street. The Lazy Hiker has a Tap Room in Sylva, NC and he isn't aware of any issues with their Social District. He feels adding a Social District to Downtown Franklin would bring more people to the downtown area and improve the festivals. He stated it would be good for downtown and there would be more money for downtown.

Dave Linn, 80s Flashback Weekend Organizer, is also in favor of a Social District in Downtown Franklin. He mentioned that next year would be the 10th year for the 80s Flashback Weekend and they are looking to expand the event. He said they have outgrown the current breweries in Franklin and it would be nice to have an event on Main Street that involved the breweries and restaurants.

Cory McCall, Outdoor 76 owner, commented on what a pleasure it has been to watch the Town Board work together. He also spoke in favor of adding a Social District to Downtown Franklin. He currently has an operating tap room in his store on Main Street. He feels that a Social District would foster and create community in the downtown area. He encouraged Council to consider adding a Social District. Mr. McCall also made a request for Council to consider putting up cameras on Main Street due to recent broken windows.

Town Manager Amie Owens made the announcement that Bernadette Peters, Main Street Economic Development Director in Sylva, NC, would be at the May 1, 2023 meeting to discuss the implementation, procedures and problems with Social Districts.

8. CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING

A.) Call for Public Hearing to be held on May 1, 2023 at 6:05 p.m. or as closely thereafter to receive public input on the amendment to Chapter 130, adding section .07 -Camping on Public Property Prohibited -Police Chief Devin Holland, Town Attorney John Henning, Jr.

Town Attorney John Henning, Jr., stated that the amendment to this Ordinance would extend the Town's authority, for addressing camping on public property, out into the ETJ.

Chief Holland commented that there is often camping on public property (areas like the Greenway). They set up homeless campsites and leave a mess behind for others to clean up. He said it was important to have authority in ETJ. Local town businesses are within walking distance from these camps.

Council Member Culpepper asked what advice do we give private property owners? Chief Holland advises property owners to put up signs or fencing for no trespassing.

Council Member Guffey asked Chief Holland if these campsites are those of people dealing with addiction and mental health issues. Chief Holland stated theythat some were. He mentioned trying to get them help and assistance they need.

Council Member Mike Lewis made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Joe Collins to set the public hearing for 6:05 p.m. or as closely thereafter as possible on Monday, May 1, 2023 to receive public input on the amendment to Chapter 130, adding section .07 - Camping on Public Property. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5 – 0.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A.) Request approval of street closure -lotla Street - for Bullying and Youth Mental Health Rally
10-year-old Gracie Parker and 9-year-old Kennedy Carrion requested approval for the closure of lotla Street on Sunday, April 30 from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. This is a new event organized by

Gracie and Kennedy to call attention to Bullying and Youth Mental Health. The Gazebo has also been reserved. They plan to have music, speakers and vendors as part of the event.

Police Chief Holland said there was no problem with the police closing down Iotla Street for the event.

Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rita Salain to approve the street closure as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote 5 – 0.

- B.) Request approval of purchase of Mission SCADA system wireless upgrades for the 8 sewer pump stations -Town Manager Amie Owens and Bill Deal, Public Works Director

Town Manager Owens stated that she does not have signature authority over \$29,999 and the purchase is for \$32,499.20. The funds are available in the equipment maintenance budget line.

Public Works Director Bill Deal explained what a SCADA system does. It sends out warnings/codes on faults to public works employee's phones. Town pump stations are checked daily by law. This would give the employees ability to get back to the pump station to remedy the problems- due to early notification. This SCADA system will match the Mission SCADA system ~~on~~ already in use by the water-sidewaterdistribution system. The Town currently has 8 sewer pump stations.

Council Member Culpepper asked if this will be on all privately owned pump stations as well. Mr. Deal stated this will just be installed on Town owned pump stations. Council Member Culpepper also asked if this was just replacing old parts. Mr. Deal stated this is a new system. The current system operates on 3G and we are now required to operate on 5G.

Council Member Rita Salain made a motion, seconded by Council Member Stacy Guffey to approve the of purchase of Mission SCADA system wireless upgrades for the eight (8) sewer pump stations. The motion carried unanimously. Vote 5 – 0.

- C.) Request approval of bid award recommendation for Clyde Street Waterline Improvement Project- Town Manager Amie Owens

Town Manager Owens stated the Town received four (4) bid submittals from the RFP on the Clyde Street Waterline Improvement Project. The proposals were reviewed by Withers Ravenel. The recommendation is to accept the bid from Buckeye Bridge LLC which was the lowest, responsible, responsive bidder for the project. Their bid was for \$730,357. Manager Owens noted the Town did receive a grant from the State in ARPA money for \$820,000. The Town did purchase the pipe and valves separately; therefore, the Town will have the opportunity to send in for reimbursements as soon as the contractor is improved. Manager Owens noted there is a 240-day completion date on the project.

Vice Mayor Collins asked when will the project start. Manager Owens said as soon as we have a signed contract. Town Attorney John Henning, Jr. is working on the contact.

Vice Mayor Joe Collins made a motion, seconded by Council Member David Culpepper to approve the bid award recommendation for Clyde Street Waterline Improvement Project to

Buckeye Bridge LLC, subject to satisfactory contract. The motion carried unanimously. Vote 5 – 0.

D.) Request approval of Naming/Sponsorship Policy-Town Manager Amie Owens, Town Attorney John Henning Jr.

Town Manager Owens presented the Naming/Sponsorship Policy that was provided to Council Members at their February retreat. Manager Owens did not receive any additional changes from Council Members. The policy was also taken to the Ordinance Review Committee. This policy gives Town Council the ability to allow someone who is making a significant contribution on a project to have some say in the naming. Council will always have the right of first refusal.

Town Attorney Henning stated that the intent is for the Council to enter into an agreement that will set how long the naming right will be in place. The intent is not for perpetuity unless it's a really impressive offer.

Council Member Guffey asked if there was a minimum amount. Manager Owens stated the donation would just need to be at least 51% of the project cost.

Council Member Stacy Guffey made a motion, seconded by Council Member David Culpepper to approve of Naming/Sponsorship Policy as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote 5 – 0.

10. PROJECT, COMMITTEE, DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

A.) Departmental Updates

1. Finance- Sarah Bishop, Finance Director, presented information on the 2023/2024 budget and the new GASB 96 reporting requirement.
2. Planning/IT- Justin Setser, Town Planner/IT Director, presented information on upcoming projects (DOT road paving schedules and new sidewalks/cross walk upgrades) and mentioned a request for temporary review of RV living regulations
3. Police- Devin Holland, Police Chief, presented information on calls for service, new satellite office at the FROG headquarters, new online incident reporting, SAFE Kids, and an upcoming litter sweep.

11. ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Mental Health and Behavioral Health working group update-Councilman Stacy Guffey-~~Mr. Councilman~~ Guffey recently toured No Wrong Door. He heard a lot of stories and the need to provide for those with mental health issues. He also visited Kids Place and said they also have a mental health service gap. ~~Mr. Councilman~~ Guffey commented that in order to address the mental health problem in the region it's going to take every county and town to organize and demand action be taken. On a local level, a working group consisting of ~~Mr. Councilman~~ Guffey, Sherriff Holbrooks, Chief Holland, Clint ~~Kenda~~Kendall, and Shelia Jenkins, are working together for short term improved services in Franklin and Macon County. ~~Mr. Councilman~~ Guffey thanked Mayor Horton for his appointment to the working group.

Mayor Horton thanked ~~Mr. Councilman~~ Guffey for his representation on the committee.

Council Member Culpepper asked if there was an update on the old Angel Medical Center building.

Council Member Guffey met with MAHEC in Asheville, along with Council Member Salain and the Mayor of Highlands, and they are interested in expanding services to Macon County and are interested in further discussion.

Vice Mayor Joe Collins asked about the Medicaid Expansion that the ~~legislatures~~ legislature recently voted on and if there were funds earmarked for Mental Health. Mayor Horton commented that the Medicaid Expansion was tied to the budget and nothing can be done until their budget is approved.

Council Member Culpepper asked if Senator Corbin and Representative Gillespie know that the old Angel Medical Center building is there and in better shape than HCA first thought. Mayor Horton commented that he spoke to folks at HCA and made it clear that the Town would like to have a seat at the table to make sure Council has an influence on what happens to the old AMC building.

Council Member Culpepper asked about the lease for the outdoor patio between Town Hall and Root & Barrel. Manager Owens stated the lease is still in effect with the current owners. Mr. Culpepper mentioned encouraging a stone patio instead of a wooden patio.

Council ~~Member~~ Kimsey thanked Council for letting him join virtually. Special thanks to Chief Holland and the police ~~force~~for all they do.

12. CLOSED SESSION

Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Stacy Guffey to enter into Closed Session under NC General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(5) to discuss acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0.

The Town Council entered Closed Session at 7:34 p.m.

The Town Council returned from Closed Session at 8:16 p.m.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A.) Special Called Meeting of the Town Council for Budget Work Session -Monday, April 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
- B.) Next Town Council Meeting is Monday, May 1, 2023.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Joe Collins made a motion, seconded by Council Member Stacy Guffey to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5- 0.

C. Jack Horton, Mayor

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Nicole Bradley, Town Clerk