

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 5, 2018

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
Michael Dulaney
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor
James Johnson
Samuel Lyons
James Marshall
Fred Mays

Members Excused: None.

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
James Wetzel, Deputy City Manager
Charles Gibbons, Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer
Harmony Motter, Finance Director
Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary
R.M. Jardin, Benjamin's Roadhouse
Deb Eckelberger, FICDA Executive Director
Herb Bigley, Men's Softball League
Jaimi Hajzas, 410 - 15th Street
James Schall, 862 Baker Road
Brian Barnett, 380 McCleery Road
Matt Beith, HARB member
Chris Rossiti, Explore Venango
Marissa Dechant, Venango Newspapers, Inc.

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Resolution No. 18

Mrs. Fletcher moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Mr. Dulaney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Resolution No. 19

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 5, 2018, as presented. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS - Resolution No. 20

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

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES

Mrs. Hajzas, explaining that her husband was legally blind, questioned whether the City planned to replace the crosswalk pole mid-block in the 1200 block of Liberty Street. She was informed this matter would be discussed later in the meeting.

REQUEST PERMISSION TO ERECT STATUE AT RIVERFRONT PARK - Resolution No. 21

Mr. Brian Barnett, High Judge of the Stone Skipping Tournament, requested permission to have a life-size statue of Russ Byars, who passed away last October at the age of 54, and who set the Guinness World Record with 51 skips in 2007, erected in Riverfront Park on the knoll area that overlooks the river. After giving a brief history of Mr. Byars and the City's Rock in River Fest, he explained he is presently in the fund raising stage but hopes to have the unveiling in August 2019. He presented a sketch of the proposed statue, explaining that stone throwing rocks would form the base and be used as part of a fund raiser with donations of \$1,000 having the sponsors names engraved on one of the rocks. The money will be funneled through the City's Franklin Fine Arts Council. Mayor Baker moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to permit a statue of Russ Byars be erected, in consultation with City Staff personnel, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - Resolution No. 22

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a roof over the existing flat roofs of the refrigeration units and prep room at 1211 Liberty Street, as presented; to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to raze a current structure and construct a new structure at 414 Twelfth Street, as presented; and to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the front entry door at 1315 Buffalo Street, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

BALL LEAGUE AGREEMENTS - Resolution No. 23

Mr. Bigley reported that they are presently preparing the field for the installation of 500' of fencing, post and top rails, around the outfield. He advised that Eric Ewing, owner of Double E Landscaping & Fencing Company in Franklin, has donated all his equipment and the league will provide the labor. He noted a new scoreboard has been installed, however, they are currently looking for someone who can draw an engineering design for the steps with a railing that had been given the City's blessing at a previous meeting. City staff will help locate that design service for Mr. Bigley to contact. Mr. Bigley advised that they would also like to replace the lights, bleachers and a shed in the future. Mr. Lyons then moved and Mr. Dulaney 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.

PARADE & PARK REQUESTS - Resolution No. 24

Mayor Baker moved and Mr. Dulaney seconded a motion to approve the following requests:

- March 14, 2018 • Courthouse Steps (with County approval) • Oil Region Rising • Stoneman Douglas Memorial Demonstration
- March 24, 2018 • Bandstand Park • City of Franklin • Easter Egg Hunt
- March 30, 2018 • Downtown Sidewalks • Franklin Ministerium • Good Friday Cross Walk
- April 1, 2018 • Riverfront Park • Franklin Alliance Church • Easter Sunrise Service
- April 29, 2018 • Fountain Park & Downtown Sidewalks • PPC Violence-Free Network • Walk a Mile in Her Shoes
- May 5-6, 2018 • Fountain Park • Gardeners Association • May Garden Mart
- May 11, 2018 • Bandstand Park • Venango County Community Support Program/ Suicide Prevention Task Force • Suicide Prevention Rally
- July 27, 2018 • Bandstand Park • County of Venango • Employee Picnic
- September 8, 2018 • Bandstand Park • Precious Paws • Pet Fest

Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Manager

- **Resolution No. 25** - Advised Council that the City had been notified of an impending ARLE Grant, in the amount of \$78,237, to assist with the replacement of the two traffic mast arms and signal controller for the mid-block crossing in the downtown. After discussing traffic engineering services with the EADS Group, Mrs. Jamieson requested approval to enter into an agreement with them, in an amount not to exceed \$11,500, for engineering services. Mrs. Fletcher so moved. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Informed the Council that Dr. Cenedella had gifted the City of Franklin \$25,000 to use with no stipulations. However, in discovering his late wife, Marie, had been instrumental in starting the Franklin Historic District, Mrs. Jamieson asked Council to consider using the funds towards a matching facade improvement grant program. She explained since the funds are private, there would be no federal strings attached to it. Although she is still working on the mechanics, she is considering a grant of \$5,000 with a \$5,000 match, with up to \$1,000 permitted to assist with architectural drawings. Council agreed with this decision.
- **Resolution No. 26** - Reported that National Fuel Gas is planning to replace its gas main on 15th Street, from Chestnut to New Streets, and had requested the City sign a right-of-way agreement across two properties owned by the City, specifically 615 and 607 - 15th Street, which were demolished through the CDBG Program. Mr. Marshall moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to grant permission for the City Manager to sign the right-of-way agreement with National Fuel Gas. Motion passed unanimously.
- Reported the Crawford Area Transportation Authority (CATA) officials, who absorbed the VenanGO bus transit, had approached the City wanting to upgrade the existing

gazebo bus shelter that currently sits on Franklin Housing Authority property in the 1200 block of Buffalo Street. She explained the gazebo is declining, but since the location has worked out well, CATA would like to prepare a Multimodal grant application to address replacement of the gazebo. The City asked if making handicapped accessible improvements to better connect the bus stop to the Downtown could be included in the grant application. She explained, this could be done through improvements of the alleyway that runs between Buffalo and Liberty Streets. The alley is deteriorating and consideration would need to be given to make it a pedestrian-safe alley, closed to traffic, except for the few tenants that must utilize half of it. CATA is in the midst of developing a project design. Once that is approved, they would ask the City to submit the Multimodal grant, since they are not an eligible applicant. The Housing Authority fully supports this, which would also further the goals in the City's Bike Ped Connection Plan. Members of Council gave permission for Mrs. Jamieson to move forward with this project. She advised she would also be discussing this matter with City staff for their suggestions on how best to implement this plan.

- Reported that the Venango County Land Bank had given approval for two of the four properties that the City of Franklin submitted to use their PHARE grant funds for demolition. Those properties are 529½ Third Street and 623 Hillside Avenue. Bids are being requested next week and will be accepted until March 29 by the County. The City extended its thanks to the Venango County Land Bank.
- Reported that the City's street sweeper is only partially working, which will make it necessary to rent one for six weeks at a cost of \$11,500 for this year's Spring clean-up. Explaining that the sweeper is used throughout the year for parades and after storms, Mrs. Jamieson reported that Mr. Ruditis, Street Department Supervisor, had obtained the following purchase possibilities: a street sweeper used for demonstration purposes only is available for \$175,000 (less \$11,500 to rent a sweeper plus trade-in value), or a 2012 model with 39,000 miles for \$135,000. She explained that a new sweeper would cost upwards of \$250,000. When asked, she advised there is only \$9,000 left in the Liquid Fuels Account for equipment purchase since purchasing the new dump truck for the Street Department. She indicated she would present a plan to Council for this in an upcoming meeting.
- Advised the Council that several City staff would be out of the office next week attending Labor Law training.
- Expressed her gratitude and appreciation to the front office staff, all City departments, the General Authority and City Council for all their help and to the public, who weathered this situation, with grace and understanding during the water-related emergency last month. She reported that the City is resolved to do whatever it needs to improve operations, in part, by setting up rigorous maintenance and inspection routines where, hopefully, a quicker determination can be made should equipment malfunction in the future.

Solicitor - No report.

Mayor • Appointments - none.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Baker

- Also thanked City staff for their efforts during the water-related emergency.

Mr. Johnson

- Thanked the Franklin YMCA for its offer of free showers to those individuals affected by the water-related emergency.
- Announced the Franklin YMCA would be holding an adult prom on March 23 at The Franklin, which will be open to the public.

Mr. Dulaney

- Echoed his thanks to the City and the Franklin YMCA.

Mr. Marshall

- Ascertained that the Oil Region Alliance (ORA) plans to open a visitors center in Franklin.

Mrs. Fletcher

- Hopes the store front, previously occupied by Mandy's, would be filled soon. Mr. Marshall noted that a tenant will also be needed for the Sportsworld site.

Mr. Lyons

- Also thanked the Franklin YMCA for their generosity during the water emergency.

Mr. Mays

- No report.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS - none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary