

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
April 3, 2017

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
Jane Dlugos
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor
James Johnson
Samuel Lyons
James Marshall
Ryan Rudegear

Members Excused: None.

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary
Jerry Woods, 799 Belmar Road (PA Gun Owners Assn)
Bob Ream, 3583 Old Rt 8, Polk (PA Gun Owners Assn)
Marissa Dechant, Venango Newspapers, Inc.

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Resolution No. 41

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Resolution No. 42

Mr. Lyons moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 6, 2017, as presented. Mrs. Dlugos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS - Resolution No. 43

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

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES - none.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - none.

BID AWARD - GURNEY HILL TIMBER SALE - Resolution No. 44

Mrs. Jamieson reported that eight (8) bids had been received for the offer of timber. After speaking with the owners of Arnold Forestry & Surveying, LLC, who have worked with the high bidder in the past with good results, it would be her recommendation to accept the high bid, in the amount of \$55,587, from Matson Lumber Co., Brookville, PA. Mr. Rudegear so moved. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. It was ascertained that the company has until April 2018 to complete the project.

CDBG PROGRAM UPDATE

Reporting that President Trump's proposed budget, if passed, would eliminate the Community Development Block Grant program altogether, Ms. Boughner passed out copies depicting exactly how the City of Franklin has used those monies in the past. Counting the projects included in its 2016 CDBG application, the City has received more than \$11.2 million on streets, parks and recreation, fire equipment/public safety, downtown improvements and more since 1985. She highlighted that more than \$2.37 million has been spent on street improvements; \$860,563.86 for parks and recreation projects; over \$1.3 million for fire equipment and public safety; \$273,000 on blight removal and nearly \$150,000 on architectural barrier removal projects, such as curb cuts and the audio pedestrian signal at Washington Crossing. She reported that, at nearly \$3 million, downtown improvements account for 25% of the City's CDBG spending. Both Mrs. Jamieson and Ms. Boughner advised that, should this program be eliminated, it would be a devastating loss for the City. After a short discussion, City Council gave Mayor Baker permission to act on its behalf in contacting local representatives of both the Senate and the Congress and in working with the Pennsylvania Municipal League.

PARADE & PARK REQUESTS - Resolution No. 45

After a discussion was held with a member of the PA Gun Owners Association, who was in attendance concerning their request to use Fountain Park on May 13, Mr. Rudegear moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to approve the following requests:

- April 8, 2017 • Fountain Park • Easter Egg Hunt • City of Franklin
- April 14, 2017 • Downtown Streets • Cross Walk • Franklin Ministerium
- April 16, 2017 • Riverfront Park • Easter Sunrise Service • Franklin Alliance Church
- April 18, 2017 • Fountain Park • Tax Day Tea Party • Venango County Tea Party
- May 13, 2017 • Fountain Park (rain date: May 27, 2017 • Bandstand Park) • 2nd Amendment Rally Open Carry Walk & UN Flag Burning • PA Gun Owners Assn
- June 1-August 31, 2017 (Thursdays) • Bandstand Park • Concerts • City of Franklin/FFAC
- June 27-July 4, 2017 • Various Locations • Nightly concerts, Penny Carnival, Parade, Fireworks • City of Franklin/FFAC
- June 28-July 26, 2017 (Wednesdays) • Bandstand Park • Taste of Talent Vocal Competition • City of Franklin/FFAC
- August 5-6, 2017 • Bandstand & Fountain Parks • Taste of Franklin Weekend • City of Franklin/Franklin Fine Arts Council

Motion passed 4-3, with Mr. Marshall, Mrs. Fletcher and Mrs. Dlugos voting "no."

REPORTSManager

- Resolution No. 46 - With Police Chief London's resignation, it has become necessary to appoint a new Deputy City Manager. At Mrs. Jamieson's suggestion, Mr. Rudegear moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to appoint Fire Chief Jim Wetzel as the new

- Deputy City Manager. Motion passed unanimously.
- Resolution No. 47 - Mrs. Jamieson advised she was approached by the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce, who entered into an agreement to purchase 1257 Liberty Street from Franklin Moving Forward, Inc., requesting the City agree to satisfy the mortgage they hold on the property. The Chamber would agree to maintain the present facade until 2019 and to keep its restrooms open to the public until 2024. Mr. Lyons moved to approve the Cooperation Agreement between the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Franklin. Mr. Rudegear seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
 - Status Report: 1200 Block of Liberty Street Pole Replacement - Reported that it has been determined that the anchor bolts that exist with the current foundation of the traffic signal pole do not meet the current proposed design yield strength of the pole the City wants to be placed there. Therefore, Mrs. Jamieson is in the process of getting a firm quote on the cost of a new foundation to be done in conjunction with the curb cut project which will be resuming at that location.
 - Handed out copies of the 2017 Street Sweeping Schedule.
 - Bike & Pedestrian Plan Update - Reported that a rough draft of the plan has been supplied to the engineer with several edits and comments. The final, proposed plan should be finished by the end of the week. Once staff reviews it, Mrs. Jamieson hopes to make a presentation to Council at its May meeting, and then schedule the final presentation to the community.
 - Will need an executive session to discuss negotiations.

Solicitor

- Resolution No. 48 - Mr. Spaid explained that an outstanding loan by First National Bank to the Franklin General Authority had been guaranteed by the City. Therefore, in order for the Authority to negotiate a lower interest rate on the loan with First National Bank, Mr. Spaid noted a resolution would need to be passed by Council. The resolution reads, in part: *"Consenting to the modification of the interest rate on certain loans to the General Authority of the City of Franklin which have been previously guaranteed by the City of Franklin; and authorizing the appropriate officers of the City to take certain actions and to issue, execute and deliver certain documents, including any necessary consent to the modification of the loan documents between the Authority and the First National Bank of Pennsylvania."* Mrs. Fletcher so moved. Mr. Rudegear seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Would need an executive session to discuss negotiations and personnel.

Mayor • Appointments - none.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Baker

- Informed the members that the Memorial Day Parade would be held on May 29. Those members wishing to participate should meet at the line-up location by 9 AM.
- In honor of a request by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), Mayor Baker

proclaimed April 21, 2017 as "Power Talk 21 Day," which encourages parents to talk to their children about the use of alcohol, in the City of Franklin.

- Mayor Baker read a Proclamation proclaiming April 28, 2017 as Arbor Day in the City of Franklin.

Mr. Johnson - none.

Mr. Rudegear

- Requested the consideration of a Residential Tax Abatement Program, which concerns blighted areas, be added to next month's agenda for discussion.
- Would like to discuss creating an ordinance to protect dogs from being left outside in severe heat, severe cold, and severe weather as described by the National Weather Service and the possibility of creating and extending one-way streets in several areas of the City at next month's meeting.

Mr. Marshall - none.

Mrs. Fletcher - none.

Mr. Lyons - none.

Mrs. Dlugos

- Requested a traffic study of 14th Street to see what actions could be taken to address the dangerous situation of vehicles flying down 14th Street as they round the corner with Franklin Avenue. She mentioned possibilities, such as a stop sign at the intersection of 14th & Otter Streets, as well as a change to one-way on Franklin Avenue. Mr. Spaid advised that the traffic pattern change requests made by both Mr. Rudegear and Mrs. Dlugos should be referred to the Street and Police Departments, prior to Council's involvement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 49

Mayor Baker moved to enter into executive session at 7:47 PM to discuss personnel and negotiations. Mr. Rudegear seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The executive session ended at 8:08 PM.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS - none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary