

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
August 9, 2017**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present: Andrew Bissanti, Robert Dellorco, Glenn Jones, Matthew Kelly, Thomas Mercer, Peter Padula, Deborah Pellegrini, Judith Pond Pfeffer, Robert Vallee. 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *June 28, 2017, July 12, 2017.* ► **MOTION to Approve** the June 28, 2017 meeting minutes by Mercer. **SECOND** by Dellorco. **No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** ► **MOTION to Approve** the July 12, 2017 meeting minutes by Mercer. **SECOND** by Dellorco. **No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

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.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: ► **Recognition of Gary Premo.** ■ Police Chief Lynch recognized Mr. Gary Premo who recently resigned his position as Director of Communications. He gave a summary of Mr. Premo's background and career, reviewed his new job responsibilities, and gave him a token of appreciation. ■ Mr. Premo thanked everyone.

► **Swearing in of Police Officer.** ■ Police Chief Lynch introduced the newest member of the Police Department, Patrol Officer Leeanne Baker, and gave a summary of her background, career, and education. He stated that Officer Baker is a resident of Franklin. ■ Ms. Teresa Burr, Town Clerk, officiated the swearing in.

► **Recognition of Christopher Baker.** ■ Police Chief Lynch recognized Mr. Christopher Baker who recently resigned his position as detective with the Franklin Police Department. He gave a summary of Mr. Baker's background and career, and gave him a token of appreciation. ■ Mr. Baker thanked everyone.

► **Recognition of K9 Axe and Officer Michael Gilboy.** ■ Police Chief Lynch stated that K9 Axe suffered a medical issue and passed suddenly. He presented Officer Michael Gilboy with the flag that escorted Axe to his final resting place. He gave a summary of the great work Axe had done in the department. ■ Officer Gilboy thanked everyone for the support he has received.

Chairman Kelly called a three-minute recess.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: ► Mr. Dale Kurtz, Veteran's Officer, Town of Franklin, 4 Bald Hill Drive, thanked Teresa Burr for passing on an email she received from the Warrior Thunder Group stating that a group of 10 veterans will do a 200-mile ruck march August 17-20th to raise awareness of the issues that veterans face, particularly the veteran suicide rate. They start in Pittsfield on the 17th and arrive in Franklin on the 19th around 6:00 PM. They will walk down Lincoln Street onto Main Street with a brief stop at the War Memorial and continue through town to Wrentham. Citizens are welcomed to join the walk; the pace is approximately four miles per hour. He encouraged everyone to line the streets to support this group. More information is available at warriorthunderfoundation.org. ► Ms. Teresa Burr, Town Clerk, Town of Franklin, announced the Town Elections on November 7, 2017, at the High School gymnasium. She announced the positions, terms of office, and important dates. Any questions should be directed to her office at 508-520-4900, tburr@franklinma.gov or through the town website.

APPOINTMENTS: ► *Design Review Commission.* ► Ms. Pfeffer read the appointment. ► **MOTION** to **Ratify** the appointment by the Town Administrator of Samuel Williams to serve as a member of the Design Review Commission, with an expiration of June 30, 2020 by **Pfeffer. SECOND** by **Mercer.**
Discussion: ► Mr. Nutting stated Mr. Williams was not present at the meeting. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

HEARINGS: *None.*

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: ► *New Farmer-Winery Pouring License – La Cantina Winery.*
► Chairman Kelly declared the license transaction hearing open. ► Ms. Pfeffer read the license transaction. ► **MOTION** to **Approve** the request by La Cantina Winery for a new Farmer Winery Series Pouring License and approve the Manager, Robert Vozzella by **Pfeffer. SECOND** by **Mercer.**
Discussion: ► Chairman Kelly stated the applicant has been to many Town Council meetings. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: ► *School Superintendent Sara Ahern.* ► Ms. Ahern thanked the Town Council for the invitation to speak to them this evening. She introduced herself and stated she officially began the position of School Superintendent on July 1, 2017. She stated she is expanding her network and getting to know as many people as possible. She thanked Mr. Nutting and Mr. Hellen for their tour of Franklin; she thanked everyone for being so helpful and supportive. She is impressed with everyone's collaboration and professionalism. ► Mr. Mercer welcomed Ms. Ahern to the community. ► Mr. Jones stated he looks forward to seeing the direction the schools will take. ► Chairman Kelly welcomed Ms. Ahern.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: *None.*

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

- 1. Resolution 17-50: Acceptance of Gift – Town of Franklin Police Department (Motion to Move Resolution 17-50 – majority vote (5)).** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. ► **MOTION** to **Move** Resolution 17-50: Acceptance of Gift to Franklin Police Department from Moms Club of Franklin for \$150.00 by **Mercer. SECOND** by **Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting thanked the Moms Club for their donation. ► Ms. Pfeffer requested that since the Police Chief has been here for one year, could he get stationery with his name on it. ► Mr. Nutting stated that is up to the Police Chief. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- 2. Resolution 17-51: Town Clerk Prior Year Bills. (Motion to Move Resolution 17-51 – 2/3 majority vote (6)).** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. ► **MOTION** to **Move** Resolution 17-51: Town Clerk Prior Year Bills for \$1,493.08 by **Mercer. SECOND** by **Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated Ms. Burr was forced to spend over \$3,000 more on the advertising line than originally budgeted due to mostly the actions of the Town Council and all the bylaws. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

Mr. Bissanti recused himself.

- 3. Zoning Bylaw Amendment 17-795: Zoning Map Changes from Business and Commercial II to Single Family Residential IV and Commercial I, in an Area on or near Union, Cottage and Saxon Streets – Referral to the Planning Board (Motion to Refer Zoning Bylaw Amendment 17-795 to the Planning Board - majority vote (5)).** ► **MOTION** to **Waive** the reading by **Mercer. SECOND** by **Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Ms. Pfeffer stated this is an important change cleaning up lots lines, etc. There are people here wondering what is being taken care of and there are many parcels involved; she thinks it should be read. ► Mr. Dellorco withdrew his second. ► Mr. Mercer withdrew his motion to

waive the reading. ► Ms. Pfeffer read the zoning bylaw amendment. ► **MOTION to Move Zoning Bylaw Amendment 17-795: Zoning Map Changes from Business and Commercial II to Single Family Residential IV and Commercial I, in an Area on or near Union, Cottage and Saxon Streets – Referral to the Planning Board by Mercer. SECOND by Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated the easiest way to explain this is to refer to the map provided in the packet. Several years ago, the Town Council and the staff had a planning workshop and this was one of the items. At that time, no action was taken. The staff revisited it and thinks it is time to make the changes for several reasons which he outlined and reviewed. He thinks this new plan cleans up the neighborhood and resolves the split zone issues. He recommended these zoning changes go to the Planning Board for consideration then back to the Town Council for a public hearing and two readings which is the process under the bylaw. He stated there are two questions: do you agree with the proposal and there is a request to add a parcel. ► Mr. Jones asked about the differences between Commercial I and Commercial II. ► Mr. Taberner, Director, Planning and Community Development, described the differences. ► Ms. Pfeffer asked why is the parcel being added now when it was asked for in 2014. ► Mr. Nutting stated it is not up to the Town Administrator but the Town Council to add or subtract from the proposal. He stated that if the Town Council wants to add the parcel, he suggests they do it now and refer it to the Planning Board. ► **MOTION to Amend the Motion on the Floor to Add Parcel 287-053-000 to Commercial I by Pfeffer. SECOND by Dellorco. Discussion (on amendment):** ► Mr. Mercer asked if there is any reason why the Town Council would not add this. ► Mr. Taberner stated there were no objections by the Planning Department. ► Town Council members and Mr. Cerel discussed the legislative issues of the Motion and the Amendment to the Motion. ► Ms. Pfeffer re-worded her amendment: ***MOTION to Amend Zoning Bylaw Amendment 17-795 by Adding the following: And, the Zoning Map of the Town of Franklin be amended by changing from Single Family Residential IV to Commercial I an area containing 0.735± acres comprising the following parcel of land as shown on the Town of Franklin Assessor's Maps, 287-053-000, by Pfeffer. SECOND by Dellorco.*** ► **VOTE (on the amendment): Yes-8, No-0, Absent-0. Discussion:** ► Chairman Kelly reviewed the Zoning Bylaw Amendment for the audience. ► **VOTE (on Zoning Bylaw Amendment 17-795 as amended): Yes-8, No-0, Absent-0.** ► Mr. Nutting stated this will go to the Planning Board; they will advertise and hold a public hearing. Then it will come back to the Town Council for a public hearing and two readings prior to a vote to adopt. ► Mr. Mercer stated that going forward when these types of items come before the Town Council there should be a slide with a map displayed to summarize making it much easier for everyone.

Mr. Bissanti re-entered the meeting.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Mr. Nutting stated he was all set. ► Mr. Hellen stated he was all set.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: ► Mr. Bissanti stated there seems to be an attitude in the town to avoid that there is an opioid problem in the town. There have been areas identified in the Town of Franklin where there have been overdoses and deaths. He stated that if we could get restaurants and retailers NARCAN trained it will save lives. ► Mr. Nutting suggested this be brought to the SAFE Coalition.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Ms. Pellegrini stated she was recently at the Senior Center and was asked about the Senior Bus. She asked why the town is borrowing a bus from Medway. ► Mr. Nutting stated the bus was 14 years old and passed away. The town does not want to spend about \$100,000 for a new bus to use once a week or month. So, they borrow a bus. ► Ms. Pellegrini stated the Senior Center said they did have some money to donate to a bus. She noted that the Fourth of July celebration and the cultural event uptown are normally a few weeks apart. She is wondering if the two committees might want to combine these; maybe this would increase the volunteers. She is going to meet with the committees about this. ► Mr. Padula congratulated Brutus Cantoreggi on earning a Certificate for Local Government Leadership

and Management Program. ► Mr. Mercer stated the High School final audit is coming to a close, and hopefully will get final approval and MSBA final payment sometime end of October/beginning of November. ► Mr. Jones gave condolences for the loss of K9 Axe. He congratulated La Cantina for getting their space to serve wine. ► Mr. Dellorco stated he went to the wine opening and it is a great addition to the town; they do a wonderful job. He gave a shout out to Bobby Donovan for his retirement from the Fire Department and thanked him for his years of service. ► Mr. Bissanti stated he attended the cultural event at the Black Box. He thanked everyone; it was a great family event. He stated he attended the opening event at La Cantina; it was excellent. He thanked Jamie for helping to put that together. He gave a plug to the Franklin Community Pride Committee, presently seeking their non-profit status. Their mission statement is basically to raise funds for our first responders on anything they may need. It is a great group and a great effort. ► Ms. Pfeffer, regarding the Senior bus, stated that the Friends of the Franklin Elders have sufficient funds, but there has been no money promised to buy a bus although there has been discussion to perhaps fund a bus from another entity; members have been told that. She stated the library is coming along and will be finished mid to end October; there will be a Grand Opening. The brick sale at \$50 each is ongoing. The bridge on West Central Street is fantastic with flags; she thanked those who make it look so wonderful. ► Chairman Kelly gave condolences for the loss of K9 Axe. He congratulated Bobby Donovan on his retirement from the Franklin Fire Department. He thanked Mr. Mercer for covering for his speech at the Cultural Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *None.*

ADJOURN: MOTION to Adjourn by Mercer. SECOND by Dellorco. No Discussion. ► VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary