

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
May 19, 2021**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at the Municipal Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Council Chambers, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, MA; residents could attend and participate via the Zoom platform.

**Councilors Present:** Andrew Bissanti, Brian Chandler, Robert Dellorco, Cobi Frongillo, Melanie Hamblen, Glenn Jones, Matthew Kelly, Thomas Mercer, Deborah Pellegri.

**Councilors Absent:** None.

**Administrative personnel in attendance:** Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney (via Zoom); Chrissy Whelton, Assistant to the Town Administrator, Alecia Alleyne, Executive Assistant

**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 that due to the continued concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus and Governor Baker's declared State of Emergency, we will be conducting a remote/virtual Town Council meeting for all public access and participation. The public will not be permitted to enter the building or participate in person. Only pre-approved participants on the meeting agenda will be allowed to enter the building and participate in person. In an effort to ensure citizen engagement and comply with open meeting law regulations, citizens will be able to dial into the meeting using the provided phone number, or citizens can participate by clicking on the link provided on the agenda. The provided link and phone number will be active for the duration of the meeting for citizens to ask questions/voice concerns. If residents are just interested in watching the meeting, it will also be live-streamed by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29. This meeting is being recorded by Franklin TV and may also be recorded by others. He stated that Councilor Hamblen would be participating remotely.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:** None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Chair Mercer stated that he requests a motion that the Council vote to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of considering the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Board. He stated that the Town Council will return to open session at the adjournment of the Executive Session.

- MOTION to Move that the Franklin Town Council go into Executive Session by Councilor Jones. SECOND by Councilor Dellorco. No discussion.
- ROLL CALL VOTE: Bissanti-YES; Chandler-YES; Dellorco-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegri-YES.
- VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.

The Town Council entered into Executive session at 7:06 PM and Exited Executive Session at 8:02 PM.

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION:** Chairman Mercer reconvened the open session and informed the public of the following:

- Chairman Mercer briefed the public and provided the following information; The Town council agreed on a consensus date for the public hearing regarding the Maple Hill Right of First Refusal to purchase by the Town of Franklin. The Public Hearing date before the Town Council will be June 9th, 2021 and will be posted on June 7th, 2021 in compliance with all open meeting law regulations. There will also be a presentation on the right of first refusal by Town Administrator Hellen, which will likely answer any questions that participants may have.
- Chairman Mercer gave an update on the changes regarding meeting attendance, due to the pending reduction in COVID restrictions, there will be a limited amount of space for in person participation for the public, the chair asked that each neighborhood/area of Town try and coordinate a limited number of in person representatives and get in touch with the Town Administrator's office to register to attend the meeting. The Town has also expanded

its remote ZOOM capacity so there will be plenty of room for people to participate remotely. Additionally on June 15th, 2021 at 7:00PM the Community Preservation Committee will potentially consider this Right of First Refusal. The Finance committee will have a meeting June 16th, 2021 at 6:00PM to potentially discuss this as well. The dates are subject to change and the Town staff will continue to update residents.

- Stephen Sherlock - Clarified that the June 9th date is a public hearing and that there will not be a formal vote that night.

**ADJOURN: ► MOTION to Adjourn by Mercer. SECOND by Dellorco. No Discussion. ► VOTE: Bissanti-YES; Chandler-YES; Dellorco-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES. ► VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Alecia Alleyne  
Executive Assistant,  
Town Administrator's Office