

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
May 26, 2022**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at the Municipal Building, 2nd Floor, Council Chambers, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, MA. Councilors present: Brian Chandler, Theodore Cormier-Leger, Robert Dellorco, Cobi Frongillo, Melanie Hamblen, Glenn Jones, Thomas Mercer, Deborah Pellegrini, Patrick Sheridan. Councilors absent: None. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney; Alecia Alleyne, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

**CALL TO ORDER:** ► Chair Mercer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Chair Mercer called for a moment of silence. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** ► Chair Mercer reviewed the following as posted on the agenda. A Note to Residents: All citizens are welcome to attend public board and committee meetings in person. Meetings are live-streamed by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29. In an effort to maximize citizen engagement opportunities, citizens will be able to continue to participate remotely via phone or Zoom. He announced that this meeting is being recorded by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29. This meeting may be recorded by others.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:** None.

**HEARINGS: 7:00 p.m. ► FY23 Town Council Annual Operating Budget Hearing.** ► Chair Mercer declared the hearing open. ► Chair Mercer stated that the Town Council got through every line item at last night's meeting. He stated that if there are any questions that did not get answered last night, they can be asked now. He stated that there was a question last night regarding the Cultural Council and some associated funds. He stated that they did some investigating today and found that the Cultural Council right now has about \$64,000 in their coffers that is grant money that can be used to fund the event if they so choose. As well, we were notified this afternoon that Senator Rausch was able to get \$10,000 towards the cultural event. He stated that at least from where he sits, he thinks the funds appear to be there for them to be able to cover the event. ► Mr. Hellen stated that the \$10,000 earmark is in the Senate budget as of today. There will be a conference committee that delivers the governor the budget by July 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated that one hiccup regarding the earmark is that the festival is so early in September from when the budget gets done. He stated that we do appreciate Senator Rausch's efforts. He stated that he is going to work with the state agency to get the money. He stated that this is one funding piece that can assist; it will be a tight timeline. He stated that the treasurer/collector and comptroller sent him an email that the balance in the account is \$64,286.73; some of those funds may be conceptually allocated. He stated that the cost was around \$30,000 for the festival. He stated that if those options do not suffice, the only other option is plucking \$15,000 or \$30,000 from other budgets; he explained his plan for how this would be done. He stated that there is some funding available for the Cultural Council to have their festival. ► Councilor Frongillo asked about outstanding invoices and receipts. ► Mr. Hellen stated that the Cultural Council would have to speak with someone on the finance team to determine what is outstanding. ► Ms. Kerri Bertone, Treasurer/Collector, stated that she works with the Cultural Council. She discussed the way the expenses are paid. She stated that she is not aware of any expenses that have not been paid. ► Councilor Cormier-Leger reviewed how the Cultural Council operates and noted the allotment of grants already awarded. ► Chair Mercer stated that they want to support the event. Right now, it appears as there are sufficient funds to deal with the festival. When we get to the fall and round two of the budget, we can make adjustments if we need to in order to deal with this event. ► Councilor Frongillo asked if more can be given to cultural allocations. ► Chair Mercer stated that he believes he is hearing that there is support from the Town Council to do that; the way to do that is to be involved early

on as we build the budget which starts in the fall of every year and get their requests in to the Town Administrator and allocate more money if we choose to; but there is a process. Right now, we are beyond the starting point. If the money is needed, we will have the opportunity to help that. The prudent thing to do is have Mr. Hellen talk to the Cultural Council to make sure they understand the process and see what their needs are going forward. If they need to come back to us, they will come back to us. ► Councilor Chandler reviewed the Cultural Council's finances. ► Chair Mercer stated that he believes great strides have been made in developing the cultural district. He thinks the support is there. ► Councilor Jones said that he agrees with the efforts made for arts and cultural in the town. He agrees with holding off and waiting until they get additional information. ► Mr. Hellen emphasized that he does not want people to feel unhappy or that there is some kind of loss. He stated that clearly, the arts and cultural sector is a huge economic development opportunity for this community; we all have to do a better job working together to make it better. ► Mr. Stephen Sherlock, 10 Lawrence Drive, Franklin Matters, stated that last night the room was full with all the department heads. He said he is uncomfortable that the Cultural Council chair and Cultural District Committee chair were not in attendance, and the Town Council is speculating about amounts. He suggested they be brought into the discussion. ► Chair Mercer declared the second public hearing closed.

**LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: *La Cantina Winery - Farmer-Winery, Farmer's Market License.***

► Councilor Jones read the license transaction. ► **MOTION to Approve** the issuance of a Farmer Winery, Farmer's Market License to Robert Vozzella, La Cantina Winery Company, by **Jones. SECOND** by **Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated that his recommendation is to vote yes. ► Councilor Hamblen asked if this was for wine or beer. ► Mr. Vozzella (via Zoom) stated this is just for wine. ► Councilor Chandler asked about the transporter license and how much Mr. Vozzella could transport. ► Mr. Cerel stated that every aspect of handling alcohol is overseen by the ABCC including transportation and storage. ► Mr. Vozzella stated that as part of a Farmer-Winery he is allowed to self-distribute and he also needs a salesman permit and transportation permit. He does not believe there is a limit on how much he can transport. He stated that on average, he is only carrying four or five cases at a time. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

**LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:**

**Note:** Two-Thirds Vote requires six votes; Majority Vote requires majority of members present and voting.

- a. ***Resolution 22-31: Departmental FY23 Expenditure Limits, Town Code Chapter 73, MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 (Motion to Approve Resolution 22-31 - Majority Vote).*** ► Councilor Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 22-31: Departmental FY23 Expenditure Limits, Town Code Chapter 73, MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 by **Dellorco. SECOND** by **Hamblen. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated that this is a routine required statutory vote to set the expenditure limits and types of revolving accounts. This is the same list for a number of years. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- b. ***Resolution 22-32: Salary Schedule: Full-Time Elected Official - Town Clerk (Motion to Approve Resolution 22-32 - Majority Roll Call Vote).*** ► **MOTION to Continue** Resolution 22-32: Salary Schedule: Full-Time Elected Official - Town Clerk, to the June 8, 2022, meeting at 7 PM by **Dellorco. SECOND** by **Hamblen. No discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- c. ***Resolution 22-33: Adoption of the FY23 Budget (Motion to Approve Resolution 22-33 – Majority Vote).*** ► Councilor Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 22-33: Adoption of the FY23 Budget by **Dellorco. SECOND** by **Hamblen. Discussion:** ► Mr. Cerel stated that the language references that you have already taken a vote to adopt the budget. He recommended that they first take a vote to approve that document and then vote this, which

references that vote. ► **MOTION to Withdraw** the motion to approve Resolution 22-33: Adoption of the FY23 Budget by **Dellorco. SECOND by Hamblen.** ► **MOTION to Vote** the Town of Franklin Operating Budget Fiscal Year 2023 Voting Document as described last night according to the Fiscal Year 2023 FinCom recommendations by **Jones. SECOND by Hamblen. No discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 22-33: Adoption of the FY23 Budget by **Dellorco. SECOND by Hamblen. No discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:** ► Mr. Hellen wished everyone a wonderful Memorial Day weekend. He stated that the Memorial Day parade will be held on Monday, May 30, 2022, at 10:30 AM with a speaking ceremony at 12 noon on the Town Common.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** ► Councilor Cormier-Leger wished everyone happy Memorial Day and he thanked all the veterans for their service. He congratulated the Franklin Food Pantry on their new facility. He congratulated the Cultural District and Cultural Council on a successful arts symposium last week. He congratulated all Franklin graduates. ► Councilor Chandler stated that he echoed a lot of what Councilor Cormier-Leger said. He thanked everyone for the work on the budget. He noted his new phone number. ► Councilor Pellegrini read an announcement from Mary O’Neill. They are going to have an event on Sunday, June 12, 2022, at 5 PM at the Franklin Town Common. St. Mary’s School will be used if there is inclement weather. The master of ceremonies will be Representative Jeff Roy. Faith leaders of Franklin will be involved. She wished everyone a safe Memorial Day. She thanked all the veterans. She stated that the Senior Center was having their veterans breakfast tomorrow morning at 9 AM. She stated that the Franklin Food Pantry ribbon cutting was great. They are looking for help. ► Councilor Sheridan said happy Memorial Day. ► Councilor Frongillo stated that the MetroWest cultural symposium was fantastic. He noted the crosswalk in front of Chestnut Ridge was put in. He stated that the Strawberry Stroll is June 10, 2022, from 4 PM to 8 PM and Pride Day is June 26, 2022, from 12 PM to 4 PM. ► Councilor Hamblen reminded everyone that June 3, 2022, is the first Farmer’s Market at the Town Common. She noted the Strawberry Stroll on June 10, 2022, and that there will be a Franklin for All booth at the event. She thanked everyone for the wonderful budget process. She noted the events in the past few weeks happening around the country. She stated that her message to everyone is that we find a way to make a difference and have courage to fight for what is right; that is her message of hope. ► Councilor Jones said happy Memorial Day. He thanked everyone who was in the Town Council chambers last night for the budget hearing. He noted that there were no layoffs during the budget process. ► Councilor Dellorco thanked everyone for the budgets. He gave prayers to the people of Texas. He said happy Memorial Day and he thanked the veterans for their service. ► Chair Mercer thanked and congratulated all staff and employees of the Town of Franklin for a great budget process. He congratulated the graduates of Franklin. He said happy Memorial Day to everyone.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** ► *a. Exemption #3: Collective Bargaining (all Town unions) - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares.*

► *b. Exemption #6: To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body and the chair so declares. i. Schmidt’s Farm, Prospect Street.*

► Chair Mercer stated there is a need for an executive session. He said that there will be two executive sessions. First, they will vote on going into the first executive session. The second one is needed because he needs to recuse himself from that subject; therefore, they have to exit one and start a new one. He stated that Vice Chair Dellorco will oversee the second executive session. ► Chair Mercer stated that there is a need to go into executive session for Exemption #3 which is Collective Bargaining, all Town

unions, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares, which I do.

► **MOTION** to **Enter** executive session for the purpose of Exemption #3: Collective Bargaining for all Town unions to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares, and the open meeting will not reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session by **Jones. SECOND** by **Dellorco. No Discussion.** ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Dellorco-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Sheridan-YES.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

*Open Session ended at 8:01 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Judith Lizardi  
Recording Secretary