

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 25, 2017**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present: Andrew Bissanti, Robert Dellorco, Glenn Jones, Matthew Kelly, Thomas Mercer (via remote), Peter Padula, Deborah Pellegri, 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. He stated that Commander Bederian and Pack 92 will lead the Pledge to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *None.*

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. He stated that Mr. Mercer would be attending the meeting via remote participation.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: ► Chairman Kelly announced a special proclamation for Mr. Robert Vallee. He presented Mr. Vallee with a Lifetime Service Award in recognition of his more than 30 years of dedication and commitment to the public as a member of the Franklin Town Council. Chairman Kelly gave remarks on his and Mr. Vallee's time together on the Town Council. ► Town Council members provided heartfelt remarks on Mr. Vallee's life, his contributions to the Town Council, and how much he will be missed. ► Chairman Kelly announced that on behalf of the Town Council, a chair with the Town emblem was purchased for Mr. Vallee. ► Mr. Vallee thanked everyone for the wonderful presentation. ► Rep. Jeffrey Roy congratulated Mr. Vallee and presented him with a Citation from the House of Representatives in recognition of his over 30 years of dedicated service to the Town of Franklin.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: *None.*

APPOINTMENTS: ► *Franklin Cultural Council (2).* ► Ms. Pfeffer read the first appointment.

► **MOTION to Ratify** the appointment by the Town Administrator of Olivier Edouard to serve as a member of the Franklin Cultural Council, with an expiration of June 30, 2020 by **Pfeffer. SECOND** by **Jones. Discussion:** ► Mr. Edouard provided information on his background and interest in the Cultural Council. ► Mr. Bissanti thanked Mr. Edouard for his future service. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegri-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

► Ms. Pfeffer read the second appointment. ► **MOTION to Ratify** the appointment by the Town Administrator of Jose Trevino to serve as a member of the Franklin Cultural Council, with an expiration of June 30, 2020 by **Pfeffer. SECOND** by **Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting provided information on Mr. Trevino's background and interest in becoming involved in the Franklin community. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegri-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

HEARINGS: *None.*

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: *None.*

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: ► *Veterans Service Officer, Dale Kurtz.* ► Mr. Dale Kurtz gave a proclamation commending Franklin VFW Post 3402. He asked Post Commander Larry Bederian and Quartermaster Carruthers to join him as he read the proclamation on behalf of the Town Council recognizing VFW Post 3402 for outstanding contributions made by the membership and attained 120 percent of membership retained and recruitment of new members for the 2016-2017 membership year. As well, VFW Post 3402 achieved All State and All American status for 2016-2017 membership year. Mr. Kurtz then read a proclamation on behalf of the Town Council commending Mr. Ernest Carruthers, Quartermaster VFW Post 3402 and the Post's CFO, as recognized by the state and nationally for exemplary execution of his duties. Mr. Kurtz then read a proclamation on behalf of the Town Council commending and congratulating Mr. Lawrence Bederian, Commander of VFW Post 3402, as responsible for ensuring that his Post completed all required programs at the state and national levels. Commander Bederian was also recognized as being presented an award of Member of the 2016-2017 All American Team of Post Commanders by the VFW of the United States. ► Chairman Kelly thanked them for all they do for the Town of Franklin and for the Franklin VFW. ► Mr. Kurtz noted that the county of Franklin, District 5, earned the high honors of All American District for the first time since being formed in 1949. District 5 was one of 15 districts nationally recognized; Post 3402 was part of the integral success of District 5. Mr. Kurtz stated that on November 10, the observance of Veteran's Day this year, the Franklin Veterans will hold a luncheon at the Franklin Elks at 11:00am. He encouraged all veterans and those who support the veterans to join them. Please call the Franklin Senior Center to register to attend. As well, Mr. Kurtz proposed to the Town Council a way to honor and recognize veterans who gave their lives during the nation's conflicts and those brave men of the armed forces by creating a Veteran's Walkway on the Town Common near the current War Memorial. He described the proposed Franklin War Memorial and how the funds from the sale of memorial bricks would be used. He also provided a visual presentation of the proposed memorial. The cost would be under \$90,000. They look to offset a good portion of the cost with the sale of the bricks and through some town donations. ► Mr. Nutting stated that under the town bylaws, only the Town Council can approve a permanent change to anything at the Town Common; a resolution and vote would be needed. Mr. Nutting stated he is in full support of this. ► Mr. Jones stated he is in full support of this tremendous idea to honor the soldiers. ► Mr. Dellorco gave his support and asked about brick purchasing. ► Mr. Kurtz stated they invite anyone who would like to purchase a brick for a veteran to do so; the veteran does not have to live in Franklin. ► Mr. Bissanti stated he endorses this project. ► Ms. Pfeffer asked if donations could be given to the VFW for this effort. ► Ms. Pellegrini stated this is a wonderful project. ► Chairman Kelly thanked everyone who worked so hard on this. ► Mr. Mercer congratulated the efforts of the committee; they are doing a great job. He fully supports the project. ► Mr. Kurtz noted that the American Legion and Franklin Elks are part of the committee.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: *None.*

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

- 1. Resolution 17-58: Transfer From Water Enterprise and Rescind Borrowing Authority (Resolutions No. 14-16, 15-27, and 17-14 Appropriation Funding Sources) (Motion to Move Resolution 17-58 – Majority vote (5)).** ► Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 17-58:** Transfer From Water Enterprise and Rescind Borrowing Authority (Resolutions No. 14-16, 15-27, and 17-14 Appropriation Funding Sources) by **Jones. SECOND** by **Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated that the Town Council originally authorized \$7.5 million for water system improvements with the plan that only \$5 million would be borrowed for 15 years; \$2.5 million would be paid back in cash. This resolution brings the original \$7.5 million authorization down to the goal. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- 2. Resolution 17-65: Acceptance of Deed to Two Unimproved Parcels of Land On Grove Street, Pursuant to G.L. Chapter 60, Section 77C (Motion to Move Resolution 17-65 – Majority vote (5)).**

► Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 17-65: Acceptance of Deed to Two Unimproved Parcels of Land On Grove Street, Pursuant to G.L. Chapter 60, Section 77C by Dellorco. SECOND by Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated there are two parcels of land on Grove Street before the railroad tracks. It is mostly a dirt area. In lieu of going through foreclosure and legal proceedings, the Town just accepts these two parcels of land. The Town does own all the land behind it. And, there is another piece of property there that will ultimately come to the Town at some point. ► Mr. Bissanti confirmed this is a clean piece of land and asked what could be done with it. ► Mr. Nutting stated at least they can spruce up the area. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegri-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

3. **Resolution 17-66: Assent to Grant of Utility Easement On Former Town-Owned Land On Pond Street (Motion to Move Resolution 17-66 – 2/3 Majority vote (6)).** ► Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 17-66: Assent to Grant of Utility Easement On Former Town-Owned Land On Pond Street by Jones. SECOND by Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated that when the Town sold the land on Pond Street, they retained a lot of easements for water, sewer, drainage, etc. The electric company wants to pass over one of those, so they need the Town's permission; it is very basic. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegri-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Mr. Nutting recognized that this Friday is Mr. Jim Dacey's last day as Treasurer after 18 outstanding years. He modernized the department and the town has the highest bond rating ever. He thanked him and wished him well. He also thanked and wished well Mr. Vallee for all the years of his service on the Town Council and moving the community forward. ► Mr. Hellen congratulated Mr. Vallee on his over 30 years of service; he had an incredible impact on Franklin.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: *None.*

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Mr. Jones thanked Mr. Vallee for his years of service. He thanked Mr. Dacey for his years of service, as well. ► Mr. Dellorco thanked Mr. Vallee and Mr. Dacey for their service. ► Mr. Bissanti stated that he and other Town Council members attended Mr. Dacey's retirement party; he will be missed. ► Ms. Pfeffer congratulated Mr. Vallee on his retirement; best of luck. ► Ms. Pellegri stated Mr. Vallee will be missed. She reminded everyone to vote on November 7. She noted absentee ballots are available. ► Mr. Padula stated his appreciation for Mr. Vallee. ► Mr. Vallee thanked his fellow Town Council members and Rep. Jeff Roy for their kind words. He feels comfortable leaving with Mr. Nutting at the helm. ► Mr. Mercer gave congratulations to Mr. Vallee; he will be missed. ► Chairman Kelly congratulated Mr. Dacey on his retirement. He stated it will be tough without Mr. Vallee on the Town Council. He thanked Pack 17; they took a tour of the Town Hall last night. He gave condolences to the Stivaletta family for the passing of Susan Stivaletta.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *None.*

ADJOURN: MOTION to Adjourn by Vallee. SECOND by Padula. No Discussion. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegri-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary