

December 6, 2021 meeting,

The Franklin Town Council held its monthly meeting on December 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Robert S. Scott opened the meeting. Vice Mayor Jack Horton, Council Members Joe Collins, David Culpepper, Mike Lewis, and Dinah Mashburn were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Dinah Mashburn.

Oaths of Office for Mayor and Town Council Members

David Culpepper was sworn in as Council Member by Mayor Scott. His family was present.

Stacy Guffey was sworn in as Council Member by Mayor Scott. His family was present.

Rita Salain was sworn in as Council Member by Mayor Scott. Her family was present.

Jack Horton was sworn in as Mayor by Mayor Scott. His wife was present.

There was a brief recess at 6:13 p.m. to allow Ms. Mashburn and Mr. Scott to leave their seats. The meeting was resumed at 6:17 p.m. with the newly sworn members taking their seats.

Appointment of Vice Mayor

Motion was made by Lewis, seconded by Culpepper to appoint Joe Collins as Vice Mayor. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Adoption of the December 6, 2021 Town Council Agenda

Motion was made by Lewis, seconded by Salain to adopt the Town Council Agenda for December 6, 2021. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Approval of the Consent Agenda for December 6, 2021

- A.) Approval of November 1, 2021 Town Council Minutes
- B.) Budget Amendments
- C.) Tax Bill Releases
- D.) Street Closure Request for Ruby Drop on New Year's Eve
- E.) Annual Allocation to Franklin Garden Club
- F.) ARPA Fund change from Capital Project Ordinance to Grant Project Ordinance
- G.) Agreement to replace damaged signal at intersection of Palmer and Porter Streets
- H.) Permission to apply for two grants for Police Department

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by Guffey to approve the Consent Agenda for December 6, 2021. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Public Hearings

There were none.

Presentation: Annual Audit Presentation by Martin Starnes

Kelly Gooderham presented the Town's annual audit. **Audit report is attached.**

December 6, 2021 meeting continued,

New Business: Reappointment of Town Attorney and Town Clerk

Motion was made by Culpepper, seconded by Collins to reappoint John Henning, Jr. as the Town Attorney. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0

Motion was made by Culpepper, seconded by Salain to reappoint Travis Tallent as the Town Clerk. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

New Business: Adoption of the 2022 Town Council Meeting Schedule

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by Guffey to adopt the 2022 Town Council Meeting Schedule. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

New Business: Adoption of the 2022 Town Holiday Schedule.

Motion was made by Culpepper, seconded by Guffey to adopt to the 2022 Town Holiday Schedule. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0. Memo is attached.

New Business: Resolution of the Town Council for the Town of Franklin Accepting and Appropriating State Project Grant Funds to Expand Town Water and Sewer Facilities

Town Attorney John Henning Jr. presented the resolution to accept and appropriate \$175,000 that was earmarked in the North Carolina budget for economic development in Franklin, specifically for the Tiller-Franklin project.

Town Attorney John Henning Jr. told the Town Council that this would leave Tiller responsible for the remain \$25,000 of the \$200,000 that the Town Council previously granted.

Council Member Culpepper said that he was concerned that if the loan is paid off too quickly that construction may not be to Town standards.

Town Attorney John Henning Jr. said that they were still contractually obligated to build to the Town's specifications.

Motion was made by Lewis, seconded by Culpepper to approve the resolution, accept, and appropriate the \$175,000 as earmarked for by the State of NC in relation to the Tiller-Franklin Project loan agreement. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Items from Council: Appointment of vacated Council seat

The Town Council said they would have a Special Called Meeting on December 13, 2021 at 4:30 a.m. to discuss qualified candidates for the seat vacated by Mayor Horton.

Council Member Culpepper encouraged the public to submit their qualifications if they may interested in filling the vacancy.

General Discussion

Vice Mayor Collins said that he thinks there are some good people on the council and that he thinks the board has a lot of potential.

December 6, 2021 meeting continued,

Council Member Culpepper congratulated the new Council Members. He said he would like to have a retreat in early 2022.

Mayor Horton suggested that the Council Members send the dates that they would not be available in January.

Council Member Salain said that she had a lot to learn but was willing to do the work to do so.

Council Member Lewis thank Finance Director Sarah Bishop for her work on the annual audit.

Council Member Guffey said that he though everybody on the Council has a heart for the town.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by Culpepper to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

C. Jack Horton, Mayor

Travis Tallent, Town Clerk