

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 2, 2019**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, at the Franklin Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present: Patrick Casey, Robert Dellorco, Eamon McCarthy Earls, Melanie Hamblen, Glenn Jones, Matthew Kelly, Thomas Mercer, Peter Padula, Deborah Pellegri. Councilors absent: None. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney; Chrissy Whelton, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

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.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: ► Mr. Dale Kurtz, Veterans' Services Officer gave a brief overview about the Veterans Day program and the walkway brick installation.

► Ms. Teresa Burr, Town Clerk, discussed election and voter registration information for the election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. She stated information about the election and voting procedures will be available for residents at the Harvest Festival on October 5, 2019. She will let the public know when absentee ballots are available. Information is available on the town's website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: ► *VFW Check Presentation.* Mr. Ernest Carruthers, Quartermaster of Franklin Post 3402 VFW, and a member of Franklin Post 3402 VFW presented a check for \$10,000 from proceeds selling bricks for the Veterans Memorial Walkway. Mr. Dale Kurtz, Veterans' Services Officer, accepted the check on behalf of the Veterans' Fund and thanked all the citizens who purchased bricks. He stated it is a growing memorial and noted that 158 bricks will be added between now and Veterans Day. Bricks continue to be sold through his office at the Town Hall. He thanked the VFW and their entire team for all they do. ► Chairman Mercer thanked the VFW for their hard work. He stated the Veterans Memorial Walkway is wonderful.

APPOINTMENTS: ► *Town Clerk, Election Worker Appointments: Dawn Sprague & Gail Potter.* ► Mr. Jones read the appointments. ► **MOTION to Ratify** the appointments by the Town Administrator of Dawn Sprague & Gail Potterto as requested by the Town Clerk to serve as election workers with a term to expire June 30, 2020 by **Kelly. SECOND** by **Dellorco. No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** ► *Franklin Cultural Council: Jon C. Mitchell.* ► Mr. Jones read the appointment. ► **MOTION to Ratify** the appointment by the Town Administrator of Jon C. Mitchell to serve as a member of the Franklin Cultural Council with a term to expire June 30, 2022 by **Kelly. SECOND** by **Padula. No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** ► Chairman Mercer thanked those who were appointed for giving their time to the town.

HEARINGS: None.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: None.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: None.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

► Chairman Mercer stated there are no subcommittee reports.

- a. *Capital Budget Subcommittee.*
- b. *Budget Subcommittee.*
- c. *Economic Development Subcommittee.*

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

Note: Two-Thirds Vote requires six votes; Majority Vote requires majority of members present and voting.

- a. *Resolution 19-64: Appropriation of Cable Funds in Support of PEG Service and Programming per M.G.L Ch.44, §53F3/4 (Motion to Approve Resolution 19-64: Majority Vote (5)).* ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 19-64: Appropriation of Cable Funds in Support of PEG Service and Programming per M.G.L Ch.44, §53F3/4 by **Kelly. SECOND** by **Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated this is part of the quarterly payment the town has to accept and appropriate. He noted Verizon was a little late in getting the payment to the town. This is the remainder of the quarterly payment for both Comcast and Verizon. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION: ► Collective Bargaining. ► Chairman Mercer read the executive session statement to discuss Collective Bargaining. The open session of the meeting will reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session. ► **MOTION to Move** that the Franklin Town Council vote to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town Council by **Kelly. SECOND** by **Dellorco. No Discussion.** ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Casey-YES; Dellorco-YES; Earls-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegri-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

The open session of the Town Council meeting ended at 7:12 PM.

Chairman Mercer called the open session of the Town Council meeting back to order at 7:44 PM.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION (continued):

- b. *Resolution 19-65: Ratification of AFSCME Local 1298 Custodians Contract (Motion to Approve Resolution 19-65: Majority Vote (5)).* ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 19-65: Ratification of AFSCME Local 1298 Custodians Contract by **Kelly. SECOND** by **Padula. No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- c. *Resolution 19-66: Salary Schedule Full-Time Elected Official (Motion to Approve Resolution 19-66: Majority Vote (5)).* ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 19-66: Salary Schedule Full-Time Elected Official by **Kelly. SECOND** by **Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated as required by the town bylaws, the Town Council annually has to set the rate for the elected town clerk position; it is commensurate with the one percent COLA raise with all non-union employees. ► Mr. Padula confirmed the prior salary was \$84,000 and it will be increased to \$84,840. ► Ms. Pellegri stated she wanted to amend the original motion and add a two percent increase which would be \$1,680 because there are no step increases or longevity with the town clerk's salary. Each year the town clerk must come before the Town Council to ask for their salary whereas no one else has to do that. ► No second to the

motion was given. ► Chairman Mercer asked for any further discussion on the original motion. ► **VOTE (to approve Resolution 19-66 as originally motioned): Yes-8, No-1, Absent-0.** (Ms. Pellegrini voted No.)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Mr. Hellen stated a State of the Schools letter by the Superintendent has been provided to the community. It is available on the School website. The Superintendent is going to try to do this every year. He hopes everyone in the community takes a look at it.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: ► Mr. Earls stated he would like to schedule a discussion with the DPW Director and the Town Engineer about traffic in Franklin, how it is changing, and if there are any resolutions that could be pursued. ► Mr. Jones asked if there would be a facilities update by the end of the year. ► Mr. Hellen stated there will be an item on the October 16, 2019 agenda regarding these discussions.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Mr. Earls thanked the Town Administrator and the Police Department on behalf of Franklin TV for the swift resolution regarding an issue a few weeks ago where some people were smashing glass bottles in the parking lot which was disrupting operations. ► Ms. Pellegrini stated former Fire Chief Francis Molloy passed away and she did not see the flag lowered. She stopped at the fire station and they lowered the flag immediately. She noted Mr. Molloy was a veteran and asked if the flags uptown should have been lowered as well. ► Mr. Kelly noted it is done by request of the family. ► Mr. Hellen stated he would check on that. ► Mr. Padula, Mr. Casey, Mr. Dellorco, Mr. Jones, and Chairman Mercer gave condolences to the Molloy family and said Fire Chief Molloy was a great person. ► Ms. Hamblen thanked those who have worked on the Veterans Walkway Memorial and the VFW for providing such a generous contribution. She reminded everyone that the Harvest Festival is this Saturday from 12:00-5:00 PM; the rain date is October 6, 2019. ► Mr. Jones stated the Fire Department is holding their open house on October 5, 2019. ► Chairman Mercer gave his condolences to the Brunelli family and said Mr. Peter Brunelli was a wonderful person. He thanked the VFW for the work on the Veterans Walkway Memorial. It is a great accomplishment.

ADJOURN: ► MOTION to Adjourn by Kelly. SECOND by Dellorco. No Discussion. ► VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary