

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Dec. 4, 2017

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
Michael Dulaney
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor
James Johnson
Samuel Lyons
James Marshall
Fred Mays

Members Excused: None.

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
Harmony Motter, City Finance Director
Chuck Gibbons, Code Enforcement Officer
Sheila Boughner, Recording Secretary & Community Development
Joy Strain, McGill, Power, Bell & Associates, LLP
Marissa Dechant, Venango Newspapers, Inc.
Chris Rossetti, Explore Venango
Russ Campbell, 1235 Chestnut St.
Robert Cerro, 1316 Otter St.

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA -- Resolution No. 170

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -- Resolution No. 171

Mr. Lyons moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Nov. 13, 2017, as presented. Mr. Mays seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PAY THE BILLS -- Resolution No. 172

Mr. Dulaney moved to pay the bills as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CITIZENS' INQUIRIES

Robert Cerro again raised concerns about increased traffic volume and traffic speeds on the 1300 block of Otter Street following the conversion of Franklin Avenue to a one-way street going east to 13th Street. He renewed his request for speed bumps to slow the traffic. Mr. Marshall said he believes speed bumps do reduce traffic speeds, but some previous

installations in the City led to resident complaints about the noise created by trucks going over the speed bumps, and the speed bumps were removed. Mrs. Jamieson pointed out that the City is tentatively planning to pave the 1300 block of Otter with 2018 Community Development Block Grant funds and could install the speed bumps when the paving is done. If speed bumps were put in before that, they would have to be reinstalled when the street was paved. She added that if the speed bump option is pursued, a survey of residents of that block should be conducted to determine the level of support for speed bumps. She indicated that short of speed bumps, additional stop signs at the intersection of Elk and 14th streets might help to discourage drivers from using the 1300 block of Otter as a shortcut. After some further discussion, Mayor Baker asked Mrs. Jamieson to consult with City staff to get their input on the matter.

Russ Campbell, who worked for 30 years with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service on flood control dams and levees, reminded Council of when Chubb Run flooded on June 9, 1981, and cautioned that steps should be taken to restore the storm detention basin at the airport (located on Venango County property), remove debris that has accumulated downstream (in areas owned by Sandycreek and Frenchcreek townships) and periodically check the underground conduit beneath 14th Street (on City property) and make any needed repairs. He indicated such measures could help to prevent a similar flood event in the future.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Resolution No. 173 -- Mr. Marshall moved and Mr. Dulaney seconded a motion to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign at 1243 Liberty Street, as presented. As the Historic & Architectural Review Board did not have a quorum at its November meeting, the request did not include a recommendation from HARB. The Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION of 2016 AUDIT REPORT

Ms. Strain, of McGill, Power, Bell & Associates, presented an overview of the firm's independent audit of the City's 2016 finances. She reported the audit resulted in a clean opinion, indicating the City's financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the City's financial position for the year and included no significant deficiencies.

She reported the financial statements for the 2016 General Fund include total revenues of \$5,137,310; total expenditures of \$6,241,392; and a deficit of \$449,709 that was taken from the fund balance. The fund balance began the year with \$2,151,950 and ended the year with \$1,702,241.

BUDGETARY REVISIONS – FY-2015 CDBG PROGRAM - Resolution No. 174

Ms. Boughner recommended two budgetary revisions for the City's FY-2015 CDBG Program:

- A transfer of \$10,800 from Third Ward Street Paving to the Pearl Street Paving Project to cover the cost of needed asphalt curbing to that street
- A transfer of \$9,000 from Third Ward Street Paving to the Miller-Sibley Bathhouse barrier removal project to permit the awarding of that contract to the low bidder

With the transfers, \$64,761.18 will remain for the Third Ward street paving, an amount that should be sufficient.

Mr. Baker moved to approve the two budget revisions for the City's FY-2015 CDBG program, as presented. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

AWARD BID – BATHHOUSE IMPROVEMENTS -- Resolution No. 175

Mr. Dulaney moved to award the contract for Accessible Renovations for the Miller-Sibley Bathhouse, Contract 17-B, to the low bidder on the project, JM Clark Construction of Titusville, in the amount of \$77,600. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The project, which involves the creation of two accessible toilet/shower/dressing rooms within the existing bathhouse, is funded by the City of Franklin and Sugarcreek Borough with Community Development Block Grant Funds.

AWARD BID – SLURRY SEAL TREATMENT PROJECT -- Resolution No. 176

Mrs. Jamieson reported that the City received one bid – from Suit-Kote Corporation of Meadville -- for the project involving the application of a slurry seal to the roads in Franklin Heights that were previously paved with reclaimed millings.

The streets include:

- Gurney Road – 15th to Evergreen Drive
- Wendy Way – Big Oak Drive to End
- Forest Lane – Gurney Road to End
- Evergreen Drive – 15th Street to Woodland Drive
- Big Oak Drive – Gurney Road to End
- South Edgewood Drive – Evergreen Drive to Point B
- South Edgewood Drive – From Point B to Evergreen Arbors, included as optional

Suit-Kote presented a total bid of \$99,758.55, including a base bid of \$83,380.30 and a bid of \$14,378.25 for the additional stretch on South Edgewood.

Mr. Lyons moved to award the bid to Suit-Kote in the amount of \$99,758.55. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The project will be funded by Liquid Fuels funds. Mrs. Jamieson indicated approximately \$200,000 in Liquid Fuels funding will remain for additional street paving next summer.

CATEGORY 4 LICENSED FACILITY DECISION

Ms. Jamieson advised the Council that it would have to pass an opt-out resolution by Dec. 31, 2017, if it did not want the City of Franklin to be considered as a possible site for a mini-casino facility. Up to 10 more of the mini-casinos -- which could include 300 to 500 slot machines and gaming tables – will be permitted in the state under Act 42, signed into law by Governor Wolf.

After brief discussion, Council members agreed to take no action at this time.

FINAL READING – Bill No. 9 – Traffic & Parking Meter Codes – Resolution No. 177

Mr. Spaid read the title of Bill No. 9, "Traffic & Parking Meter Codes," into the record. Mr. Marshall moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to adopt Bill No. 9, "Traffic & Parking Meter Codes," on Final Reading. Motion passed unanimously.

FINAL READING – Bill No. 10 – Budget – Resolution No. 178

Mr. Spaid read the title of Bill No. 10, “Budget,” into the record. Mr. Marshall moved and Mr. Lyons seconded a motion to adopt on Final Reading, Bill No. 10, “Budget.” Motion passed unanimously.

FINAL READING – Bill No. 11 – Real Estate Tax – Resolution No. 179

Mr. Spaid read the title of Bill No. 11, “Real Estate Tax,” into the record. Mr. Dulaney moved to adopt on Final Reading, Bill No. 11, “Real Estate Tax.” Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FINAL READING – Bill No. 12 – Earned Income Tax – Resolution No. 180

Mr. Spaid read the title of Bill No. 12, “Earned Income Tax,” into the record. Mr. Dulaney moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to adopt on Final Reading, Bill No. 12, “Earned Income Tax.” Motion passed unanimously.

PARADE & PARK REQUESTS - None

REPORTS

Manager

- Reported there would be a meeting with Tri-County Industries of Grove City to discuss the information to be provided to residents regarding any changes in garbage and recycling services under the City’s new three-year contract with Tri-County, including the choice of a 35- or 95-gallon recycling cart. The information sheet will be included with the garbage bills or as a separate mailing. Ms. Jamieson indicated Tri-County has also offered to provide trash carts to those City residents who want them, at a cost of \$2 a month, which Tri-County will bill for separately.
- Updated Council on the new parking kiosks in Lot C, which have logged 277 transactions since they went on line just before Thanksgiving, with 95 of those since Dec. 1. She said the City’s parking enforcement officer has been working diligently to educate the public in using the kiosks and has also spoken with business owners in the vicinity and explained how they can pay for parking for their clients. Bollards and additional signs will be installed near the kiosks.
- Thanked Council for its support and City staff members for their hard work and wished all a Merry Christmas. She also remarked on how beautiful the downtown decorations are this year.
- Indicated she would need a short amount of time in executive session, with no action to follow.

Solicitor

- No report

Mayor -- Appointments

Resolution No. 181 – Mayor Baker moved to re-appoint Pete O’Polka to the General Authority of the City of Franklin. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion, which passed

unanimously.

Resolution No. 182 – Mr. Baker moved to re-appoint Chuck Gibbons, Dianne Hall and Dan Weiland to the Historic & Architectural Review Board. Mrs. Fletcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 183 – Mr. Baker moved to appoint the Rev. Elizabeth Yale to the Franklin Housing Authority Board. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 184 – Mr. Baker moved and Mr. Dulaney seconded a motion to appoint Roger McCauley to the Franklin Industrial & Commercial Development Authority board, effective Jan. 1, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Baker

- Complimented everyone on Light-Up Night.

Mr. Johnson

- Advised that the Oil Region Alliance will host a program about Coal Oil Johnny on Dec. 12, 2017, at Venango Museum.

Mr. Dulaney

- No report

Mr. Marshall

- No report

Mrs. Fletcher

- No report

Mr. Lyons

- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Mays

- Wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Resolution No. 185

Mr. Marshall moved to enter into executive session at 8 p.m. to discuss negotiations. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The executive session ended at 8:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Boughner, Recording Secretary