

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
April 1, 2019

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

Members Excused: Samuel Lyons  
James Marshall

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager  
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor  
James Wetzel, Deputy City Manager  
Charles Gibbons, Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer  
Deb Eckelberger, Franklin Development Director  
Sheila Boughner, Community Development Coordinator  
Harmony Motter, Finance Director  
Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary  
Mary M Hagadone, 630 - 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kyle Conn, 304 'illegible' Street, Grove City 16127  
Vicki Conn, 630 - 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sheila Wiley, 633 Hillside Avenue  
Doug Volmrich, Franklin Blues & Barbecue  
Ryan Rudegear, 1244 Buffalo Street  
Andrew & Ashley Stallard and Family, 629 - 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Nina Tasker, 1005 Elm Street  
Tim Dunkle, Franklin General Authority Chairman  
Chris Rossetti, Explore Venango  
Sarah Titley, Venango Newspapers, Inc.

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Resolution No. 32**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Resolution No. 33**

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the minutes of both the public hearing and regular meeting of March 4, 2019, as presented. Mr. Dulaney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**PAY THE BILLS - Resolution No. 34**

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

**CITIZENS' INQUIRIES**

Numerous homeowners from the 600 block of Tenth Street and surrounding homes attended the meeting to complain about the condition of the property located at 1003 Elm Street. Mayor Baker assured them that the City was looking into the matter.

**GENERAL AUTHORITY REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

Tim Dunkle, Chairman of the General Authority, was in attendance to update the Council with the Authority's current and projected projects. He reported that one of the major projects to be entered into this year would be a Corrective Action Plan for the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) located at 864 - 15<sup>th</sup> Street. He reported that the Authority had received a violation notice in 2015. Since that time, a study was conducted and a Corrective Action Plan was developed, reviewed, and approved on March 12, 2019 by the Authority. The plan calls for total replacement of all public sewer lines in the watershed of CSO-864, at an estimated cost of \$3,937,500. Funding will be sought from PENNVEST grants, loans, or a combination; however, City residents should expect a rise in sewer rates. Also, due to DEP regulations, it may necessitate all residences in that watershed, that have roof gutters feeding into the sanitary sewers, be removed, and leaking sewer laterals be replaced.

**CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS**

**Resolution No. 35** - Mrs. Fletcher moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to deny a Certificate of Appropriateness for electronic signs at 1327 Liberty Street & 1046 Liberty Street, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR DCNR GRANT - MILLER-SIBLEY IMPROVEMENTS**

Ms. Boughner reported the City is applying for a grant from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for improvements to Miller-Sibley Recreational Complex.

Phase 1 calls for the demolition of the two existing basketball courts and five tennis courts and the construction of two basketball courts and one tennis court (also striped for pickleball) surrounded by new fencing. The project also includes repaving and expansion of a nearby parking lot and the conversion of a roadway along the westerly side of the courts into an accessible asphalt path connecting the parking area to the courts and points beyond for safety. Additional site lighting and security cameras are also included. The total cost for Phase 1 is estimated at \$520,000, with half required as the local match for the grant. The City will seek other funding from local foundations to assist with the matching amount of \$260,030.

Phase II will include grading and re-seeding of the grassy field to the east of the courts to provide for multiple uses, including youth soccer; the conversion of the roadway directly behind the ballfields into an accessible asphalt path; additional parking upgrades; and new bleachers. The cost for Phase II is estimated at \$325,753.

She explained that the proposed projects are the direct outgrowth of a Master Site Plan prepared by Amos E. Rudolph Architecture, LLC. In addition, the Franklin Little League and Men's Softball League are planning ADA upgrades to the concession stand restrooms, new fencing at the softball field, a new playground area, a possible wiffleball field, and improvements to the T-ball/practice fields.

**Resolution No. 36** - Mr. Johnson then moved and Mrs. Fletcher seconded a motion to grant permission to apply for a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Grant for the purpose of carrying out the undertaking of Miller-Sibley Improvements, and to permit appropriate personnel to sign any and all documents for the City of Franklin. Motion passed unanimously.

**FIRST READING - BILL NO. 3 - TRAFFIC CODE - SASSAFRAS STREET - Resolution No. 37**

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 3, "Traffic Code - Sassafras Street," into the record, in its entirety. Mrs. Jamieson explained this would enable residents in the 1100 block of Sassafras Street to park their vehicles on the north side of the street, thereby eliminating the need to execute a 3-point turn in order to park legally. Mayor Baker moved and Mr. Mays seconded a motion to approve on First Reading, Bill No. 3, "Traffic Code - Sassafras Street." Motion passed unanimously.

**CITY WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT CONTRACT - Resolution No. 38**

Mrs. Motter reported that, due to numerous issues with the City's current website and host, a committee was formed to begin the search for a new designer and host. Two proposals were received: one from CivicPlus (\$27,750/3-year agreement) and GovOffice (\$15,400/3-year agreement). It was the committee's recommendation that the Council approve the agreement from GovOffice at an annual cost for year one at \$9,240 and \$3,080 for years two and three, for a total of \$15,400. Since this item was not budgeted for 2018, \$7,803 will be allocated from the City Hall Maintenance Agreement Account 01-409-4301, and \$1,436 from the Finance Department Capital Account 01-402-7403. The annual fee will then be budgeted for in subsequent years. Mayor Baker moved and Mrs. Fletcher seconded a motion to enter into a 3-year agreement with GovOffice as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**PARADE & PARK REQUESTS - Resolution No. 39**

Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Fletcher seconded a motion to approve the following requests:

- May 27, 2019 • Downtown Streets & Bandstand Park • **Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony** • VFW Post 1835
- June 7 & 21; July 12 & 26; August 9 & 23, 2019 • Bandstand Park • **Movies in the Park** • City of Franklin/Franklin Fine Arts Council
- June 14, 2019 • Bandstand Park • **Flag Day Ceremony** • Franklin Elks Lodge #110
- June 14-16, 2019 • Bandstand Park, Fountain Park & 12<sup>th</sup> Street Island • **Blues & Barbeque Festival** • Doug Volmrich
- September 20, 2019 • Bandstand Park • **Annual Celebrate Recovery** • Venango County Celebrate Recovery Committee

Motion passed unanimously.

## REPORTS

### Manager

- Disclosed that Franklin City Council and the Franklin General Authority had met in executive session on March 7, 2019 to discuss negotiations.
- **Resolution No. 40** - Reported that the Oil Region Library Association is interested in requesting State funding to carry out some capital improvements to the Franklin Public Library, such as roof replacement, foundation repair, bathroom renovations, etc. In order to do so, there are two resolutions required from City Council since the City owns the property. First is a resolution authorizing the Library Association to apply for the funds and naming Tracy Jamieson as the person authorized to provide anything needed further. The second resolution states that the library will remain a library for the next 50 years, or for the useful life of the project. Mr. Dulaney so moved. Mrs. Fletcher seconded a motion authorizing the resolutions, which passed unanimously.
- Reported she would have the list of recommended streets for paving with Liquid Fuels Funds at the May meeting.
- Advised Council members interested in attending the PA Municipal League's NW District Meeting on April 10, in St. Mary's, to contact Mary Ann. There is a 3 PM tour scheduled at the New Straub Brewery's Visitor Center, with the meeting starting at 5 PM.
- Reported S.P.I.F.I.Y. [Show Pride In Franklin Its Yours] Day is May 1, with a rain date of May 8. She suggested all residential areas and neighborhoods join in to clean up the town.
- Would need an executive session to discuss negotiations and litigation.

### Solicitor

- Would need an executive session to discuss negotiations, litigation, and personnel.

**Mayor • Appointments**

- **Resolution No. 41** - Informed the Council that Jim Marshall is resigning from City Council, effective April 30, 2019. Mayor Baker moved and Mr. Mays seconded a motion to accept Mr. Marshall's resignation. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 42** - Mr. Dulaney moved to accept letters of interest from applicants, interested in filling Mr. Marshall's term, until May 15 in the City Manager's Office. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 43** - Mayor Baker moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to remove Sharon Thornton from C.R.O.H. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 44** - Mayor Baker moved to appoint Adrian Kuzma to C.R.O.H. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 45** - Mayor Baker moved to reappoint Michael Swatzler to the Shade Tree Commission. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Mayor Baker** - none.

**Mr. Johnson**

- Passed out copies of the new Oil Region Alliance brochures.

**Mr. Dulaney** - none.

**Mrs. Fletcher**

- In reference to the ordinance that was recently passed prohibiting the placement of anything between the sidewalk and the curb that could endanger the health or safety of the public, she asked when the ordinance would be enforced. Mr. Gibbons advised that complainants should contact him directly with complete details so he can investigate.

**Mr. Mays** - none.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 46**

Mayor Baker moved to enter into executive session at 8:21 PM to discuss personnel, litigation and negotiations. Mr. Mays seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The executive session ended at 9:27 PM.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Resolution No. 47** - Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Mays seconded a motion to approve and authorize entering into the DEP Consent Order and Agreement, along with the Franklin General Authority. Motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution No. 48** - Mr. Dulaney moved and Mr. Mays seconded a motion to assume ownership of the condemned properties as follows: 207 Liberty Street, 313 Erie Street, 317 Erie Street, and 319 Erie Street, if satisfactory terms can be arranged with the County. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary