

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 2, 2015

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor via Skype video conference
Samuel Lyons
James Marshall
Ryan Rudegeair
Garnet Wood

Members Excused: Jennifer Morris

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, Acting City Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary
Robert Bowen, Commission to Remember Our Heroes
Albert Abramovic, 415 Twelfth Street
Russ Campbell, 1235 Chestnut Street
Herb Bigley, Mens Softball Association
Cory Masterson, 1050 Liberty Street
Sheila Boughner, Venango Newspapers, Inc.

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Resolution No. 34

Mr. Marshall moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Resolution No. 35

_____ Resolution No. - Mr. Lyons moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 2, 2015, as presented. Mr. Wood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS - Resolution No. 36

Mr. Wood moved to pay the bills as presented. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES

Mr. Campbell was in attendance to complain about the lack of on-street parking for residents in the 1200 block of Chestnut Street, made worse by all the snow. He stated that people visiting the two high rises take up all the parking spaces in that block. He requested Council consider placing "Parking for Residents Only" signs in this area. Mr. Masterson, who owns a 6-apartment residence on the corner of 12th & Chestnut Streets, advised that he would be willing to cut down several rotted trees on his property that abuts 12th Street and put off-

street parking there for his residents, which may also help with the parking problem. He noted, however, that City regulations would not allow it. Mayor Baker thanked them for their comments.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Resolution No. 37 - Mrs. Fletcher moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the deck request at 1234 Liberty Street (Bella Cucina), as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 38 - Mrs. Fletcher moved and Mr. Wood seconded a motion to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the sign request at 1243 Liberty Street, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 39 - Mr. Marshall moved to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the request from 1050 Liberty Street (Safelite Auto Glass) for two additions to the structure and the colors, as presented. Mr. Rudegair noted, since Mr. Masterson had to return to the HARB Board to get approval for the sign request, he would prefer he also get a recommendation on the colors, too. Mr. Marshall agreed and rescinded his motion. Mr. Rudegair then moved and Mr. Wood seconded a motion to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the expansion, only, as presented, and to disapprove the colors. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSION TO REMEMBER OUR HEROES UPDATE - Resolution No. 40

Mr. Bowen, Chairman of the Commission to Remember Our Heroes (CROH), was in attendance to update the Council on the time table for dedicating the newly renovated Logue Memorial Fountain in West Park and to discuss a new project being proposed to honor fallen Venango County emergency personnel in South Park near the Vietnam Memorial. He advised the members that he has already spoken with Mr. Ruditis, Street Department Supervisor, who approved the location of its placement. Mayor Baker then moved and Mr. Marshall seconded a motion to permit CROH to proceed with the new project with their thanks. Motion passed unanimously.

BALL LEAGUE AGREEMENTS - Resolution No. 41

Mayor Baker asked for a report from the groups using the Miller-Sibley ballfields. Mr. Bigley advised the Men's Softball field is in need of improvements, such as lighting, fencing and bleachers. He noted that the Franklin YMCA has agreed to apply for grant funding to help the league make improvements to the softball field. Mr. Lyons then moved and Mayor Baker seconded a motion to approve both the Franklin Area Men's Softball League and Franklin Little League Association Agreements for another year. Motion passed unanimously.

FINAL READING - BILL NO. 1 - VACATING AND DISCONTINUING PORTION OF WEST PARK STREET - Resolution No. 42

Mr. Spaid read the title of Bill No. 1, "Vacating and Discontinuing Portion of West Park Street," into the record. Mr. Marshall moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to pass on Final Reading, Bill No. 1, "Vacating and Discontinuing Portion of West Park Street." Motion passed 5-0, with Mr. Rudegeair abstaining from the vote, due to a possible financial conflict of interest.

FINAL READING - BILL NO. 2 - ANIMALS IN PARKS - Resolution No. 43

Mr. Spaid read the title of Bill No. 2, "Animals in Parks," into the record. Mr. Marshall moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to pass on Final Reading, Bill No. 2, "Animals in Parks." Motion passed unanimously.

FIRST READING - BILL NO. 3 - PARKING METER ORDINANCE - Resolution No. 44

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 3, "Parking Meter Ordinance," in its entirety. After an ensuing discussion, Mr. Marshall moved to delay action on this item until further information is received from various outside sources. Mayor Baker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ARLE GRANT ACCEPTANCE RESOLUTION - Resolution No. 45

Mrs. Jamieson reminded the Council that at the January meeting she advised the members that the City had been awarded an Automated Red Light Enforcement Grant (ARLE) through PennDOT in the amount of \$16,500, with Council voting to appropriate \$2,000 from City funds for a match. The City has now received the grant agreement for the ARLE Grant and PennDOT now requires a resolution authorizing the execution and attestation of the agreement. Mr. Marshall moved and Mr. Wood seconded a motion to authorize said resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

DCNR GRANT - BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION MASTER PLAN - Resolution No. 46

Mrs. Jamieson advised the Council that the City has been approved for a Community Partnerships Program Planning Grant through the PA Dept. Of Conservation and Natural Resources to carry-out the development of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Connection Master Plan for Franklin. The grant is in the amount of \$20,000 and must be matched with an additional \$20,000. She reminded the Council that the source of the match would be the Downtown Development Fund.

