

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 17, 2018**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, October 17, 2018, at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present: Patrick Casey, Robert Dellorco, Melanie Hamblen, Glenn Jones, Matthew Kelly, Eamon McCarthy Earls, Thomas Mercer, Peter Padula, Deborah Pellegrini. Councilors absent: None. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jeffrey Nutting, Town Administrator; Jamie Hellen, Deputy Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney.

CALL TO ORDER: ► Chairman Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Kelly announced the meeting is being recorded by *Franklin TV* and available for viewing on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29. This meeting may also be recorded by others.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: ► Ms. Jane Callaway Tripp, 607 Maple Street, stated there had been issues with the culvert and drains on Maple Street during September; her house and two others were severely flooded. The culvert has been cleared and water is draining at this time. However, this is a temporary solution for an ongoing problem. She believes there is no maintenance scheduled for the Town drains or culverts. The culverts need to be cleaned every two to three years; the drains need to be cleaned every year. The last time the culvert on Maple Street was cleaned was in 2010; it has been years since the drains have been cleaned. That is unacceptable. The flooding she experienced was due to the street drains not taking any water. She was standing in her driveway up to her knees in water. She asked for this item to be put on tonight's agenda, but she was told that it was not something the Town Council would handle. She was born and raised in Franklin and is living in the house she grew up in. She stated that the Town needs to do something about the flooding that is occurring because the street drains are backing up. Someone in this Town must come up with a maintenance schedule because this has to be addressed; the drains and culverts need to be cleaned regularly. She stated that if what is already here in Town cannot be maintained for the townspeople, then the Town has no business changing anything else just to make it look pretty. This is not the first time this has been a problem. The DPW is going to have to take care of this maintenance regularly. She would like this to be put on the agenda; she would like the maintenance scheduled to be publicized.

► Mr. Dale Kurtz, Veterans' Services Officer, 4 Bald Hill Drive, provided an update on the Franklin Veterans' Memorial Walkway. He stated that there were 1,009 bricks purchased by people for the walkway; half the bricks were put in. Everything is moving along. The posts with the plaques are expected to be delivered near the end of next week. He reminded everyone that Veterans Day is Sunday, November 11, 2018; the celebration will be at 1:30 PM at the Town Common, rain or shine. It will be the 100th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities in WWI. They are also celebrating the dedication of the Franklin Veterans' Memorial Walkway.

► Ms. Teresa Burr, Town Clerk, reminded residents that today is the last day to register to vote in the state elections on November 6, 2018. She stated that all information about the election is on the website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *September 26, 2018.* ► **MOTION to Approve** the September 26, 2018 meeting minutes by Mercer. **SECOND** by Dellorco. **No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: *Swearing in of Firefighters.* ► Fire Chief Gary McCarragher introduced two new lieutenants to the fire department: Lieutenant Sean Lovely and Lieutenant Kevin Marshall. He reviewed their backgrounds and education. ► Town Clerk Teresa Burr performed the swearing in. ► Town Council members welcomed the fire department's new members.

Chairman Kelly called a two-minute recess.

APPOINTMENTS: Finance Committee, John Grace. ► Mr. Jones read the appointment. ► **MOTION** to **Ratify** the appointment by the Town Administrator of John Grace to serve as a member of the Finance Committee with an expiration of June 30, 2021, by **Jones. SECOND** by **Mercer. Discussion:** ► Chairman Kelly stated Mr. Grace had the best qualifications of the five people who they met with for this position. ► Mr. Grace said thank you. ► Town Council members thanked Mr. Grace for being a volunteer. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: None.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: None.

HEARINGS: Zoning Bylaw Amendment 18-820: Zoning Map Changes on or near King Street, Summer Street, Lawrence Drive, and Uncas Ave. ► Chairman Kelly declared the hearing open. ► Mr. Nutting stated this is a hearing to clean up some lot lines which are shown on the proposed and current maps provided. He reviewed the provided maps. He stated this makes the zone lines go to the lot lines. This does not change anyone's rights or property values. There will be more of these coming. ► Mr. Mercer stated these adjustments came before the EDC and were supported unanimously. He noted the EDC will continue to bring these forward quite frequently to get them cleaned up. ► **MOTION** to **Close** the Public Hearing by **Jones. SECOND** by **Mercer. No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Capital.** ► Mr. Dellorco stated nothing to report at this time.
2. **Budget.** ► Mr. Padula stated nothing to report at this time.
3. **Economic Development.** ► Mr. Mercer stated nothing to report at this time.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

- a. **Resolution 18-58: Acceptance of Gift to the Franklin Public Library from the Franklin Library Association (Motion to Approve Resolution 18-58- Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION** to **Approve** Resolution 18-58: Acceptance of Gift to the Franklin Public Library from the Franklin Library Association to fund a new Podium for the Franklin Public Library with donation not to exceed \$4,887 by **Mercer. SECOND** by **Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting thanked the Franklin Library Association for supporting the Franklin Public Library for over 100 years. ► Town Council members said thank you. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- b. **Resolution 18-59: Appropriation Request for FY 19 Supplemental Appropriations and Transfers (Motion to Approve Resolution 18-59- Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION** to **Approve** Resolution 18-59: Appropriation Request for FY 19 Supplemental Appropriations and Transfers by **Mercer. SECOND** by **Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated the Finance Committee last night supported this and the next two resolutions unanimously. He stated about \$1.5 million in non-recurring funds was needed to balance the budget. If all of this is approved, that would be reduced to under \$600,000. He reviewed and explained the Uses and Transfers listed on the resolution. He explained that some of the money for this came from more revenues in new growth. ► Town Council members made comments and asked questions on the Uses and Transfers. ► Mr. Nutting stated that they are getting by for the time being with just one support person in his office; they will see how it goes after a few months. He noted that 900-1,000 passports are done per year which do not come into his office anymore as this has been move downstairs. The visitation to the third-floor office has gone way done. ► Mr. Hellen stated the School Department on the third floor is also happy that the passport area has been moved downstairs. ► Mr. Nutting confirmed the administrative person that left his office moved downstairs and took the workload as well. He said

they are going to try it this way for now; technology really helps. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

- c. Resolution 18-60: Appropriation General Stabilization Fund (Motion to Approve Resolution 18-60- Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 18-60: Appropriation General Stabilization Fund by **Mercer. SECOND** by **Padula. Discussion.** ► Mr. Nutting stated that money was taken out of the Budget Stabilization Fund, but they would like to put money back into the General Stabilization Account. There is currently \$5.1 million in that account; this will get us to almost \$6.0 million. The Town's fiscal policy is to have 5 percent of the General Fund which would be a little over \$6.0 million, but this puts us in the right place. It also leaves \$377,000 in the Budget Stabilization Account. Hopefully, next year we will balance the budget with no use of reserves. It is just fiscal prudence to save for a rainy day. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- d. Resolution 18-61: Appropriation DPW- Public Way Improvements (Motion to Approve Resolution 18-61- Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 18-61: Appropriation DPW- Public Way Improvements by **Mercer. SECOND** by **Dellorco. Discussion.** ► Mr. Nutting stated that every year with few exceptions we take the hotel tax funds and put them into capital expenditures and most of the time it goes to public ways; again, we are short. He stated that this would be a repeat of the last several years trying to help us catch up with our street and sidewalk issues. It is an annual decision of the Town Council. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- e. Zoning Bylaw Amendment 18-820: Zoning Map Changes on or near King Street, Summer Street, Lawrence Drive, and Uncas Ave - 1st Reading (Motion to Move Zoning Bylaw Amendment 18-820 to a 2nd Reading- Majority Vote (5)).** ► **MOTION to Waive** the reading in lieu of a summary by the Town Administrator by **Mercer. SECOND** by **Padula. No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** ► **MOTION to Move** Zoning Bylaw Amendment 18-820: Zoning Map Changes on or near King Street, Summer Street, Lawrence Drive, and Uncas Ave to a 2nd Reading by **Mercer. SECOND** by **Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated this is the zoning lines. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Mr. Nutting stated the Town Council members should have received an email from Chrissy regarding the request for some information on the pension system. He provided the latest actuarial study and a brief explanation. Let him know if more information or explanation is needed. He stated that as far as the drain on Maple Street, he was up there personally several times and there were lots of emails back and forth. When a catch basin does get cleaned, it goes into the software program so we know when it was cleaned. The schedule depends on the catch basin as some fill up faster than others; some are done annually and some are done every couple of years. He said they will reach out and contact Jane and give her the schedule. He stated he thinks the culvert is a private property issue; he is going to have to look into that. We will work on it and give everyone a copy of what the outcome is, and we will let Jane know. ► Mr. Hellen stated that all the street lights will start getting replaced; they will replace 1,816 lights in the next two months. It should be done by the end of the year. He thanked the DPW, Fire Department and Police Department for doing an excellent job at Harvest Fest. He reminded voters about early voting from October 22 through November 2; the times are on the Town website.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: ► Mr. Earls asked about the system currently used to track storm drains and culverts and if it had a way of escalating items that had not been taken care of or cleaned recently. ► Mr. Brutus Cantoreggi explained the new technology and how the data is collected for the stormwater basins to determine how often each needs to be cleaned. Storm basin cleaning is weather dependent. ► Mr. Casey mentioned the 40B project in Norfolk. He stated that heavy metals were found in the soil there. He read aloud an excerpt from the report. He asked if the Norfolk officials have reached out to Franklin as we are bordering the water there. ► Mr. Nutting stated he is on the Metacomet Board that meets once a month and the Norfolk Town Administrator is also on the Board. So, Mr. Nutting asks him every month what is going on with the development. It has all been on hold pending complete

investigation of the environmental issues. There has been an environmental review of the entire property; he does not know what the results are yet. He stated he will obtain and provide some information no later than Friday.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Ms. Hamblen thanked everyone for coming out to Harvest Fest. It was a lot of fun. ► Mr. Mercer questioned if the culvert was on private property. ► Mr. Nutting stated the culvert is under the road, but it discharges down in between two people's property. ► A member of the audience provided some information on the culvert area. ► Mr. Mercer said great job on Harvest Fest; it was well attended. ► Mr. Earls stated he is reaching out to veterans and civilians who have stories to share about Franklin throughout the years as he is working on collecting these interviews in conjunction with Franklin TV. He provided his email address and phone number for individuals who would like to contact him. ► Ms. Pellegrini stated she attended Joe Landry's speech at the Senior Center the other day. He talked about Downtown Franklin and shared pictures. There was a great discussion; he did a wonderful job. She stated his lectures will be once a month at the Senior Center. She thought it was great tonight for Lieutenant Sean Lovely to be appointed at the same time his father is retiring. The Harvest Festival was wonderful. The uptown lights are great, and she hopes they remain lit. She is glad that Mr. Nutting and Mr. Cantoreggi are going to get back in touch with Jane about the drains and culvert on Maple Street. ► Mr. Padula stated great job with the Harvest Festival. ► Mr. Jones noted that Friday, November 16, 2018, at 7:00 PM at the Tri-County High School gymnasium, the Franklin Education Foundation will have their annual Harlem Wizards fundraiser to help raise money for grants that go toward teachers' needs in the Franklin Public School system. Tickets are on sale. More information is available online. ► Chairman Kelly stated the Harvest Festival was great. He noted that Mr. Casey and Rep. Roy did a great job at the debate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *None.*

ADJOURN: MOTION to Adjourn by Mercer. SECOND by Jones. No Discussion. ► VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary