

### **November 1, 2021 meeting,**

The Franklin Town Council held its monthly meeting on November 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room. Mayor Robert S. Scott presided. Vice Mayor Jack Horton, Council Members Joe Collins, David Culpepper, Mike Lewis, and Dinah Mashburn were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Mayor Jack Horton.

### **Awards and Recognitions**

The Town of Franklin Water Plant was presented the 2021 AWOP award on behalf of the NC Department of Environmental Quality by Public Works Director Nathanael Moore. Water Plant ORC Bobby Clubb and Water Plant Operator and Cross-Connections ORC Kyle Pocquette were present.

### **Adoption of the November 1, 2021 Town Council Agenda**

**Motion was made by Lewis, seconded by Mashburn to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

### **Approval of the Consent Agenda for November 1, 2021**

- A.) Approval of October 4, 2021 Town Council Minutes
- B.) Budget Amendments
- C.) Tax Bill Releases
- D.) Resolution Declaring Surplus – PC and monitor
- E.) Policy Updates
  - 1. Personnel policies – Article III, Section 4 – Voluntary Retirement
  - 2. Operational policies – Street Light Requirements for New Developments and Upgrades.
  - 3. Operational policies – Street Acceptance Policy
- F.) Text Amendment Refer to Planning Board

**Motion was made by Collins, seconded by Lewis to approve the Consent Agenda for November 1, 2021. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

### **Public Hearing for Rezoning of 2.59 Acres on Georgia Road at 6:05 p.m.**

Town Planner Justin Setser presented this item. He said the request is to rezone the parcel owned by Shope Properties, LLC from C-2 to C-3.

No one from the public spoke.

**Mayor Scott declared the Public Hearing closed at 6:06 p.m.**

**Motion was made by Horton, seconded by Culpepper to approve the rezoning of 2.5 acres on Georgia Road from C-2 to C-3. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

### **Public Session**

Rhonda Tallent requested a 3-way stop where Tallent Street intersects Womack Street.

**November 1, 2021 meeting continued,**

**New Business: Update on Hospital Construction and Skatepark**

Anders Ike spoke on behalf of J.E. Dunn. He said the hospital construction is on schedule.

Ike also said that a nonprofit has been established to receive donations in order to construct the skatepark. He said J.E. Dunn is lining up trade partners in order to begin construction and that they are beginning to pursue donations.

**New Business: Request approval of Designer for Skatepark**

Town Manager Amie Owens said there had been two bids to design the skatepark. Pillar Design Studios submitted a bid that totaled \$14,995. American Ramp Company submitted a bid that totaled \$21,500. She made the recommendation of choosing Pillar Designs since the Town Council had originally pledged \$15,000 and allowing staff to find the funds from the existing budget.

Council Member Horton said that if the board was in agreement, then they could look to use money from the fund balance.

Council Member Collins suggested making a motion to include a fund balance allotment if necessary.

Town Attorney John Henning Jr. said that the contract would need to be adjusted to reflect North Carolina laws instead of Arizona laws.

**Motion was made by Culpepper, seconded by Lewis to allow the Town Manager to sign a contract subject to approval by the Town Attorney with Pillar Design Studio for \$14,995. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

**New Business: NC Department of Environmental Quality Award Discussion**

Nicole Hairston of NC Department of Environmental Quality discussed the 2021 AWOP award that the water plant received. She stressed the importance of the award and the work that the town employees put in to receive this award.

**New Business: Request appropriation of a portion of ARPA funds**

Town Manager Owens reviewed a memo with the Council that offered different options to show the Town's appreciation for employees with ARPA funds.

The first option was to do nothing.

The second option would match what Macon County did and equate to a total of \$930,000 spent of the \$1.3 million of the funds awarded to the town. This would give employees a \$2,000 bonus twice a year through 2024.

The third option would allow for a one-time bonus of \$1,000 for full-time employees and provide employees with 40 additional hours of vacation time. Part-time employees would receive a \$500 bonus. The total cost would be approximately \$73,000 from the \$1.3 million awarded.

Town Manager Owens recommended option 3.

**November 1, 2021 meeting continued,**

Council Member Horton said he thinks the manager has a reasonable approach and that he would support option 3. He said this would reward employees but also do what's right for the citizens.

**Motion was made by Horton, seconded by Culpepper to use option 3 to show employees the Town's appreciation. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0. Memo is attached.**

**Mayor Bob Scott and Council Member Dinah Mashburn were presented plaques of appreciation for their service to the Town of Franklin.**

**Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Horton, seconded by Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.**

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Robert S. Scott, Mayor

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Travis Tallent, Town Clerk