



Town of Franklin Council

Agenda

October 4, 2021

6:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order**- Mayor Bob Scott
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**- Vice-Mayor Jack Horton
3. **Awards and Recognitions**
 - A.) Oath of Office - Town Manager Amanda “Amie” Owens
4. **Adoption of the October 4, 2021 Town Council Agenda** - Town Council
5. **Approval of the Consent Agenda for October 4, 2021** - Town Council
 - A.) Approval of September 7, 2021 and September 13, 2021 Town Council Minutes
 - B.) Budget Amendments
 - C.) Tax Bill Release
 - D.) Street Closures for Christmas Parade
 - E.) Contract for ADA Transition Plan
 - F.) Set Public Hearing for Rezoning to be held on November 1
6. **Public Hearings**
 - A.) Public Hearing for Rezoning 4.5 acres on Siler Road
7. **Public Session**
8. **New Business**
 - A.) Update on Skate Park – Anders Ike, Project Engineer, J.E. Dunn
 - B.) Request approval of contract for Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) – Town Manager Amie Owens and Public Works Director Nathanael Moore
 - C.) Request for approval of Code Enforcement Official job description – Town Manager Amie Owens and Town Attorney John Henning
 - D.) Update - Homeless Issues from news story – Police Chief Bill Harrell
 - E.) Request for Memorial Bench on Main Street – Town Manager Amie Owens
9. **Closed Session**

Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel - To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee
10. **Announcements**
 - A.) Next Town Council Meeting is Monday November 1, 2021
 - B.) Pumpkinfest will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2021
11. **Adjourn**

October 4, 2021 meeting,

The Franklin Town Council held its monthly meeting on October 4, 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

Amie Owens was sworn in as Town Manager for the Town of Franklin by Mayor Scott. Her mother held the bible.

Austin Holland was sworn in as a Patrol Officer for the Franklin Police Department. His fiancé was present. Chief Bill Harrell held the bible.

Justin Setser was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for serving as Interim Town Manager.

Adoption of the October 4, 2021 Town Council Agenda

Town Manager Owens said that the Council needed to add "Send rezoning petition to the Planning Board" as item 5(G) on the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Collins said that the Town Council should add discussion of Trick or Treating on Bidwell Street to the Agenda under New Business as item (A).

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by Lewis to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Approval of the Consent Agenda for October 4, 2021

- A.) Approval of September 4, 2021 and September 13, 2021 Town Council Minutes
- B.) Budget Amendments
- C.) Tax Bill Releases
- D.) Street Closures for Christmas Parade
- E.) Contract for ADA Transition Plan
- F.) Set Public Hearing for Rezoning to be held on November 1, 2021.
- G.) Send Rezoning Request to the Town Planning Board

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by Mashburn to approve the Consent Agenda for October 4, 2021. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Public Hearing for Rezoning of 4.5 acres on Siler Road at 6:10 p.m.

Town Planner Justin Setser presented this item.

Mayor Scott declared the Public Hearing closed at 6:15 p.m.

Motion was made by Culpepper, seconded by Mashburn to approve the rezoning of 4.5 acres on Siler Road from R-1 to C-2. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

October 4, 2021 meeting continued,

Public Session

No one from the public spoke.

New Business: Discussion on Trick or Treating on Bidwell Street

Suzy Pippio told the Town Council that the residents of Bidwell Street intended to give out candy on October 31, 2021. She requested the road be closed from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by Horton to approve the road closure of Bidwell Street on October 31, 2021 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Vote: 5 to 0.

New Business: Update on Skate Park

Town Manager Owens told the Council that construction on the Skate Park would begin in February of 2022.

New Business: Request approval of contract for Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)

Town Manager Owens presented this item. She requested an appropriation of \$46,000 for the contract for Preliminary Engineering Report by WithersRavenel.

Motion was made by Lewis, seconded by Collins to make an appropriation of \$46,000 and approve the contract for Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0. Contract is attached.

New Business: Request for approval of Code Enforcement Official job description.

Town Manager Owens presented the job description for the Code Enforcement Official position.

Council Member Horton asked who the primary supervisor would be.

Chief Harrell told the Council that the position would be responsible to the Planning Department with some duties falling under the Chief of Police.

Council Member Collins said that the only Police Department involvement would be for ALE so about 5 to 10 percent would be directed by the Police Chief.

Town Attorney John Henning Jr. said that since it is proposed as a sworn position then that has to be sworn through the Police Department with some oversight by the Police Chief.

Council Member Collins asked if the position would ever cover shifts or work as a patrol officer if needed. He said he was okay with Code Enforcement.

Town Manager Owens said this would not be the case since the salary will be paid out of the Planning Department.

Council Member Culpepper said that he wants the position to tread lightly. He said he does not want to make it a crime to be poor. He said there may be a time where ordinances need to be revisited.

Council Member Lewis said that the Council needs to look at incentives for compliance.

October 4, 2021 meeting continued,

Council Member Culpepper said at some point it will be about semantics. He said what one person sees as junk or trash may be different for the homeowner.

Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Horton to approve the job description for a Code Enforcement Official as presented. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0. The job description is attached.

New Business: Update – Homeless Issues from news story

Police Captain Devin Holland updated the Town Council on homeless issues. He said that one issue the department has run into with homeless activity under the bridges is that vagrants are being charged but DOT representatives do not attend court so charges are often dropped. He said that makes it hard to remedy the problem.

Council Member Mashburn said she appreciates the effort but that there is nowhere for these people to go.

Mayor Scott said that often people prefer that type of lifestyle.

Council Member Mashburn said there are different classes of homelessness.

Council Member Culpepper said often they do not have the knowledge or tools to get out from where they are. He said there's often drug and mental health issues resulting in them being homeless.

Chief Harrell said that a large majority of the homeless are not local. He said they were not welcome where they were before so they ended up in Franklin.

Council Member Collins said it is a policy issue. He asked the Chief if he was saying they can either be pushed to the next location or they can be helped while they are here.

Council Member Culpepper said it sounds like they are ending up in Franklin because the community members are nice.

Chief Harrell said the police has to take enforcement actions and be more proactive with actions that are illegal.

Mayor Scott said this is not a problem unique to Franklin. He said the state needs to look at it as there are towns across NC experiencing the same thing.

Vice-Mayor Horton said the Town needs to revisit the discussion about a task force for looking at homelessness in Franklin.

New Business: Request for Memorial Bench on Main Street

Town Manager Owens said that HR Director Travis Tallent had brought the item to her attention.

HR Director Tallent said that upon discussions with Finance Director Sarah Bishop, the two had agreed that a memorial bench on Main Street may be a good idea to honor Main Street merchants Gwen Taylor and Larry Hollifield who recently passed away.

October 4, 2021 meeting continued,

Mr. Tallent said that Taylor had previously served as president of the Streets of Franklin Heritage Association and had often been a proponent for activities happening on and around Main Street. He said Hollifield served 10 years on the Town Planning Board and also served as a board member on the Franklin Main Street Program. Mr. Tallent said this may be a good way for the Town Council to show their appreciation for the two of them.

Council Member Collins said it was a good idea but that the plaque should include space to memorialize others who may positively impact Main Street in the future.

Motion was made by Mashburn, seconded by Culpepper to allow Town staff to move forward with a memorial bench on Main Street to commemorate Gwen Taylor and Larry Hollifield, leaving space for future additions. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Legal: Closed Session Pursuant to G.S. 143-319.11(a)(6) – Personnel - To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee

Motion was made by Collins, seconded by Mashburn to enter into Closed Session Pursuant to G.S. 143-319.11(a)(6) at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Motion was made by Horton, seconded by Lewis to return from closed session at 7:25 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 5 to 0.

Adjournment

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

Robert S. Scott, Mayor

Travis Tallent, Town Clerk