

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
April 4, 2016

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
Police Chief Mark London
Harmony Motter, Finance Director
Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary
Bob Graham, 1237 - 15th Street
Rina Nerlich, CDC, Inc. Representative
Wendy Thompson, Franklin YMCA
Jodi Lewis, Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce
Randy Seitz, 418 - 16th Street
Ally-Karen D Miller, Franklin YMCA
James O Johnson, 1412 Chestnut Street
Doug Volmrich, Franklin Blues & BBQ Fest
Sheila Boughner, Venango Newspapers, Inc.

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

At Council's request to meet the City's current Police Officers, Police Chief London introduced newly promoted Lt. Kurt Gindhart, Patrolman Jonathan Kutterna, and Patrolman Christopher Wagner. Chief London noted that he would continue introducing his officers to the Council over the next several months.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Resolution No. 49

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

INTERVIEWS OF COUNCIL APPLICANTS

In answer to questions from Mrs. Fletcher and Mrs. Dlugos on why the applicants wanted to serve on the Council at this time: Mr. Seitz felt his economic development skills could be of use now, due to the job losses over the last four years. Mr. Johnson noted he serves on several local boards and works with the First Baptist Church to address the problem of homelessness. He feels he could also be of service to the City now. Mr. Graham noted he was a lifelong resident of Franklin and would like his grandchildren to have the same opportunities he had when he was growing up.

SELECTION AND OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

Mayor Baker opened the floor for nominations.

Resolution No. 50 - Mr. Marshall moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to nominate Mr. Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 51 - Mr. Rudegear moved and Mrs. Fletcher seconded a motion to nominate Mr. Graham. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 52 - Mayor Baker moved and Mrs. Fletcher seconded a motion to close the nominations. Motion passed unanimously.

A vote was taken with the following results:

3 votes for Mr. Johnson (Mr. Marshall•Mr. Lyons•Mrs. Dlugos); and 3 votes for Mr. Graham (Mr. Rudegear• Mrs. Fletcher• Mayor Baker). The vote ended in a tie.

A second vote was taken with the following results:

4 votes for Mr. Johnson (Mr. Marshall• Mr. Lyons• Mrs. Dlugos• Mr. Rudegear); and 2 votes for Mr. Graham (Mrs. Fletcher• Mayor Baker).

Mr. Johnson won the nomination.

Mr. Spaid then administered the Oath of Office and Mr. Johnson took his seat at the Council table.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Resolution No. 53

Mrs. Fletcher moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 7, 2016, as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS - Resolution No. 54

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

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES - none.

CDC PAVILION UPDATE

Mrs. Irwin reported that, since the last meeting, the CDC has received enough donations from the Franklin Moose Club, the Franklin Elks Club, and three citizens to construct two 10' x 16' pavilions on the 11th Street and Atlantic Avenue playgrounds. The pavilions are needed for its summer lunch program. She met with Mr. Ruditis, Street Department Supervisor, who showed her where to place the pavilions to be near the electric poles. The electric portion will not be completed until next year. Reck Construction will be constructing the pavilions. Mayor Baker asked that the City's thanks be sent to those donating the funds.

YMCA REPORT

Miller-Sibley Pool: Mrs. Miller thanked the City for once again being given the opportunity to manage the Miller-Sibley Pool, noting this would be the YMCA's 10th year. Prices will remain the same this year and, once again, free swim lessons and exercise classes will be held throughout the week. She will continue to input information into the computer database, which will allow her the ability to continue to see who really uses the pool on a daily basis and whether they are paying or using their season pass. She noted that the new roof on the bathhouse is working well, and plans some minor upgrades to the concession stand area using donations received from the community. She advised that pool passes will go on sale at the Franklin YMCA on Friday, April 8. Council commended Mrs. Miller on her management of the pool.

Resolution No. 55 - Annual Community Support Campaign: Mrs. Thompson thanked the Council for their 2015 contribution and detailed the donor impact the Financial Assistance Program had on area families. Last year the cost of funding this program was \$105,381, with \$76,275 awarded in membership subsidies; \$6,106 awarded in program fee subsidies; and an estimated \$23,000 used to subsidize mission-driven programs, such as the Learn to Swim Program. She listed the benefits of a YMCA membership, noting it is for a full year. Their goal is to make sure that people know about the Financial Assistance Program, about the demonstrated need in our community, and about the positive and far-reaching impact of YMCA programs and services. The 2016 Campaign goal is \$87,000. She invited members to the YMCA Open House on April 6, from 5-7 PM; and to its 125th Birthday Party at Bella Cucina on April 7. On April 8, from 5-8 PM, the YMCA will hold its annual Healthy Kids Day for the community. Mr. Marshall then moved to contribute \$1,000 to the YMCA 2016 Annual Community Support Campaign. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - none.

PARADE & PARK REQUESTS - Resolution No. 56

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

- May 21, 2016 • Bandstand Park • Venango County Community Support Program for a Suicide Prevention Band Rally
- June 19-20, 2016 • 12th Street Island • Chip Abramovic, an addition to the Blues & BBQ application
- July 29, 2016 • Bandstand Park • Venango County Flower Fund for an employee picnic
- August 10, 2016 • Bandstand Park • Rachael Mellor for an Autism Benefit Concert
- October 4-9, 2016 • Various locations • Chamber of Commerce for Applefest®

Motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Fletcher asked the Chamber to consider not inconveniencing the citizens any more than necessary by the early closing of City streets.

MYRTLE STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT BID AWARD - Resolution No. 57

Mrs. Jamieson reported that 6 bids had been received for this project that ranged from \$305,075.81 to 743,676.50. The project would include new roadway, 2 fire hydrants, and new water, sewer and stormwater lines. She noted that, where possible, the road would be widened slightly. She advised that The EADS Group had researched and discussed the bid results with the low bidder, Protech Asphalt, from New Castle, and were satisfied with the contractor and subcontractor's track records. As a result, she would recommend the Council approve the bid award, in the amount of \$305,075.81, to Protech Asphalt. Mr. Rudegear so moved. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Manager

- Resolution No. 58 - Informed the Council that Venango County's Land Bank, which was formed to hold back blighted properties from public sale to stop the cycle of neglect, has asked the City for concurrence of its possible acquisition of the following tax delinquent properties: 1407 Eagle Street (condemned); 744 Fifteenth Street (condemned); 327 Pacific Street; and 562 Pacific Street. The condemned properties would be held until monies became available for their demolition through Block Grant funds. The property at 327 Pacific Street would be held until its condition was more thoroughly assessed. The last property, the County hopes to fix up and re-sell to help fund future land bank operations. Mr. Spaid advised that he strongly supports this action. Mrs. Fletcher then moved to enter into an agreement with Venango County to approve all four properties, listed by Mrs. Jamieson, be placed in the Land Bank. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Reported that the Fire Department had helped the American Red Cross install 100 smoke detectors in Franklin homes over the weekend.
- Resolution No. 59 - Requested approval be given to contract with Reeves Technology out of Greenville, to assist with IT and computer-related support services. She would recommend the Silver Support package, for approximately \$11,660/year. She added that the firm will also be able to help advise the City in connecting to the 10-gigabit circuit that passes through Franklin. Mrs. Fletcher moved to contract with Reeves Technology to assist with IT and computer-related support services, at an approximate cost of \$11,660/year. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Resolution No. 60 - Reported that Deb Lutz had requested Council consider passing a resolution in support of saving the Venango Catholic High School. Mr. Marshall moved to pass a Resolution in Support of Saving Venango Catholic High School. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Mr. Rudegear advised that he was not comfortable voting for this resolution. Mrs. Fletcher added that, she has been a strong proponent of school consolidation and felt it would be hypocritical if she voted for this resolution. Mrs. Dlugos noted she, too, had concerns prior to the change of wording in the new resolution, whereas it now supports community efforts and not the institution. Motion passed 5-2, with Mr. Rudegear and Mrs. Fletcher voting "no."
- Will need an executive session to discuss potential litigation and negotiations.

Solicitor

- Expressed his appreciation for Council being given the opportunity to meet the City's current police officers.
- Will need an executive session to discuss potential litigation.

Mayor • Appointments - Resolution No. 61

Mayor Baker moved to appoint Mrs. Dlugos to the Franklin Public Library Board and the Council of Governments (COG) Board. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Rudegear

- Thanked all the candidates, who had showed interest in the open Council position and welcomed Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Marshall

- Would like to discuss, at the next meeting, the possibility of naming the alley west of City Hall, currently known as Moffitt's Alley, to Garnet Wood Way, with the appropriate signage.

Mrs. Fletcher

- Asked the status of the property located at Elk & South Parks Streets. She was advised the property is still in the hands of the bank.
- Reported that the curb, located at 835 Elk Street, was broken. Mrs. Jamieson will contact Mr. Ruditis, Street Department Supervisor.

Mr. Lyons

- Welcomed Mr. Johnson "on board."

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 62

Mr. Rudegear moved to enter into executive session at 8:23 PM to discuss litigation and negotiations. Mrs. Dlugos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The executive session ended at 9 PM.

ADJOURNMENT - Resolution No.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary