

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 5, 2024**

**THE FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL** held a regular meeting on Monday, August 5, 2024, 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 Stacy Guffey, Council Members: Joe Collins, Mike Lewis, and Robbie Tompa. Councilwoman Rita Salain joined via Zoom (Mrs. Salain is allowed to participate, but cannot vote).

Absent: Councilman David Culpepper

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Stacy Guffey.

*Council Member Mike Lewis made a motion, seconded by Council Member Joe Collins to excuse Councilman David Culpepper. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 4 – 0.*

**3. ADOPTION OF THE AUGUST 5, 2024 TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA**

*Council Member Mike Lewis made a motion, seconded by Council Member Robbie Tompa to adopt the Town Council Agenda for August 5, 2024 as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 4 – 0.*

**4. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR AUGUST 5, 2024**

- A.) Approval of the July 1, 2024 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
- B.) Budget Amendments
- C.) Tax Release
- D.) Approval of sole source purchase exception for water meters
- E.) Rezoning request to be sent to Planning Board for review
- F.) Appropriation for Franklin Garden Club approved in budget
- G.) Approval of the Allowable Cost Policy
- H.) Final Amendment of Capital Project Ordinance Clyde Street
- I.) Acceptance of 2023 AFG Grant for Equipment

*Council Member Joe Collins made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Stacy Guffey to approve the consent agenda for August 5, 2024 as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 4 – 0.*

**5. INTRODUCTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATION**

- A.) Proclamation Help Homeless Veterans Week – Mayor Jack Horton
- B.) Angela Green, Code Enforcement Officer – introduction by Justin Setser, Town Planner
- C.) Andre McDonald, Maintenance Worker – introduction by Chris Waldroop, Streets Supervisor
- D.) Officer Josh Lanzetta – introduction by Police Chief Devin Holland

- E.) Sergeant Justin Riles – promotion to CTAC – recognition by Police Chief Devin Holland
- F.) Officer Brandon Hooper – promotion to Sergeant – recognition by Police Chief Devin Holland
- G.) Jason Hopkins, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor – Pretreatment Grade III certification – recognition by Bill Deal, Public Works Director
- H.) Aaron Fosler, Meter Reader – Meter Reader Technician Certification – recognition by Bill Deal, Public Works Director
- I.) Bill Deal, Public Works Director – Utility Management Certification II – recognition by Amie Owens, Town Manager
- J.) Sarah Bishop, Finance Director – Certified Budget Officer designation – recognition by Amie Owens, Town Manager

## 6. PUBLIC SESSION

Dave Linn and 80s Flashback Weekend Committee, thanked Town Council for allowing them to hold the event downtown. The money raised goes to Greenville Shriners Hospital for Children. They anticipate raising greater than \$27,000 which was last year's total. Tracy Griffith gave a special thanks to Franklin Police Department, Franklin Fire & Rescue, Gio Hernandez and Town Manager Owens for all their help.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

- A.) Request approval for updated Noquisiyi Mound Plan – Bob McCollum, Nikwasi Initiative  
 Bob McCollum, Nikwasi Initiative Board of Directors Vice-Chair, gave a presentation on the preservation and protection of the Noquisiyi Mound. The Nikwasi Initiative sub-committee has come up with a recommend plan to Protect (add a low, intermittent split rail fence as a visual boundary for the Noquisiyi Mound), Educate (add simple clear signage to help people understand how to honor the mound and request refraining from walking on it), Monitor (install video cameras that can be turned off during ceremonies), and Report (communicate with Tribal Historic Preservation Office and Town of Franklin).

Mayor Horton asked about the sign and concerns about taking photographs. Mr. McCollum said that it is a cultural consideration for image capturing and they are trying to be culturally sensitive. Town Attorney John Henning, Jr. would like more time to research the photography. He said it gets complicated and it is unlawful to restrain the freedom of speech right.

Mayor Horton would like to allow the Town Attorney to research and have all the Board members present before a vote is taken.

Mr. McCollum said they could use the word “please” on the signage. The intention is not to restrict rights.

Vice Mayor Guffey said it is important to be culturally sensitive and maybe there is a way to remind people that it is important to indigenous people. Councilman Collins said he could get behind the proposal. Councilwoman Salain said the reason for no photos and walking in one direction could be more explicit because of the culture, but more time would be helpful.

Elaine Eisenbraun, Nikwasi Initiative Executive Director, thanked the Town of Franklin for their partnership and that the future Learning Center would increase education.

B.) Voluntary Annexation Request – Parcel # 6583663448 – 2222 Georgia Road – Justin Setser, Town Planner

Town Planner Justin Sester received a Petition for Voluntary Annexation of 2222 Georgia Road (parcel 6583663448) to the Town of Franklin Corporate Limits by property owner, Lora Lenders. Rob and Anita D’Angelo, representatives for Ms. Lenders were in attendance. Mr. D’Angelo said the reason for voluntary annexation of the property is to open up a wine bar/food truck park and they would need to obtain their liquor license.

***Vice Mayor Stacy Guffey made a motion, seconded by Council Member Joe Collins to set a public hearing for Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 6:05 p.m. or as closely thereafter as possible for the purpose of public input for the voluntary annexation of 2222 Georgia Road into the Town of Franklin Corporate Limits as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 4-0.***

C.) Request approval of street closure – Iotla Street on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. – Amie Owens, Town Manager

The purpose of the street closure is to commemorate the events of 9/11.

***Council Member Mike Lewis made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Stacy Guffey to approve the Iotla Street closure request as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 4-0.***

## 8. DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

A.) Public Works Department

1. Public Works – Bill Deal, Public Works Director gave an update on Clyde Street and Watauga Street, upcoming projects include Wilkie Street sewer line, Siler Road and Berry Blvd water loop, Scenic Ridge waterline, and water meter replacements. He also thanked Town Council for their support.
2. Water Treatment Plant – Kyle Pocquette, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor gave an update on the Water Plant generator relocation, water usage and river levels.
3. Wastewater Treatment Plant – Jason Hopkins, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor gave an update on Wastewater Plant numbers, employee certifications and the ability to now test water samples for Bac-T.
4. Streets – Chris Waldroop, Streets Supervisor gave an update on sidewalk replacements, Ulco Drive culvert replacement, mowing, weed eating, long arm mowing, additional sidewalk replacements and road paving.  
Councilman Lewis commented on the condition of road on Main Street. He feels the Board should do something.

B.) Planning/IT – Justin Setser, Town Planner gave an update on the 5-year NCDOT plan for paving streets, increased number of building permits, Downtown Wi-Fi update, Crawford Branch Feasibility Study, and Planning Board appointment term expiration.

Vice Mayor Guffey asked about the timeline on the Big Bear Lane Improvements. Town Manager Owens said that Town Planner Setser, Streets Supervisor Chris Waldroop and herself need to sit down and prioritize the list of projects.

## 9. ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

### A.) Discussion – Social District – Pumpkinfest and Winter Wonderland

Town Manager Owens said that Pumpkinfest and Winter Wonderland are two main events hosted by the Town. Town Council would need to decide if they want to suspend the Social District for these events. The Town has received vendor applications for Pumpkinfest from vendors that participated in 80s Flashback Weekend, but are not currently in the Social District. If Town Council suspends the Social District for the event, then they could not be a vendor for Punmpkinfest.

Councilman Collins said he didn't see why it should be suspended; we could allow for it now. He also said we enacted the Social District and we should give it a chance to see how it goes. Councilman Lewis said there was a narrow window at Pumpkinfest since the Social District doesn't begin until 12:00 p.m. and the event is over at 4:00 p.m. Councilwoman Salain asked if there have been any issues and Town Manager Owens said there have been no reported issues. The concern is if there are vendors who are outside of the Social District (Slanted Window/Currahee) they do not have the social district cups/stickers to sell.

Additional discussion was held on social district cups and allowing outside vendors at these events.

***Vice Mayor Stacy Guffey made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mike Lewis to table the discussion until the September 3rd meeting. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 4-0.***

### C.) Update from TDA regarding use of tourism related funds

The TDA provided Town Council with a breakdown of their 2024/2024 FY Budget. Their budget has a \$16,350 line item for undesignated/miscellaneous funds. If there is a specific use for the undesignated/miscellaneous funds the Town Council will submit an application for consideration to the TDA.

Mayor Horton would like to see the funds spent on infrastructure that shows actually dollars generated from tourism going back into a project that people can see. He would like the Board to be prepared to give recommendations on or before the next meeting.

### D.) Update ARPA Funding Recommendations

Finance Director Sarah Bishop presented the ARPA Funding Recommendations. The Town's Leadership Team met and discussed projects that could be committed prior to the December 31, 2024 appropriation deadline and projects completed by ARPA expenditures deadline, December 31, 2026. Finance Director Bishop went over the ARPA fund spending to date and then discussed the projects that the Leadership Team felt were priority and could be completed by the deadline. If these projects are approved Finance Director Bishop will bring the budget amendments to the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

***Vice Mayor Stacy Guffey made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mike Lewis to spend the remaining APRA funds as outlined in the recommendation as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 4-0.***

Vice Mayor Guffey asked for an update on the Hillside Street property. Town Planner Setser said the property had been condemned and the power had been turned off. The occupants were stealing power from neighbors. He feels that the tax foreclosure is the best avenue to resolve the issue.

Vice Mayor Guffey if Town Council should pass a Resolution or send a letter to the NCDOT about paving Main Street. Mayor Horton suggested contacting the Highway Commission for District 14.

**10. CLOSED SESSION**

A.) 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

***Council Member Joe Collins made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor 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: 4-0.***

**The Town Council entered Closed Session at 7:56 p.m.**

**The Town Council returned from Closed Session at 8:56 p.m.**

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A.) Next Regular Town Council Meeting is Tuesday, September 3, 2024
- B.) Town Offices closed Monday, September 2, 2024 in observation of the Labor Day holiday in accordance with the NC State Holiday Schedule
- C.) Pickin’ on the Square – August 10 and August 24, 2024
- D.) Special Called Meeting – Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. – Strategic Planning Work Session

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

***Council Member Mike Lewis made a motion, seconded by Council Member Robbie Tompa to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 4- 0.***

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C. Jack Horton, Mayor

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Nicole Bradley, Town Clerk