

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
May 23, 2019**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Thursday, May 23, 2019, 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; Chrissy Whelton, Administrative Assistant.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: ► 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.

HEARINGS: FY 2020 Budget Hearing 7:10 PM

- a. *Voting Document*
- b. *FY 20 Budget Message*
- c. *FY 20 Town Administrator Proposed Budget*

► Chairman Mercer declared the second public hearing for the FY 2020 Budget open. He asked if any Town Council members had follow-up questions to any of the issues from last night. ► Mr. Earls noted the current cost saving efforts that the police and fire departments are undertaking and asked if there will be someone at the front desks of these departments 24/7. ► Mr. Nutting said there will be someone there 20/7 at the police station and no personnel at the fire department as it has a kiosk with a phone if no one is at the station. Usually administration is available at the fire department during the day. ► Chairman Mercer opened the meeting to public comments on the FY20 budget. ► Mr. Christopher Brady, 36 Kimberlee Avenue, thanked all elected officials who serve without pay. He thanked the community of school and municipal employees who work for Franklin. He stated the state tax receipts are over \$1 billion more than last year and unemployment is lower than it has been since the 1960s; the stock market is soaring. But, here in Franklin, we are laying off teachers, increasing fees, and charging students to park in spaces already paid for by taxpayers. How did we let this situation get so far and how did we get here? We need to step up this year to stop the school funding crisis. He explained how the state is responsible for this and reviewed the budget formula. He discussed how state officials keep talking about school funding reform each year, but it does not happen. He discussed the antiquated Charter School funding formula. He expressed concern that citizens were not told exactly what cuts and fee increases were going to happen. He stated the Town and Schools need to step up this year with an override to stop the school funding crisis, and he asked when the community will step up and support an override to help Franklin stop the school funding crisis. He encouraged citizens to contact their legislators regarding school funding. He stated an override is needed now to fix the budget crisis in Franklin. ► Chairman Mercer responded with a review of the budget process. He stated that preliminary numbers are not even received until January or February. In answer to not knowing what the schools are going to cut, he stated they were looking at cuts and what they might have to do as soon as they had an idea of what the numbers were. The process is a good process; it has been going on for the last six months. Every meeting is an open and public meeting. We have tried hard to make the public aware of the budget process and the budget shortfalls that we are/are not anticipating. Regarding the Charter School formula, the moment the information was received, the School Committee looked at what they needed to do; they had many open meetings regarding those items. He stated he hears Mr. Brady's concerns, but even at this moment they do not have the final Chapter 70 money numbers.

► **MOTION to Close the second FY 2020 Budget Hearing by Kelly. SECOND by Dellorco. No discussion. 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 19-32: Adoption of FY 2020 Budget (Motion to Move Resolution 19-32 - Two-Thirds Majority Vote (6)). ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 19-32: Adoption of FY 2020 Budget by Kelly. SECOND by Padula. No Discussion.** ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Casey-YES; Dellorco-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Earls-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegri-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

Mr. Jones recused himself.

b. Resolution 19-33: Amendment to FY 2020 Budget (Motion to Move Resolution 19-33 - Majority Vote (5)). ► Vice Chair Kelly read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 19-33: Amendment to FY 2020 Budget by Padula. SECOND by Dellorco. No Discussion.** ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Casey-YES; Dellorco-YES; Hamblen-YES; Kelly-YES; Earls-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegri-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-0.**

Mr. Jones re-entered the meeting.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Mr. Nutting provided his final Town Administrator's report as he is retiring. He stated he prepared some remarks and read from his notes. He stated he has never cared about the credit, but he has cared deeply about making Franklin a better place to live for the past 18 years. He thanked many people and stated it has been an honor to work for Franklin. He reviewed the importance of customer service. He mentioned that with all the Town Councils he has worked with, the goal was to always make Franklin better. He stated he is not about the process, but about results. He reviewed some of the great accomplishments that have gotten done in the Town. He noted the great Veterans' Memorials which remind people of how lucky they are to live in this great country and great community; he encouraged people to never forget. He reviewed how each Town Council has done a great job and how all the unpaid volunteers have a mission to make Franklin better. He thanked the great employees of the Town. He stated the only constant in life is change. He has loved his job but it is time to move over for the next generation to meet the challenges of tomorrow. He knows Mr. Hellen and the entire staff will do a great job to serve the community for years to come. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the citizens of Franklin and he wished everyone all the best. ► Mr. Hellen read from his prepared remarks. He thanked Mr. Nutting for being a great mentor and friend. He thanked the Town Council for their trust in appointing him as the Town Administrator. He said the citizens have the best staff in any community in the state; it is an incredible community. He looks forward to working with the community. He will work tirelessly to make sure this community runs the way the citizens expect. He stated he loves coming to work every day. The staff is so dedicated. He again thanked the Town Council for the opportunity. ► Representative Jeff Roy stated it has been a privilege to work with Mr. Nutting. He read a House of Representatives Resolution which he explained is a piece of legislation they have to file and take to the floor of the House. He congratulated Mr. Nutting on his retirement as the Town Administrator and reviewed his past working history and background in the Commonwealth. He wished him much future success. ► Mr. Nutting thanked Rep. Roy. ► On behalf of Senator Spilka, her representative read a Resolution from the Senate to recognize Mr. Nutting for the great job he has done for Franklin. He noted how much Mr. Nutting is respected throughout the Commonwealth. He congratulated Mr. Nutting on his retirement. ► Mr. Nutting thanked Senator Spilka for all her help for Franklin.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Mr. Earls recommended that in the future they look at how the items are assessed for the IT budget and perhaps organize them differently. He thanked Mr. Nutting for the good job he has done. ► Ms. Pellegri stated Mr. Nutting was one of the top town administrators she has had the

pleasure of working with. She wished him the best of health and happiness. ► Mr. Padula thanked Mr. Nutting for his professionalism, work ethic, and integrity. He stated people emulate Franklin. He thanked Mr. Nutting for making a big difference in the community. He mentioned his uncle, John Padula, and thanked him for all he did throughout his life and the significant impact his uncle made on his life and the community. ► Ms. Hamblen stated she has worked with Mr. Nutting as both a citizen and as a Town Councilor. She thanked him for all he has done and all he has taught her. She encouraged people to get involved in town government. ► Mr. Casey thanked Mr. Nutting for all his knowledge and hard work for Franklin. ► Mr. Dellorco thanked Mr. Nutting for all he has taught him and for how hard he has worked for the Town; enjoy retirement. ► Mr. Jones thanked Mr. Nutting for his 18 years as the Town Administrator. He stated that Mr. Nutting is a true leader with passion and strength, and he is well respected for the work he does. He thanked Mr. Nutting for all his hard work for the community. ► Mr. Kelly stated Mr. Nutting is a leader of leaders. He made Franklin an amazing place to live. It has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Nutting and he will be missed. He thanked him for being a fantastic friend and running this wonderful community. ► Chairman Mercer thanked Mr. Nutting for his past 18 years of guidance, leadership, and accomplishments. He thanked him for his dedicated, hardworking and positive service to the Town of Franklin. He stated that he hopes he enjoys his retirement. He wished Mr. Nutting a happy retirement and the best of everything.

ADJOURN: ► MOTION to Adjourn by Padula. SECOND by Dellorco. No Discussion. ► VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary