

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
April 7, 2014

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor  
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor  
Samuel Lyons  
James Marshall  
Jennifer M Morris  
Ryan Rudegear  
Garnet Wood

Members Excused: None

In Attendance: E. William Gabrys, City Manager  
Tracy Jamieson, Deputy Manager  
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor  
Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary  
R. Russell Lucas, Jr., Campbell Durrant Beatty Palombo & Miller PC  
W. Ronald Stout, Thorp Reed & Armstrong LLP  
Charles Patterson, 444 Buffalo Street  
Danny Shields, 417 - 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
C. Robert Bowen, C.R.O.H.  
Terry Belter, C.R.O.H.  
Debbie Oaks, Franklin Public Library  
David R. Lord, General Authority Chairman  
Stephen West, 1401 Buffalo Street  
Wendy Shardlow Thompson, YMCA  
Eli Lenk, YMCA  
Ally-Karen Miller, YMCA Miller-Sibley Pool  
Jennifer Butchart, Venango Newspaper, Inc.  
Jeremy Johnson, Venango Newspapers, Inc.

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Resolution No. 30

Mr. Gabrys requested the addition of 5-A, "YMCA Report," to the agenda. Mr. Lyons moved to approve the agenda, as amended. Mr. Rudegear seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolution No. 31 - Mrs. Fletcher moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 3, 2014, as presented. Mr. Wood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS - Resolution No. 32

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

YMCA ANNUAL REPORT - Resolution No. 33

2013 Campaign Report - Mrs. Thompson reported on the YMCA's 2013 campaign, thanking Council for their support and requesting their continued support in the amount of \$1,200. She reported that they were able to provide financial assistance to 1,102 community members and that scholarship recipients (mostly children) participated 703 times in 15 different programs. Mr. Marshall moved to donate \$1,200 to the YMCA's 2014 campaign. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Aquatics Report - Mrs. Miller announced that the pool would open on Memorial Day Weekend and be open on every weekend until school is over. She is projecting an opening date of June 9. Explaining that the life saving devices at the pool needed replaced, Mrs. Miller requested permission to purchase 1 Rescue 2-head immobilizer, 1 Color-coded torso strap, 3 USCGA 20" Ring Buoys, and 8-40" rescue tubes from Kiefer products, in the amount of \$491.35. Council thanked Mrs. Miller for her work at the Miller-Sibley Pool and gave permission for the purchase.

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES

Committee to Remember Our Heroes Presentation - Mr. Robert Bowen, Chairman, and Mr. Terry Belter, Vice Chairman, of the Committee to Remember Our Heroes presented City Council with several awards the Commission had received since the committee's inception. To the Mayor, they presented the first flag flown over the newly completed Vietnam War Memorial. Mr. Bowen then announced that the John Logue Memorial Drinking Fountain will be finished by Applefest®.

No Parking Here to Corner Request - Explaining that he is unable to get out of his driveway when large pickup trucks are parked on both sides of Buffalo Street, Mr. Patterson requested a "No Parking Here to Corner" area on 5<sup>th</sup> Street be pushed back 25' and he also requested that a "No Parking" sign be placed between his driveway and his neighbor's on 5<sup>th</sup> Street, an area 75' from Buffalo Street. Mr. Marshall visited the site twice and reported that there did appear to be a problem at this location. Mr. Gabrys informed the Council that both Mr. Ruditis, Street Department Supervisor, and Police Chief London also looked at this location and both felt the change was warranted. Mr. Gabrys announced that after getting exact measurements, Attorney Spaid would draw up an ordinance with this change. The First Reading would be held at the May meeting and the Second Reading at the June meeting.

Franklin Public Library Report - Mrs. Oakes presented the 2013 Annual Report for the Franklin Public Library. She reported that there were 7,822 registered borrowers, who visited the library 33,452 times during the past year. She reviewed the many programs the library

offers to both children and adults (116 for children; 36 for teens; and 36 for adults), stressing the importance of the summer reading programs held each year. She noted that internet usage has risen, mostly from adults searching for jobs and resume help. She also reviewed the 2013 building improvement projects, announcing that this year the board plans to paint and repair the wooden trim, shutters and corbels on the exterior of the building and to look into modernizing their lighting. Mrs. Oaks also announced that the library would be 120 years old this November.

Mrs. Oaks then requested permission for the library to contact the Shade Tree Commission for their aid in determining the condition and possible removal of a maple tree on the Buffalo Street side of the library. It was suggested she contact the Code Enforcement Office to obtain the name and number of the Shade Tree Commission Chairman.

Forts of Franklin - Mr. West was in attendance to discuss the possibility of recreating, on a smaller scale, Fort Franklin in Johnny Appleseed Park. He announced that he has been trying to rally support from local historical organizations and wanted to inform the Council on his vision.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - none.

FIRST READING - BILL NO. 2 - SEWER BOND ORDINANCE

Resolution No. 34 - Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 2, "Sewer Bond Ordinance," in its entirety, into the record. Mrs. Fletcher moved and Mr. Rudegear seconded a motion to approve on First Reading, Bill No.2, "Sewer Bond Ordinance." Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 35 - Mr. Rudegear moved to schedule a special meeting on Monday, April 14, 2014 @ 7 PM, for the purpose of the Second Reading of Bill No. 2, "Sewer Bond Ordinance." Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT DCNR GRANT - Resolution No. 36

Mrs. Jamieson explained that during the process of completing the application for re-designation as a Bicycle Friendly Community last month, it came to light the City should have a Bicycle/Pedestrian Connection Master Plan completed in order to keep Bronze Level status or to become a Silver Level Community. The plan would develop a vision for the future on how to get trail users into the Downtown and connecting them to our other recreational and cultural assets, as well as encouraging Franklin residents to bike and walk, as opposed to driving. The plan would spell out the steps and estimated costs that would need to be taken to achieve the vision. The steps would include physical construction projects, needed wayfinding signage, added amenities to enhance the pedestrian & bicyclist experience, traffic calming measures, and ways to tie this into supporting Franklin businesses. She noted the importance of having a plan like this is that it can be used as a basis for future grant applications for trail & infrastructure projects (ie. sidewalk replacement, trail construction, traffic calming projects, etc.).

She reported that the PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) currently has an open grant cycle that could help fund 50% of this plan. In speaking with actual recreational consultants, the plan could cost from \$30,000 to \$60,000, depending on how far the City would want to go with the study. The City would be responsible for funding the match to complete the plan development.

The application is due April 15, so she is requesting Council's decision on whether or not to proceed. Mr. Marshall moved to approve and execute the resolution to proceed with the Franklin Bicycle & Pedestrian Connection Master Plan. Ms. Morris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### PARADE & PARK REQUESTS - Resolution No. 37

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

- April 12, 2014 • Fountain Park • Wedding • Wilhere/Parlow
- April 18, 2014 • Downtown Franklin • Good Friday Cross Walk • Franklin Ministerium
- April 27, 2014 • Portions of Elk & Liberty Streets • Walk a Mile in Her Shoes • PPC Violence Free
- June 11, 2014 • Bandstand Park • Concert • Autism Speaks
- June 14, 2014 • Bandstand Park • Flag Day Services • Elks Lodge
- July 26, 2014 • Bandstand Park • Rally • Tea Party
- August 30, 2014 • 400 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Street • Watermelon Drop • Barrow-Civic Theatre
- June 6, 2015 • Fountain Park • Wedding • Simpson/Steinecker

Motion passed unanimously.

#### REPORTS

##### Manager

- Will need an executive session to discuss potential litigation and negotiations.
- Resolution No. 38 - Presented a proposal from Whalen Contracting for repair of the sidewalk at West Park and Liberty Street. Mr. Marshall moved and Mr. Rudegair seconded a motion to accept the proposal from Whalen Contracting, in the amount of \$4,284, which would include labor & materials. Motion passed unanimously.

##### Solicitor

- Will need an executive session to discuss potential litigation and negotiations.
- Advised the Council that he did not see any problem with a variance request for a sign made by Reid Petroleum Corporation, 151 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Therefore, he does not plan to attend the hearing.

Mayor • Appointments - none.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Baker

- Resolution No. 39 - Mayor Baker moved that April 2014 be known as Fair Housing Month. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Marshall

- Thanked Mr. Johnson, Venango Newspapers City reporter, for his years of service and welcomed new reporter Jennifer Butchart.

Mrs. Fletcher

- Commended City employees for how great Fountain Park looks for the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt and Wedding.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 40

Mrs. Fletcher moved to enter into executive session at 8:34 PM to discuss litigation and negotiations. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The executive session ended at 9:20 PM.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Council had a brief discussion concerning parking prohibitions, after which they instructed the Solicitor to include a repeal of certain traffic ordinances as part of the ordinance to be discussed at the regular meeting in May.

ADJOURNMENT - Resolution No. 41

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Mrs. Fletcher moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 PM. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary