

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 14, 2018**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present: Patrick Casey, Robert Dellorco, Melanie Hamblen, Glenn Jones, Eamon McCarthy Earls, Thomas Mercer, Peter Padula, Deborah Pellegrini. Councilors absent: Matthew Kelly. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jeffrey Nutting, Town Administrator; Jamie Hellen, Deputy Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *January 10, 2018, January 24, 2018.* ► **MOTION** to **Approve** the January 10, 2018 meeting minutes by **Padula. SECOND** by **Dellorco. No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.** ► **MOTION** to **Approve** the January 24, 2018 meeting minutes by **Padula. SECOND** by **Dellorco. No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Vice Chairman Mercer 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.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: *None.*

CITIZEN COMMENTS: *None.*

APPOINTMENTS: ► *Agricultural Commission.* ► Vice Chairman Mercer stated that the administration has asked that this item be postponed until the next meeting as a little more work on this needed to be done.

► *Design Review Commission.* ► Mr. Jones read the appointment. ► **MOTION** to **Ratify** the appointment by the Town Administrator of Sean Preston to serve as an associate member of the Design Review Commission with an expiration of June 31, 2019 by **Jones. SECOND** by **Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Preston introduced himself and provided his background. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

HEARINGS: *None.*

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: *None.*

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: *None.*

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Capital.** ► Mr. Dellorco stated they had their final meeting two weeks ago; they did DPW and Public Safety. Everything went well. He thanked his fellow councilors, Mr. Nutting, and Mr. Hellen for their help in making it a smooth process.
2. **Budget.** ► Mr. Padula stated the subcommittee will be meeting next Tuesday.
3. **Economic Development.** ► Mr. Mercer stated they met on January 29, 2018. They started to look at some of the many items that need to be addressed. One of the first things to be worked on is updating some zoning lines that need a little tweaking. The next meeting is next Wednesday.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

1. **Resolution 18-04: Appropriation – Street Lighting (Motion to Move Resolution 18-04 – Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 18-04: Appropriation – Street Lighting for \$22,500 by Jones. SECOND by Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated this is to repair and replace bulbs that get burned out and to replace underground wire. Expenses have gone up. This is for the old existing lights. Once the LEDs are installed, the expensive budget for this cost will go down significantly because the LEDs have a 10-year life. ► Mr. Hellen noted that the updating of the street lighting is going through a pilot program with a few streets in town to test different lights. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
2. **Resolution 18-05: Appropriation – General Fund Capital FY 18 (Motion to Move Resolution 18-05 – Majority Vote (5)).** ► **MOTION to Waive the reading by Dellorco. No SECOND.** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 18-05 Appropriation – General Fund Capital FY 18 for \$1,866,500 by Dellorco. SECOND by Padula. Discussion:** ► Town Council members asked questions and discussed the item. ► Mr. Nutting stated this gets funded out of Free Cash. With this vote and the vote just taken on the lights, there will still be about \$727,000 left in Free Cash. We do all the capital out of Free Cash, so it really will not affect the FY 19 operating budget. He noted that Mr. Dellorco headed the committee and a vote of 4-0 was taken to recommend this plan. ► Police Chief Lynch explained the live fingerprint scanning system. ► School Superintendent Ahern stated that the current math materials are 10 years out of date for middle school and early high school. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
3. **Resolution 18-06: Appropriation – Fire Truck Stabilization Fund FY 18 (Motion to Move Resolution 18-06 – Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 18-06: Appropriation – Fire Truck Stabilization Fund FY 18 for \$100,000 by Jones. SECOND by Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated the town tries to buy a new fire engine about every seven years; the way it is done is to save for seven years. This is good fiscal planning. The same is true for the next item. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
4. **Resolution 18-07: Appropriation – Turf Field Stabilization Fund FY 18 (Motion to Move Resolution 18-07 – Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 18-07: Appropriation – Turf Field Stabilization Fund FY 18 for \$150,000 by Jones. SECOND by Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated this is the same plan as the above item. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
5. **Resolution 18-08: Appropriation – Enterprise Fund Capital FY 18 (Motion to Move Resolution 18-08 – Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 18-08: Appropriation – Enterprise Fund Capital FY 18 for \$405,000 by Jones. SECOND by Dellorco. No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
6. **Resolution 18-09: Appropriation – OPEB Trust Fund FY 18 (Motion to Move Resolution 18-09 – Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 18-09: Appropriation – OPEB Trust Fund FY 18 for \$280,000 by Jones. SECOND by Dellorco. Discussion:** Mr. Nutting provided an update on where the town is with OPEB. He stated there is a \$69-\$70 million obligation; there is about \$3.5 in the bank. The policy is to put 10 percent Free Cash and increase the annual appropriation in the budget by \$50,000 per year. He noted the annual meeting of the OPEB Trust is in March. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
7. **Resolution 18-10: Dissolution of the Senior Center Building Committee (Motion to Move Resolution 18-10 – Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 18-10: Dissolution of the Senior Center Building Committee by Jones. SECOND by**

Dellorco. Discussion: ► Vice Chairman Mercer stated that having been the Chairman of the Senior Center Building Committee, he thanked the committee members and the director of facilities. As well, he thanked the architectural firm and the project manager for doing a wonderful job. ► Mr. Nutting thanked the committee for doing a wonderful job. He said it will serve the community for generations to come. It is one of the best senior centers in the Commonwealth. He said the remaining punch list will be completed in the next couple of months. ► Town Council members stated it has many features and is a great facility. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

8. **Resolution 18-11: Dissolution of the Library Building Committee (Motion to Move Resolution 18-11 – Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 18-11: Dissolution of the Library Building Committee by Jones. SECOND by Padula. Discussion:** ► Vice Chairman Mercer thanked the Library Building Committee Chair Judy Pfeffer, the committee members, the director of facilities, and the construction contractor for their efforts and fantastic job on this project. ► Mr. Nutting thanked the staff for their hard work in having to move the library to the temporary space and then back to the library building. He stated work on incorporating more funds to the library is needed. Franklin is one of the libraries in the state that does meet the minimum required by statute. ► Town Council members asked questions and discussed library funding and the statute. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
9. **Resolution 18-12: Dissolution of the Franklin Advisory Committee (Motion to Move Resolution 18-12 – Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 18-12: Dissolution of the Franklin Advisory Committee by Jones. SECOND by Padula. Discussion:** Mr. Nutting thanked the committee and said they made a couple of good recommendations; their hard work is appreciated. ► Vice Chairman Mercer thanked the committee chair and members for their work on the town's behalf. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
10. **Bylaw Amendment 18-798R: Chapter 155, Streets and Sidewalks – 1st Reading (Motion to Move Bylaw Amendment 18-798R to a 2nd Reading – Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the bylaw amendment. ► **MOTION to Move Bylaw Amendment 18-798R: Chapter 155, Streets and Sidewalks to a 2nd Reading by Dellorco. SECOND by Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated the Town Council's advice was taken and the language for this amendment was changed. ► Mr. Cerel stated that if a project is ongoing, this could hold up permits until any fine gets paid. ► Regarding how the contractor would be notified, the town official would go onsite and notify the contractor to clean up their mess. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
11. **Bylaw Amendment 18-799: Chapter 82, Fees, Appendix B – Sewer Rates – 2nd Reading (Motion to Approve Bylaw Amendment 18-799 – Majority Roll Call Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the bylaw amendment. ► **MOTION to Approve Bylaw Amendment 18-799: Chapter 82, Fees, Appendix B – Sewer Rates by Dellorco. SECOND by Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated that a study was conducted and the average Massachusetts sewer rate is \$862 per year for someone that uses 120 cubic feet of water per year; the average Franklin amount is \$618. But, the average Franklin user only uses about 88 cubic feet; so, the average Franklin bill is \$450 per year against the state average of \$862. This increase is critical to maintain the town's infrastructure. It has been five years since the rate has increased. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Casey-YES; Dellorco-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Earls-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegri-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
12. **Bylaw Amendment 18-800: Chapter 82, Fees, Appendix B – Water Rates – 2nd Reading (Motion to Approve Bylaw Amendment 18-800 – Majority Roll Call Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the bylaw amendment. ► **MOTION to Approve Bylaw Amendment 18-800: Chapter 82, Fees, Appendix B – Water Rates by Dellorco. SECOND by Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated the average state-wide is \$595 and Franklin is \$470. The water rates have not been increased in six years. ► **ROLL**

CALL VOTE: Casey-YES; Dellorco-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Earls-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegrini-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Mr. Nutting stated that they are busy with the budget, working with the school folks, crunching numbers for all department heads, and waiting for health insurance numbers to come in, probably early next week. He has a meeting next week with budget folks. Moving along with this; trying to make a long-term strategic plan because this is not a one-year problem. They will also have meetings with all the unions.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: ► Ms. Hamblen stated that Ms. Stacey David, Chair of the Cultural District Council, contacted Ms. Hamblen and Mr. Earls. Ms. David stated they are concerned about the restrictions on advertising and they want to put up some temporary banners to advertise special events. ► Vice Chairman Mercer stated this would go to the EDC and it is on their agenda for their next meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Ms. Hamblen stated she was honored to be a guest reader at the library; the youth services librarian is fabulous. She warned people that there are already ticks out. ► Mr. Dellorco sent prayers to those in Florida regarding the shooting that happened today. ► Ms. Pellegrini thanked Jeff Roy for securing Elizabeth Warren to come to Franklin; it was a wonderful day. There were over 1,600 people. ► Mr. Jones said God Bless to Florida and pray for the families and children affected by this. ► Vice Chairman Mercer gave a shout out to the Franklin High School Wrestling Team who went undefeated and for the first time in 20 years all weight classes qualified for the state championships. ► Mr. Nutting gave a shout out to the School Committee who gave a forum last night about the struggles schools have regarding funding; it was well run and informative. He noted that there are lots of hearts around the gazebo in the Town Common; a local person asked if they could do that. Anytime there is a chance for art, the town tries to say yes. It will be up for a couple of weeks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *None.*

ADJOURN: MOTION to Adjourn by Padula. SECOND by Jones. No Discussion. ► VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary