

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 2, 2022**

THE FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL held a regular meeting on Monday, May 2, 2022, at 6:00 pm. 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, Mike Lewis, Adam Kimsey and Rita Salain.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Jack Horton took the opportunity to introduce the new Human Resources Director Nicole Bradley and read a brief biography of her work history. He welcomed her on behalf of the Town Council.

3. PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Horton presented various proclamations to representatives attending.

- A.) Honoring and Celebrating Macon County Art Association's 60th Anniversary
- B.) National Police Week – Peace Officers' Memorial Day
- C.) National Public Works Week

4. ADOPTION OF THE MAY 2, 2022 TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA

Council Member Mike Lewis made a motion, seconded by Council Member Adam Kimsey to adopt the Town Council Agenda for May 2, 2022.

5. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR APRIL 4, 2022

- A.) Approval of April 4, 2022 Town Council regular meeting minutes
- B.) Approval of April 19, 2022 special called meeting minutes
- C.) Acceptance of SCIF grant with Southwestern Commission for paving of parking area at skatepark
- D.) Approval of Human Resources Director Nicole Bradley as signor on accounts

Mayor Horton requested to remove item C from the consent agenda and place it as its own discussion item immediately following approval of the consent agenda.

Council Member Rita Salain made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Joe Collins to approve the consent agenda items A, B and D as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Vote 6 – 0.

Item C – Acceptance of SCIF Grant with Southwestern Commission for paving of parking area as skatepark.

Town Manager Owens explained that this opportunity was for up to \$50,000 as a reimbursement grant through the State of North Carolina administered by Southwestern Commission and would be

used for paving of the parking area at the skatepark. This is another contribution that the Town is making toward the skatepark.

Council member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Stacy Guffey to approve the grant agreement and allow the Town Manager to sign. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6 – 0.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Justin Setser, Town Planner explained that the request was to consider a rezoning for property located at 20 Mary B Lane. The request was to rezone from Storage R-1 to Commercial C-2. The Planning Board voted unanimously at their March 21, 2022 meeting to recommend this rezoning.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:16 p.m.

No one addressed the Town Council.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:18 p.m.

Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Adam Kimsey to approve the rezoning of property located at 20 Mary B Lane from Storage R-1 to Commercial C-2. The motion carried unanimously. Vote 6-0.

7. CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Town Planner Setser made a request to call for Public Hearing to be held at the next regular Town Council meeting receive input on the initial zoning of property located at 3011 Georgia Road. This would be to provide an initial zoning designation for the recently voluntarily annexed property.

Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rita Salain to call for a public hearing to be held on Monday, June 6, 2022 at 6:05 p.m. or as closely thereafter to receive input on the initial zoning of property located at 3011 Georgia Road. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6 - 0.

8. PUBLIC SESSION

Rich Cassidy – 1126 Black Gap Road - spoke to the Longevity Pay item indicating that there were concerns related to the interpretation of the policy language.

Cory McCall – Outdoor 76 – commented that he appreciated the re-evaluated Pickin' on the Square and the consideration for other events to take place downtown during the summer. He indicated the he would consider staying open until 6 p.m. to see if the change in time helped his business.

Tim Shaw, representing Sk828, provided an update related to fundraising for the skate park including that the group was holding a fundraiser on May 13th at Lazy Hiker. That in April the Daybreak Rotary had pledged \$500, Highland Rotary had pledged \$2,500. The application has been sent in for the Tony Hawk grant.

9. OLD BUSINESS

A.) Personnel Policy Revision

Town Manager Amie Owens explained that the Ordinance Review Committee (ORC) had provided a change in the language for the longevity policy that clarified who would be eligible for prorated longevity. Lengthy discussion was held related to what this change in language would mean and what should occur when reviewing the claim from a retiree that they were owed additional funds due to the potential interpretations of the policy. Town Attorney John Henning, Jr. noted that the longevity policy has been consistently interpreted and fairly applied across administrations, the Town Council acknowledged that item F could be interpreted in different ways.

Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rita Salain to approve the amended language in the policy defining qualified employee as requested by the Ordinance Review Committee. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6 – 0.

In addition to this change, a proposed “look back” for three (3) years and offer those individuals who had enough service to qualify for longevity when they were employed with the Town a prorated payment was discussed. The payment would be calculated from July 1 until the separation date of each such employee who left employment with the Town during this period.

Council Member Mike Lewis made a motion, seconded by Council Member Stacy Guffey to offer individuals who had left the organization during the last three years the opportunity to request prorated longevity if they felt it was due them. Council Members Culpepper, Salain, Lewis and Guffey voted to approve with Council Members Collins and Kimsey voting to oppose. The motion carried with a vote of 4 – 2.

The Town Manager and Town Attorney will work on drafting information for those individuals and getting it sent out to them.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A.) Fire House Subs Grant

Fire Chief Ben Ormond explained that Franklin Fire and Rescue had been notified that they had been awarded grant funds in the amount of \$23,430 for the purchase of pagers and accessories. The request is to accept the grant funds. Fire House Subs requires authorization by the Town Council prior to moving forward with the Memorandum of Understanding and purchase of pagers.

Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rita Salain to accept the Fire House Subs Grant in the amount of \$23,430 for the purchase of pagers and accessories. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6 – 0.

B.) Appointment to ABC Board

Mayor Horton explained that there was a vacancy on the ABC Board that was created when Cissy Pattillo resigned from her position. This appointment would be through May 3, 2024. There were three (3) candidates – Dr. Bill Duffell, George “Rocky” Pattillo and Rhonda Tallent. Town Council members voted by signed ballot.

Rhonda Tallent received six (6) votes and will serve on the ABC Board for the term through May 3, 2024.

C.) Appointment to the Planning Board – ETJ Representative

Town Planner Justin Setser noted that there had been a vacancy on the Planning Board for an Extraterritorial Jurisdiction representative. Ms. Debbie Tallent applied for the position and lives in the ETJ. As an ETJ appointment, the Macon County Board of County Commissioners must confirm the appointment.

Council Member Rita Salain made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mike Lewis to appoint Debbie Tallent to a three-year term as an ETJ representative on the Planning Board pending approval by the Macon County Board of County Commissioners. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0.

D. UniFirst Uniform Contract

Town Manager Owens explained that the Town wants to utilize a new vendor for uniforms and rug service for Fiscal Year 2022/2023. The contract presented is a five (5) year contract and in order to make the transition from the current vendor to the new vendor and have uniforms ready for July 1, 2022, the agreement needs to be approved prior to ordering.

Vice Mayor Joe Collins made a motion, seconded by Council Member David Culpepper to approve the new five (5) year contract with UniFirst for uniform and rug services for execution by the Town Manager. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6 – 0.

E. Delivery of the proposed Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget and Call for Public Hearing

Town Manager Owens provided copies of the proposed Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget to all Council Members and the media who were present. A draft has been uploaded to the website and copy available if individuals wish to review at Town Hall. In addition, Manager Owens requested a call for public hearing for the budget at the next regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on June 6, 2022.

Council Member Mike Lewis made a motion, seconded by Council Member Adam Kimsey to call for a public hearing to be held at 6:10 p.m. or as closely thereafter as possible to consider public input on the proposed Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6 – 0.

11. ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

A.) Clock to be placed in Womack Roundabout

At the Council Retreat in January, beautification of the roundabouts was listed as a Council priority for the future. Research has been completed and information collected and preliminarily approved by NCDOT that would allow for a clock to be added to the Womack Roundabout if Town Council wished to move forward. Manager Owens has included the cost of the clock (\$30,000) in the proposed budget under Beautification. Manager Owens asked for direction related to the clock style and color in order to properly order the clock which has an approximate 10-month delivery schedule. ***Consensus was color green, style Howard Replica 15'.***

B.) Signage for downtown store owners related to location and hours of restrooms

It was noted that downtown store owners are not familiar with the location or hours of the public restrooms; the request is for signage to be developed to assist citizens and visitors with finding the restrooms. ***Consensus was that Council Member Rita Salain would work with Manager Owens to develop information to share with downtown merchants and visitors.***

Mayor Horton reminded the Town Council that there would be a special called meeting on Monday, May 9th for a budget work session at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room.

12. CLOSED SESSION

Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Adam Kimsey to enter into Closed Session under North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(5) - 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 – greenway adjacent property, and;

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 – Angel Medical Center. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6-0.

The Town Council entered Closed Session at 7:35 p.m.

The Town Council returned from Closed Session at 8:13 p.m.

Council Member David Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Council Member Guffey to proceed with an application to the Dogwood Trust for a grant for a feasibility study for the Angel Medical Center property for an at this time undisclosed project and to utilize \$100,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as the Town's portion of funds required match. The motion carried unanimously. Vote 6-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Stacy Guffey made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mike Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 6 to 0.

C. Jack Horton, Mayor

Amanda W. Owens, Town Manager
Acting Town Clerk