

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
BUDGET WORK SESSION  
MAY 15, 2023**

**THE FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL** held a special called meeting on Monday, May 15, 2023, 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 Joe Collins, Council Members Stacy Guffey, David Culpepper and Rita Salain.

Council Members Adam Kimsey and Mike Lewis joined via zoom.

**2. BUDGET AMENDMENT**

A.) Request approval of budget amendment due to GASB 87 lease rule- Sarah Bishop, Finance Director  
Finance Director Sarah Bishop is still researching the need for the budget amendment. She is still working with the auditors and will bring budget amendment to June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, if needed.

**3. PRESENTATION**

A.) Classification and Compensation Study Recommendation- Jim Battigaglia, Director, The Archer Company

Jim Battigaglia, The Archer Company, presented an overview of who The Archer Company is and what their approach was in developing the new proposed pay plan for the Town of Franklin. Town Manager Owens noted that the proposed pay plan is the salary minimum and it does not include overtime, on-call pay or other benefits. Mr. Battigaglia noted they just focused on base salary.

Town Manager Owens noted that the amounts that Mr. Battigaglia mentioned getting everyone to the base salary minimum are the amounts that are included in the budget. The amount Town wide to get everyone to the minimum or individuals who have been in the position an extended amount of time is \$234,203. The police department pay plan we remain separate. Their plan was updated in September 2022 and is above market value, except for 3 positions.

Town Manager Owens also noted that the performance appraisal evaluation system was also a part of The Archer Company's study. This program will be job specific and supervisors will be able to rate employees on their specific job.

**4. BUDGET DISCUSSION**

A.) Final Budget Discussion for FY 2023-2024- Town Council and Staff

Town Manager Owens went over a few formula errors on the budget spreadsheet totals that Council Member Salain discovered. Council Member Guffey had proposed a question at the May 1 meeting. He wanted to know if the tax rate was left at \$0.35 how much revenue would that generate. Town Manager Owens stated that there would be an additional \$187,741 in tax revenues if the tax rate remained at \$0.35, with a 95% collection rate. She reminded Council that if the Town brought in the additional revenue it had to have an expenditure tied to it.

A lengthy discussion was held by Town Council Members, Town Manager Owens and Franklin Fire Chief Ben Ormond in regards to the purchase of new fire trucks. The cost for 2 (two) new fire trucks (a pumper

and a pumper/tanker) would be approximately \$1.5 million. Funds are needed for the down payment on the trucks. There is no fire tax rate increase proposal for the Macon County Commissioners to consider. Town Manager Owens requested direction on fire truck purchases. Mayor Horton and Council Member Culpepper would like to ask Macon County Commissioners to help fund the purchase of the fire trucks.

Town Manager Owens discussed leasing the Town owned property on East Main Street to No Wrong Door for their warming/cooling station. There is a \$10,000 allocation in the proposed budget specific to a warming/cooling station. Town Manager Owens asked Council if she needs to bring a lease for Councils approval. Council was in agreement moving forward with a lease that will be brought to the July 3, 2023 meeting.

Town Manager Owens asked if everyone was okay with the proposed budget and if there was anything that she needs to change or revamp.

Town Manager Owens thanked Council for carrying through on the salary survey.

#### 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A.) Law Enforcement Memorial Program- May 19, 2023 at Noon at the Gazebo
- B.) Next Town Council Meeting is Monday, June 5, 2023
- C.) Town Offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2023 in observation of the Memorial Day holiday in accordance with the NC State Holiday Schedule

#### 6. ADJOURN

***Council Member Rita Salain made a motion, seconded by Council Member David Culpepper to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 4 to 0.***

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C. Jack Horton, Mayor

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Nicole Bradley, Town Clerk