She advised the project will consist of sending out Request for Proposals to planning consultants that are well-versed in all types of transportation modes, but especially in biking & pedestrian connections, within the City's current framework of streets and sidewalks. The Plan will propose enhanced signage, routes, and amenities to attract bike trail users to the Downtown. It will also recommend projects that will improve the safety and functional layout of the infrastructure that connects our citizens and visitors to important cultural, social and

educational facilities within the community. The State requires the City to engage in a public participation process as part of this project to gain broad public support for the plan, as well as to give those in the community a voice.

This project was considered a priority in obtaining and retaining the City's certification as a Bicycle-Friendly Community. She also reminded the Council that Franklin was recently named as a Trail Town by The Progress Fund's Trail Town Program in Western PA.

Mrs. Jamieson hopes that this plan will aid the City in applying for funds that will address the projects that are identified, through the study process, as important to the community; therefore, she is requesting permission to proceed. Mayor Baker then moved to grant permission to proceed. Mr. Rudegear seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PARADE & PARK REQUESTS - Resolution No. 47

Mr. Abramovic was in attendance to advise the Council of a new event he and others were planning for the City of Franklin, the "Franklin Blues & BBQ." It is his hope that this will become an annual event with any monies generated benefitting the high school music departments. The Council thanked Mr. Abramovic and wished him the best of luck. Mr. Marshall then moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to approve the following requests for 2015:

- March 28 • Easter Egg Hunt • Fountain Park • City of Franklin
- April 3 • Cross Walk • 9th & Liberty to the Commons @ Franklin to 1135 Buffalo • Ecumenical Ministerium
- April 26 • Walk a Mile in Her Shoes • 1100 block of Elk to Washington Crossing to Liberty to 13th to Elk Streets • PPC Violence Free Network
- May 25 • Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony • 13th & Chestnut to Liberty & South Park Streets • Venango County Veterans Coalition
- Thursdays (May 28-August 27) • Thursday Night Concerts-in-the-Park Series • Bandstand Park • City of Franklin & Franklin Fine Arts Council
- June 13 • Franklin Blues & BBQ • Bandstand Park • Albert Abramovic
- Wednesdays (June 24-July 22) • Taste of Talent Vocal Competition • Bandstand Park • City of Franklin & Franklin Fine Arts Council
- June 24-July 4 • 4th of July Week Festivities • Various downtown locations • City of Franklin & Franklin Fine Arts Council
- June 27 • LibertyFest Parade • Liberty Street & various side streets • City of Franklin
- August 1-2 • Taste of Franklin • Bandstand & Fountain Parks • City of Franklin & Franklin Fine Arts Council
- August 22 • Rock in River Fest & PA Stone Skipping Competition • City of Franklin & Franklin Fine Arts Council

Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Manager

- Requested a meeting between City Council and General Authority members to begin cooperatively discussing an updated list of projects that need to be planned for within the sewage system. Mrs. Jamieson plans to attend the next General Authority meeting to request a joint meeting for possibly the week of March 23. She will then advise the members of the date & time.
- Resolution No. 48 - Requested the Council approve the new updated Penn Prime Trust and Penn Prime Workers Compensation Trust agreements. Mayor Baker so moved. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Resolution No. 49 - Advised Council that the Street Department is now down two vehicles with the latest one, a ¾-ton pickup truck, no longer in service. She noted that Mr. Ruditis, Street Department Supervisor, had requested to purchase a new 3/4-ton pickup truck w/plow at a cost, under the COSTARS Program, of \$35,126.12. Funding would come from the Liquid Fuels account. Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Wood seconded a motion to purchase a new vehicle for the Street Department under the COSTARS Program, with funding to come from the Liquid Fuels account. Motion passed unanimously.
- Reported that the City's request for proposals to engineer the Myrtle Street Infrastructure Improvement Project is receiving a lot of interest from area engineers.
- Advised that, once the snow melts off the Miller-Sibley Pool Bathhouse, the process will begin to replace its roof.
- Will need an executive session to discuss personnel, negotiations and litigation.

Solicitor

- Resolution No. 50 - Requested a Special Council Meeting be held on Monday, March 9, at 5 PM, for the purpose of voting on the City Manager contract and any other business that properly comes before the Council. Mr. Lyons so moved. Mr. Wood seconded a motion, which passed unanimously.
- Would need an executive session for personnel, litigation and negotiations.

Mayor • Appointments - none.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Announced the Pennsylvania Municipal League Northwest District would be held in Oil City this year on April 8. Any member wishing to attend should contact him.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Wood

- Advised that the Fire Department had been out cleaning around the fire hydrants.

- Asked if there were any grants the City could apply to for help with the upcoming sewer projects. Mr. Campbell suggested the City contact the USDA Grants for sewer & water. Mayor Baker will investigate this option.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 51

Mayor Baker moved to enter into executive session at 8:35 PM to discuss personnel, litigation and negotiations. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The executive session ended at 9:34 PM.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS - none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary