

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
April 11, 2018**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, April 11, 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Boy Scout Troop 126.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 28, 2018. ► **MOTION** to **Approve** the March 28, 2018 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. Budget hearing meetings will be on May 16 & 17 for the Franklin Town Council.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: *None.*

CITIZEN COMMENTS: *None.*

APPOINTMENTS: *None.*

HEARINGS: *None.*

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: *None.*

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Capital.** ► Mr. Dellorco stated no updates at this time.
2. **Budget.** ► Mr. Padula stated no updates at this time.
3. **Economic Development.** ► Mr. Mercer stated the April EDC meeting was just completed. He said they will be coming forward with a few items at the next Town Council meeting; the subcommittee continues to move through the many agenda items that the Town Council keeps sending to them.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

1. **Resolution 18-17: Acceptance of Gift – Franklin Cultural Council (Motion to Move Resolution 18-17 – Majority Vote (5)).** Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION** to **Move** Resolution 18-17: Acceptance of Gift of \$500 from the Middlesex Savings Bank for the Franklin Cultural Council by **Mercer. SECOND** by **Padula. No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
2. **Bylaw Amendment 18-801: Amendment of Service Fees – Solid Waste and Recycling 1st Reading (Motion to Move Bylaw Amendment 18:801 to a 2nd Reading – Majority Vote (5)).** Mr. Jones read the bylaw amendment. ► **MOTION** to **Move** Bylaw Amendment 18-801: Amendment of Service Fees – Solid Waste and Recycling to a 2nd Reading by **Mercer. SECOND** by **Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated he is asking for a very small increase which is needed to offset rising costs and will help to prevent a huge increase in a few years. This increase is only for the large 65-gallon trash cart; the 35-gallon trash cart fee will not increase. ► Town Council members asked questions and discussed trash service, trash fees, and trash barrel maintenance. ► Mr. Nutting stated he thinks the trash containers will last 20 years. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Mr. Nutting stated ArtWeek kicks off April 27, 2018, at 6:00 PM at the Historical Museum; all are welcome. There is a list of planned activities. ► The budget is going to the printer. For the first time that he can remember, they are forced to use the rainy-day account to balance the budget; this has not been done in over a decade. It is something that can be done one year, but it is not a sustainable model. He is going to ask the Town Council to consider drawing down the account \$1.5 million; there is \$1.8 million in the account. With a new Town Council, new School Committee, new superintendent, new comptroller, and a lot of new folks, we could buy ourselves a year, keep staffing as it currently is, and give everyone an opportunity to see the pathway forward for FY 2020. He stated it is not ideal, but he thinks it is the right way for this year. He wanted to give everyone a heads up on this.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: ► Mr. Casey asked Mr. Nutting if the town has been reimbursed for the Elizabeth Warren town hall; how long will it take her campaign to send the town the money? ► Mr. Nutting stated that was 100 percent a school issue; the school rents the school facilities and he has nothing to do with it. He stated he will find out from the superintendent. ► Mr. Casey asked about the opioid lawsuit. He stated it is a mass tort litigation and many towns in the state are jumping into this. He thought it would be in Franklin's best interest to join this litigation, so the town could get reimbursed for money spent on EMS trips for overdoses as well as police and fire that have to show up for these tragic cases. He stated it will not cost the town a penny as the attorneys front the money and they get paid if they are successful with the case; they take a percentage from what the town earns back from the settlements. He thinks this is a question for Mr. Cerel and Mr. Nutting and asked if they can reach out to these attorneys to see if it is something Franklin would want to join. ► Mr. Nutting stated they are going to a seminar at the end of the month on the matter; he would be better prepared at the next meeting to address this. ► Mr. Dellorco asked for an update on the West Street area and the Dean parking situation. ► Mr. Nutting stated this would be on the May agenda. There will be a neighborhood meeting on this during the last week in April with the neighbors, police chief, and the town engineer. He will send out a notice to the Town Council.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Mr. Casey said great job to the Franklin Cultural Council for Arts Advocacy Day this past weekend. He stated the Ben Franklin books were displayed back at the Franklin Library; this was a great event this past weekend. ► Mr. Dellorco gave his condolences to the Sewell family. ► Mr. Earls noted a meeting he would be attending to discuss creating a Franklin technology committee. ► Ms. Pellegrini announced appraisal day at the museum on Sunday, April 22, 1:00-3:00 PM. People are invited to bring in one to three items to be appraised. It is a major fundraiser for the Friends of the Franklin Historical Museum. She stated the Franklin Senior Center Open House is April 21, 10:00-1:00 PM, with tours, raffles, refreshments and more; kudos to Karen Alves at the Senior Center. ► Mr. Padula gave condolences to the Sewell family. ► Mr. Jones stated he and other Town Council members attended Arts Advocacy Day; it was a good event with good information provided. He gave condolences to the Sewell family. ► Mr. Mercer gave condolences to the Sewell family. He stated Arts Advocacy Day was very well attended. He noted the unveiling of the Ben Franklin books at the Franklin Library; it was a good event.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: ► *Legislative Update – Senator Karen Spilka, Representative Jeffrey Roy, Senator Richard Ross.* ► Representative Roy stated he received a call from Senator Spilka; she would not be attending tonight due to not feeling well. She would like to return to the Town Council at another time. He stated Senator Ross is on his way to this meeting. Representative Roy stated the House released its budget today at noon and will be debating the \$40.9 billion budget the week after next. He provided information from the budget. He stated they will be pushing for an increase in Chapter 70 aid; Chapter 70 funding has increased 26 percent since 2011, to get money to local communities. He stated Franklin has usually benefitted quite well from Chapter 70 funding. He stated this week students

from Franklin High School were lobbying for Tobacco 21 legislation to create state law that tobacco sales should not be made to anyone under 21. Franklin is one of 180 communities that have raised the sale of tobacco to age 21; they are now trying to do it at the state level. He noted the Ben Franklin books and the Franklin Library were featured on *Chronicle*. He discussed some of the budget items and grants Franklin has received such as \$100,000 for the opioid epidemic for support services. ► Senator Ross entered the meeting and greeted the Town Council. ► Representative Roy continued his presentation noting money received by Franklin including \$65,000 for new fire fighter headsets to help prevent hearing loss. He noted money for the Horace Mann statute and Horace Mann park, as well as \$1 million from the environmental bond bill for trails. He noted a \$275,000 grant for the Black Box theater, \$25,000 for the Charles River meadow lands to develop into a walking trail and wilderness location, \$5,000 for the Historical Museum, as well as funding for other items and uses throughout Franklin. He stated Massachusetts has come out again as number one for education throughout the United States; last year it was announced that Massachusetts was number one in the world for education. He stated that no country outranked Massachusetts in reading; in science only, Singapore outscored Massachusetts. He provided additional education statistics. He stated that 41 percent of the \$40.9 billion budget is dedicated to Mass Health. He noted the effort to upgrade the rails for the commuter rail service on the weekends. ► Senator Ross stated all the items Representative Roy cited did not occur on their own; they are nurtured by people. He spoke of the debt of Mount Ida College. He stated he was coming from the Ethics Committee which has been meeting regularly to discuss the Rosenberg situation in the Senate. He noted one of the earmarks they are requesting in the budget is \$90,000 for the construction of the War Memorial in the Town Common. As well, he noted \$200,000 for the King Street Memorial Park improvements for basketball court, replacing playground, and other improvements. He spoke about the Metacomet emergency communications center. ► Representative Roy stated he has become the acting chair of the Health Care Financing Committee; they are reviewing 350 health care finance bills. He hopes to increase access to care and reduce costs. ► Mr. Dellorco thanked the presenters for always returning their phone calls. ► Mr. Jones asked questions about the animal cruelty registry. ► Chairman Kelly thanked the presenters for attending the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *None.*

ADJOURN: MOTION to Adjourn by Mercer. SECOND by Jones. No Discussion. ► VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary