

Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen
Special Called Meeting
Agenda Tuesday December 1, 2015 5:30 p.m.

1. Call to order- Mayor Bob Scott
2. Pledge of Allegiance- Vice Mayor Verlin Curtis
3. Adoption of December 1, 2015 Proposed Agenda
4. Discussion on new position in Franklin Fire Department- Town Manager Summer Woodard
5. Adjourn

December 1, 2015 meeting

A special called meeting of the Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen was held on Tuesday December 1, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Robert S. Scott presided. Aldermen Patti Abel, Verlin Curtis, Joyce Handley, Farrell Jamison, and Barbara McRae were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was done.

Adoption of December 1, 2015 Proposed Agenda

Motion was made by Jamison, seconded by Curtis to adopt the December 1, 2015 special called meeting agenda. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Motion was made by Curtis, seconded by McRae to excuse Alderman Billy Mashburn from the meeting. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Discussion on new position in Franklin Fire Department

Summer Woodard – Town Manager – Tonight we are looking at a request to look at adding a new position at the Franklin Fire Department, a position of an Assistant Chief. This is coming before you tonight because it wasn't done in the budgetary process, and pursuant to page eleven, Section 5 of the Town of Franklin's Personnel Policy, all new positions and/or classifications must be approved by the Town Board of Aldermen. I'm just asking for some guidance from the Board about what to do with this request.

Alderman Abel – I've been thinking about this since it came up. First of all, Warren I want to thank you for everything you have been doing for us as the interim volunteer Fire Chief. Getting all the equipment up to order and our procedures, and improving our insurance rating. Having said that, I remember in 2014 when you stepped down as Town Manager and went back into the Emergency Medical Services field for the county, and agreed you would stay on as volunteer Fire Chief until we were able to find a full-time chief. And looking back now I can see why you said that. It's a lot of work to be the Fire Chief, full-time or part-time. So for me coming from a Human Resource side, rather than adding an Assistant Chief Position and removing that position down the road to add a full-time Fire Chief, my thoughts would be to look at hiring a full-time fire chief.

Alderman Jamison – I've spent years and years on the Fire Department, and the position of Assistant Chief has always existed. In the past they've been volunteers. Right now we basically have one Assistant Chief on a full-time basis. We're looking at making two Assistant Chief Positions, which down the road would put us in a better posture once we got these people in their places, we could look at making one of them a full time Fire Chief.

Alderman Handley – Financially, can we afford two Assistant Chief Positions and a full-time Fire Chief? We did talk when Warren Cabe did leave that he knew sooner or later he was going to have to pick somebody to be a Chief. If we need an extra body, maybe that is the way to go.

Alderman Jamison – The plan was not to add another person, but to change the title.

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Alderman Handley – But if we do this would we have money for a full time Fire Chief?

Alderman Jamison – We would have to budget for it down the road.

Alderman Handley – Chad, if we do this would we have to do a pay raise.

Chad Simons – Human Resource Officer – We would have to do something eventually to compensate them for doing those duties, yes.

Alderman Jamison – I would like for Warren, our Fire Chief, to get up and tell us why we are wanting to do this, rather than us just saying no. Let's listen to him and let him explain.

Mayor Scott – We have a motion on the floor. We really didn't have any discussion from anyone else on the Agenda tonight. The protocol is that we adopted the Agenda as stated.

Alderman Curtis – I have mixed feelings on this. I don't see how this would enhance the Fire Department. It worries me that this will divide the Fire Department, having two chiefs. We could call them a crew chief. I can't see in my own mind how this would benefit the fire department.

Alderman Jamison – For the last 42 years we've always had two Assistant Chiefs, and I was on the department for over thirty years, and I've been off for seven.

Alderman Abel – But were they both full-time positions?

Alderman Jamison – No, but we didn't have full-time people until about 12 years ago. We've continued to add. This would allow us to break the department up so we would have an Assistant Chief with each shift.

Motion was made by Abel, seconded by McRae to deny the request to create an Assistant Fire Chief position, and to instruct the Town Manager to move forward with research on hiring a new Fire Chief. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 1. Voting yes: Aldermen Abel, Curtis, Handley, and McRae. Voting no: Alderman Jamison.

Mayor Scott- Madam Manager this authorizes you to begin searching for a full-time Fire Chief. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Motion was made by McRae, seconded by Curtis to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Robert S. Scott, Mayor

Chad B. Simons, Town Clerk

