

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 9, 2015

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor
Samuel Lyons
James Marshall
Ryan Rudegeair
Garnet Wood

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: Jennifer Morris

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
Harmony Motter, Finance Director
Chuck Gibbons, Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer
Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary
Nathan Jacoby, 1215 Chestnut Street
Jessica Rudegeair, Franklin Public Library
Jodi Lewis, Executive Director, Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce
David R. Lord, 407 Forest Lane
Robert E. Heller, 834 Elk Street
Debbie Oaks, Franklin Public Library
Dennis Oaks, 123 Meadville Pike
Jim Williams, Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce
Mr. & Mrs. Russ Campbell, 1235 Chestnut Street
Sheila Boughner, Venango Newspapers, Inc.

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Resolution No. 177

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Resolution No. 178

Mr. Lyons moved to approve the following minutes, as presented: the Regular Meeting of October 5, 2015; the Public Hearing of October 26, 2015; and the Special Meeting of October 26, 2015. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS - Resolution No. 179

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

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES

- Applefest® Donation - Mr. Williams, Chairman of the Applefest® Committee, thanked the City for its continued support with the festival and presented a check to help defray City costs, on behalf of the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce.
- Franklin Library Update - Mrs. Oaks was in attendance to thank the Council for its continued support of the library and to update them on several programs and services it offers. She highlighted the enhanced online catalog, which patrons can use to search not only Franklin's library but also the Cooperstown and Oil City libraries. She also noted that new library cards, which will streamline library use within Venango County, should be coming soon.
- Joint Meetings - Mr. Heller asked about the status and number of meetings held between the General Authority, Sugarcreek Borough and the City of Franklin. [See Mr. Spaid's response under his reports.] He also wondered whether there might be some type of bond or insurance money that would help negate some of the monies owed to the Authority and Sugarcreek Borough.
- Chestnut Street Parking - Mr. and Mrs. Campbell asked that the City re-visit the possibility of making the 1200 block of Chestnut Street permit parking only. Mr. Campbell noted that, after Police Chief London had talked with the housing complex management, things were fine for about 6-8 weeks but now the parking problems have started again. Mr. Spaid explained that he had advised the Council that "permit parking only" in that block would be hard for the police to enforce and would force family and friends who visit to also purchase permits.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Resolution No. 180 - Mr. Gibbons advised the Council that he had heard that Oil Valley Emporium had recently moved from this location. In light of this information, Mrs. Fletcher moved to deny a Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign at 1253 Liberty Street, as presented. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 181 - Mrs. Fletcher moved and Mr. Wood seconded a motion to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign at 1243 Liberty Street, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 182 - Mrs. Fletcher moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for a variety of signs at 1301 Liberty Street, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

AWARD TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE - Resolution No. 183

Mrs. Fletcher moved to award the bid for a 6-month Note, in the amount of \$450,000 to First National Bank, the low bidder, at 1.28% interest. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FIRST READING - BILL NO. 5 - OTTER STREET "NO PARKING" - Resolution No. 184

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 5, "Otter Street 'No Parking'," in its entirety, into the record. Mr. Marshall moved and Mrs. Fletcher seconded a motion to adopt on First Reading, Bill No. 5, "Otter Street 'No Parking'." Motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET MESSAGE

Mrs. Jamieson advised her goal was to develop a budget that could balance itself based on the most realistic projected revenues and expenses possible. With that goal in mind, the 2016 Budget calls for a 1 mill tax increase, which will increase the City's millage to 11.3 mills. She is also recommending raising parking meter fees to 25¢ for ½ hour and 50¢ for an hour; meter fines from \$1 to \$5, 2nd notice violations to \$10 and all other parking violations from \$5 to \$15; and raising parking permits from \$40/quarter to \$60/quarter. She reported that all departmental budgets have been cut and the proposed budget leaves one police position vacant. She hopes to open the pool during 2016; however, the City will need to keep a very close eye on staffing costs to keep it running all summer. \$15,000 has been budgeted for playground apparatus upgrades and the purchase of a new pickup truck w/plow and a used dump truck bed for the Street Department. She also reported on several Capital Improvement Projects, which are anticipated during 2016, and numerous projects that will need to be addressed over the next few years.

FIRST READING - BILL NO. 6 - BUDGET - Resolution No. 185

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 6, "Budget," in its entirety, into the record. Mrs. Fletcher moved and Mr. Wood seconded a motion to adopt on First Reading, Bill No. 6, "Budget." Mr. Marshall ascertained that the purchase of a new police cruiser was not eligible under Liquid Fuels; the parking meter fees increase would need to be by ordinance; and the only expense for the City for the police canine is food. He noted a 1 mill increase will be a struggle for some people, himself included, but it was necessary. Mrs. Fletcher suggested the possibility of service organizations adopting a Capital Improvement Project. A vote was then taken on the motion, which passed unanimously.

FIRST READING - BILL NO. 7 - REAL ESTATE TAX - Resolution No. 186

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 7, "Real Estate Tax," in its entirety, into the record. Mrs. Fletcher moved and Mr. Marshall seconded a motion to adopt on First Reading, Bill No. 7, "Real Estate Tax." Motion passed unanimously.

FIRST READING - BILL NO. 8 - EARNED INCOME TAX - Resolution No. 187

Mr. Spaid read Bill No. 8, "Earned Income Tax," in its entirety, into the record. Mr. Marshall moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to adopt on First Reading, Bill No. 8, "Earned Income Tax." Motion passed unanimously.

ESTABLISH BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING - Resolution No. 188

Mr. Marshall moved and Mr. Rudegear seconded a motion to establish a Public Hearing to discuss the budget prior to the next regular Council Meeting, scheduled for 7 PM on December 7, 2015. Motion passed unanimously.

PARADE & PARK REQUESTS - none.

REPORTS

Manager

- Reported that Congressional appropriation funds for the Chub Run Project, being handled by the County, have finally been approved to build four (4) detention basins, which will hold back the storm water and then slowly release it. The City's part will be to purchase a property, located on Big Oak Drive, and have a retention pond built on it, utilizing grant monies. The only costs to the City will be future maintenance.
- Will need an executive session to discuss personnel, negotiations and litigation.

Solicitor

- After researching Mr. Heller's question during Citizens' Inquiries, reported that 10 meetings were held: 3 with City representatives only; 3 with City, Sugarcreek Borough and General Authority representatives; and 4 with City and General Authority members. 3 more have been scheduled for November and they should be close to resolving the issues in the next sixty (60) days. Mr. Spaid noted that with so many individuals involved, it takes time to schedule a meeting that all parties can attend.
- It was reported that, in light of write-in votes received for the 2016 open Council position during the election, a letter will be sent to the individual receiving the most votes to see if they are interested in the position.
- Will also need an executive session to discuss personnel, negotiations and litigation.

Mayor • Appointments

Resolution No. 189 - Mayor Baker moved to re-appoint Robert Barber and Karen Counselman to the Franklin Industrial & Commercial Development Authority. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 190 - Mayor Baker moved to re-appoint Susan Byers to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 191 - Mayor Baker moved to re-appoint Jarold Hatch to the Uniform Construction Code Appeals Board. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

- Mr. Marshall took this opportunity to thank the voters for electing him to another 4 years.
- Mr. Lyons reported potholes on both Big Oak Drive and Edgewood Drive. Mrs. Jamieson will discuss this with Mr. Ruditis, Street Department Supervisor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 192

Mrs. Fletcher moved to enter into executive session at 8:30 PM to discuss personnel, litigation and negotiations. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The executive session ended at 9:17 PM.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Resolution No. 193 - Mr. Rudegear moved to ratify the terms of the IBEW Contract, as discussed, for the period January 2016 through December 2019. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 194 - Mr. Rudegear moved to set a hearing on Tuesday, November 24, 2015, at 5 PM, in Council Chambers for the purpose of hearing a grievance in accordance with the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mrs. Fletcher 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 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary