

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 5, 2017

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

Members Excused: None.

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
Sheila Boughner, Recording Secretary/Community Development Director
Marissa Dechant, Venango Newspapers, Inc.
Patrick Haugh, 1269 Liberty St., Franklin
Mike Scanlon, 1614 Elk St., Franklin
Mike McMullen, 315 Adams St., Franklin
Jodi Lewis, 29921 Lake Creek Road, Cochranton
Tim Brooks, Venango County
Bernadette Holzer, Lion's Club
Larry Walker, 544 Liberty St., Franklin
Jim Day, 11045 Donation Road, Waterford
Roger McCauley, FICDA
Dianne Hall, 1109 Elk St., Franklin
Jeffrey Hall, 1109 Elk St., Franklin
Vince Witherup, Venango County
Joel Wright, 1535 Millbrook Road, Grove City
Jerry Woods, 799 Belmar Road, Franklin
Sam Pfohl, 258 Evergreen Drive, Franklin
Janene Pfohl, 258 Evergree Drive, Franklin
Chip Pfohl, 258 Evergreen Drive
Albert Abramovic, Venango County
Tom Jamieson, Elk St., Franklin

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Resolution No. 61

Mayor Baker said he would like to modify the agenda to include item 3A for the recognition of Eagle Scout Sam Pfohl. He then made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, and Mr. Lyons seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

EAGLE SCOUT RECOGNITION

On behalf of the City and City Council, Mrs. Jamieson then thanked Pfohl, of 258 Evergreen Drive, for redoing the two large planters in front of City Hall as part of his Eagle Scout project. Pfohl worked with the Franklin Gardeners Association and an area nursery to arrive at a design, helped to raise the funds for the plants and recruited volunteers to help with the work.

Pfohl, who approached Council in June 2016 for permission to undertake the task, thanked council for the opportunity to complete the project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Resolution No. 62

Mrs. Fletcher moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 1, 2017, as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS - Resolution No. 63

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

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES

Jim Day, of Waterford, advised Council of efforts underway to form a Lions Club in Franklin. Lions Clubs are service club organizations serving their local communities. Day was accompanied by Bernadette Holzer of the Tionesta Lions Club and Larry Walker of Franklin.

Jerry Woods of the Pennsylvania Gun Owners Association thanked Council for permission to hold a Second Amendment rally in Fountain Park in May.

Patrick Haugh, who recently moved to the City, said he purchased a quarterly parking pass, and he asked if the cost of the parking pass could be prorated for those not requiring a pass for the full three-month period. Mayor Baker indicated the matter would be considered.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Resolution No .64 – Mrs. Jamieson noted that HARB had recommended approval of a sign requested by PNC Bank for 1310 Liberty Street, but asked that the post be painted black.

Joel Wright of Custom Signs said his clients respectfully declined any changes and pointed to two other existing signs providing a precedent for the post as presented.

Mrs. Fletcher moved and Mr. Marshall seconded a motion to approve the sign as originally presented. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE PLAN -- Resolution No. 65

In presenting the Pedestrian & Bicycle Connection Master Plan to City Council for approval, Mrs. Jamieson described it as a concept plan that includes a variety of recommendations and alternatives that will be used to guide future decisions regarding infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Marshall said he would probably vote to approve the plan but wanted his objections to the plan's recommendations for the 1200 block of Liberty Street -- including the addition of bike lanes and a lane reduction for motor vehicles -- to be noted.

Mrs. Dlugos said she shared some of Mr. Marshall's concerns about the proposed changes to Liberty Street.

Mike Scanlon of 1614 Elk St. shared information he collected from bicyclists at the Salt Box trail head over the Memorial Day weekend showing that the majority of those he talked to planned to travel south on the trail. He also raised objections to some of the plan's recommendations for Liberty Street.

Dianne Hall of 1109 Elk St. spoke in support of the plan. She said she and her husband moved to Franklin because of the nearby recreational trails, the vibrant downtown business district and the City's historic character. She suggested that better connections between the trail and the town will help to keep the business district viable.

Jeffrey Hall of 1109 Elk St. argued that traffic calming measures are needed, and he described the plan as a necessary first step for improvements.

Mike McMullen of 315 Adams Street said he approaches the plan from three perspectives –as a PennDOT engineer, a city resident and bicycle enthusiast. He said the study is a good one and provides a vision to build upon and will open up a variety of funding opportunities.

Mayor Baker moved to approve the plan. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

AWARD BID - SASSAFRAS STREET RECONSTRUCTION - Resolution No. 66

Ms. Boughner reported that five bids were received for the Sassafras Street Reconstruction Project, which calls for the replacement of water and sewer lines, paving and the construction of a retaining wall in the 1300 block of Sassafras Street under a contract with the City. The project funding includes FY-2013 and FY-2014 Community Development Block Grant funds and Franklin General Authority water and sewer funds. She reported that EADS Group of Clarion reviewed the bids and recommended awarding the bid to the low bidder, Advanced Contracting, of Stoneboro, in the amount of \$344,457.50. Mrs. Jamieson explained that the low bid includes a cost to the City of \$122,902.50, and costs to the Authority of \$132,750 on the water side and \$88,805 on the sewer side.

Mr. Marshall moved to award the bid to Advanced Contracting in the amount of \$344,457.50. Mr. Rudegeair seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FIRST READING - BILL NO. 4 - TRAFFIC CODE - FRANKLIN AVENUE - Resolution No. 67

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 4, Traffic Code - Franklin Avenue and Bill No. 5, Traffic Code - Fourteenth Street, in their entirety, into the record.

After some discussion, Mr. Marshall moved and Mrs. Dlugos seconded a motion to approve on First Reading, Bill No. 4, Traffic Code - Franklin Avenue, which makes Franklin Avenue a one-way street from 14th to 13th. Motion passed by a vote of 6 to 1, with Mr. Lyons casting the lone vote against the measure.

FIRST READING - BILL NO. 5 - TRAFFIC CODE - FOURTEENTH STREET - Resolution No. 68

Mr. Marshall moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to table Bill No. 5, Traffic Code - Fourteenth Street, which would have allowed for stop signs at the intersections of 14th and Elk streets and 14th and Otter. Motion passed unanimously.

FIRST READING - BILL NO. 6 - TRAFFIC CODE - SOUTH PARK STREET - Resolution No. 69

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 6, Traffic Code - South Park Street, in its entirety, into the record. Mrs. Dlugos moved and Mr. Rudegear seconded a motion to approve on First Reading, Bill No. 6, Traffic Code - South Park Street, which designates a parking space on South Park Street in front of the Venango County Historical Society as handicapped parking only. Motion passed unanimously. The handicapped parking spot on Elk Street in front of the Historical Society's former headquarters will be removed.

FIRST READING - BILL NO. 7 - PARKING METER CODE - Resolution No. 70

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 7, Parking Meter Code, in its entirety, into the record. Mr. Rudegear moved and Mrs. Dlugos seconded a motion to approve on First Reading, Bill No. 7, Parking Meter Code, which clarifies that the owner of a vehicle, not the operator, is responsible for all penalties related to violations of the parking meter code. Motion passed unanimously.

AWARD CONTRACT - MILLER-SIBLEY BATHHOUSE ENGINEERING - Resolution No. 71

Ms. Boughner reported that five proposals were received for architectural/engineering services for the Miller-Sibley Bathhouse Barrier Removal Project, ranging in price from \$5,750 to \$24,000. The City and Sugar Creek Borough will both provide \$34,425 in FY-2015 Community Development Block Grant funds to finance the project, which involves the creation of two handicapped-accessible toilet/shower rooms within the existing bathhouse. Ms. Boughner recommended that the contract be awarded to Struxures Architecture of Seneca in an amount not to exceed \$5,750. That will leave \$63,100 in project funding for construction. Mrs. Fletcher so moved. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FIBER OPTIC PROJECT UPDATE

Commissioner Brooks said the fiber optic network connecting Franklin City Hall, FICDA and county buildings to the 10 gigabit circuit at the Franklin Professional building is nearly complete. Franklin acquired the connection to the Chicago Data Center in 2009, and a consortium consisting of the City, FICDA and Venango County has been working since then to develop infrastructure to capitalize on the link. Brooks said the consortium now has IP addresses and the consortium partners should soon be able to utilize the fiber for their purposes.

Commissioner Witherup added that Zito Media, which has the contract with the consortium for the build-out, has been able to provide internet service to some area companies at a significant savings.

PARADE & PARK REQUESTS - Resolution No. 72

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

- July 2, 2017 -- 12th Street Island -- Outhouse Race -- City of Franklin/Franklin Fine Arts Council
- July 15, 2017-- Fountain Park -- Jump for a Cure -- Gage Shoemaker
- July 28, 2017 -- Bandstand Park -- Employee Picnic -- County Employees
- October 3-8, 2017 -- Various locations -- Applefest© -- Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Fletcher advised that she consulted with the Franklin Chamber of Commerce about

the Applefest© schedule, and the chamber agreed to delay the closure of 12th Street, between Liberty and Buffalo, on Friday, Oct. 6, by one hour to 8 p.m.

With that change, the motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Manager

- **Resolution No. 73** – Mrs. Jamieson reported that a new compressor is needed for City Hall’s HVAC system. She received a quote of \$15,935 for replacing the compressor with a new one, but with a possible reduction in price of \$2,200 if the refrigerant in the existing unit can be used. Mrs. Fletcher moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion authorizing the expenditure. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 74** – Mr. Lyons moved and Mrs. Fletcher seconded a motion for the City to join with the Franklin General Authority to purchase a video conferencing system for council chambers so members of council and the authority may participate in meetings via teleconferencing when they cannot attend in person. The cost will be about \$1,000 each. Motion passed unanimously.
- Advised that efforts are underway to place signs at spots along the Allegheny River where people can pose for pictures with their faces framed by cut-out heart shapes. The photo opportunities are in celebration of the selection of the Allegheny River as Pennsylvania River of the Year for 2017.
- **Resolution No. 75** -- At Mrs. Jamieson’s request, Ms. Boughner provided an update on the funding of the 2017 CDBG program. She said the DCED has indicated the City should anticipate funding at roughly the FY-2016 level, which was in the amount of \$272,958. Mr. Rudegeair moved and Mrs. Fletcher seconded a motion for the preliminary public hearing for the City’s FY-2017 CDBG program to be held prior to City Council’s July 10 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Advised that the demolition of the duplex at 1424 Otter Street would begin soon
- Requested an executive session for matters of personnel, potential litigation and negotiations.

Solicitor

Mr. Spaid said he will not be able to attend the July meeting, but another attorney from the Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm will attend in his place.

Mayor – Appointments

- **Resolution No. 76** – Mayor Baker moved to reappoint Rick Beith to the Shade Tree Commission. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 77** – Mayor Baker moved to appoint Dianne Hall to the Shade Tree Commission to a term expiring June 4, 2020. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Baker – No report.

Mr. Johnson – Reported that he had received a request that the City remove the oak leaves covering the ground at the Franklin Heights playground.

Mr. Rudegeair -- Reported he is moving from the First District and will resign from his council seat, effective June 15. Mr. Spaid said council will have 45 days to fill the seat and he advised taking letters of interest through July 10 and scheduling a special meeting for interviewing the candidates and making the appointment.

- **Resolution No. 78** – Mr. Marshall moved to accept Rudegeair’s resignation, with regret. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Marshall – No report.

Mrs. Fletcher – Urged people to attend the upcoming season of Taste of Talent.

Mr. Lyons – No report.

Mrs. Dlugos – No report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 79

Mr. Rudegeair moved to enter into executive session at 8:41 p.m. discuss personnel, potential litigation and negotiations. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The executive session ended at 9:52 p.m.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Resolution No. 80

Mr. Marshall moved to solicit letters of interest for Councilman Rudegeair’s seat through July 10. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Boughner, Recording Secretary