

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
May 9, 2022**

**THE FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL** held a special called meeting on Monday, May 9, 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 Stacy Guffey, Mike Lewis, Adam Kimsey and Rita Salain.

Council Member David Culpepper was absent.

**2. PUBLIC SESSION**

No one addressed the Town Council.

**3. PRESENTATION**

Abby Braswell, Macon County Tax Administrator, provided a presentation on the revaluation cycle that Macon County is entering. She explained the various tax implications related to the revaluation and indicated that there would most likely be an increase across the board for Franklin.

Mayor Horton thanked Ms. Braswell for her presentation and assistance in understanding the timing of the revaluation and its impact on the Town's ad valorem tax.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

FY 2022/2023 Revised Budget Overview

Town Manager Amie Owens presented an overview of the FY 2022/2023 proposed budget to include the following:

- Requested \$0.03 cent tax increase to go to \$0.35 cents per \$100 valuation
- Proposed \$1.55 cent increase in the fire district tax – Macon County Board of County Commissioners would have to approve
- Five (5) new positions – 2 in Water/Sewer and 3 in Fire Department
- Use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for sidewalk improvements
- Increases noted in health insurance, workers compensation and property and liability insurance
- Mandatory increases in employer paid retirement
- A contingency in the General Fund of \$20,000

Town Manager Owens added that the budget presented had been revised since the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and included cuts to departmental requests and increased use of ARPA funds to help offset the amount needed from general and water/sewer funds to balance the budget. She also provided information as to what various increases in half-cent increments less than 3 cents in the ad valorem tax rate would have on the budget and funds required to balance.

Lengthy discussion was held surrounding the proposed tax increase and potential Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

Town Manager Owens requested direction as to whether to include a tax increase of 3 cents or some other amount so that final touches can be completed for presentation of the budget in advance of the public hearing.

***Council Member Rita Salain made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mike Lewis to proceed with the proposed Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget with no increase to the tax rate.*** Discussion was held and Town Manager Owens had slides to illustrate the amount of funding required from the general and water and sewer fund balances required to balance the budget based on varying tax rates.

***Council Member Salain withdrew her motion related to no increase in tax rate.***

***Council Member Stacy Guffey made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Joe Collins to include the proposed three (3) cent tax increase when presenting the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget. The motion carried 3 – 2 with Council Members Joe Collins, Stacy Guffey and Adam Kimsey voting for the motion and Council Members Mike Lewis and Rita Salain voting against.***

Town Manager Owens reminded members that this is not the vote for the overall budget, but just to move forward with a budget to present for the public hearing. As the discussion regarding the COLA moved forward, Town Manager Owens made a suggestion that the Town Council not specifically include a COLA in the proposed budget, but allow her the latitude to revisit following the completion of the first quarter of the new fiscal year to see if one could be provided.

***The Town Council agreed by consensus that this plan of action would be considered related to COLA.***

## 5. CLOSED SESSION

***Council Member Stacy Guffey made a motion, seconded by Council Member Adam Kimsey to enter into closed session under North Carolina General Statute § 143-138.11(a)(5) to discuss acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange or lease – Angel Medical Center. The motion carried unanimously. Vote 5 – 0.***

The Town Council entered into closed session at 7:16 p.m.

The Town Council returned to open session at 8:23 p.m.

***Council Member Stacy Guffey made a motion, seconded by Council Member Adam Kimsey to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5 to 0.***

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C. Jack Horton, Mayor

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Amanda W. Owens, Town Manager  
Acting Town Clerk