

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
August 30, 2022**

THE FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL held a special called meeting on Tuesday August 30, 2022, at 6:00 pm. in the Town Hall Board Room located at 95 East Main Street Franklin, NC to discuss the future of the Whitmire Property.

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 Stacy Guffey, Mike Lewis, Adam Kimsey, Rita Salain, and David Culpepper.

DISCUSSION

Vice Mayor Joe Collins gave brief summary on the history of the Whitmire Property. The Town purchased the 12.71-acre property in 2004 from AJ Whitmire for approximately 1.5 million. The intended use for the land was to construct a new Town Hall, Police Department & Public Works Building. The Town has no debt on the property and it is currently held as Inventory. An assessment study was completed in 2018 by WR-Martin and currently a disc golf course is on the property. There is a commitment for a future skate park to be built.

The Whitmire Property has water/sewer and is a great location. What should the Town do with the property? Put the property up for sale or for public use? Each Council Member was given the opportunity to speak and give their thoughts on the future of the property.

Council Member David Culpepper would like to see the property used for recreation. He would like to invest in the Youth of the Town. He would like to see it used for dynamic sports that aren't recognized (pump bike trail and boulders for climbing).

Council Member Mike Lewis stated he would like the Board to be unified in their decision.

Mayor Jack Horton mentioned a Community Center. He stated we would need to look at cost for an Environmental/Archeological Study of the Property.

Council Member Adam Kimsey would like to see it used for Parks/Rec and stated it would be an investment if there were funds for projects.

Council Member Stacy Guffey would like to see a recreation complex as well as mixed use facilities. He stated the Town should dictate the use. He would like to see recreation on the upper part and housing on the lower part of the property.

Council Member Rita Salain would like to see the property used for mixed use development. She would like to see the skate park/other outdoor usage, housing (apartments/town houses) and retail stores. She would like to have input from the Public.

Vice Mayor Joe Collins mentioned an amphitheater that looks West/Pavilion. He also stated to take it one step at a time.

Council Member Stacy Guffey made a motion, seconded by Council Member David Culpepper to designate the upper part of the property for recreation and to begin looking at how to implement recreational uses, and to explore and study the potential for other uses such as residential, commercial/retail or mixed use on the remaining property. Council Members Joe Collins, David Culpepper, Stacy Guffey, Adam Kimsey, and Mike Lewis voted in the affirmative; Council Member Rita Salain voted in opposition. The vote carried 5-1.

Vice Mayor Joe Collins made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mike Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6 to 0.

C. Jack Horton, Mayor

Amanda W. Owens, Town Manager
Acting Town Clerk

Prepared by: Nicole Bradley
Human Resources Director