



**City Council
Inaugural/Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 8, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.
Franklin Lodge of Elks**

Council in attendance: Mayor Jo Brown, Councilor Jay Chandler, Councilor Leigh Webb, Councilor Bob Desrochers, Councilor George Dzujna, Councilor Ted Starkweather, Councilor Valerie Blake, Councilor Paul Trudel, Councilor Vince Ribas and Councilor Olivia Zink

Absent: None

Others in attendance: City Manager Judie Milner, City Department Heads, and members of the public.

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Salute to the Flag was led by the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 61.

National Anthem was sung by the Franklin High School Performing Arts.

Councilor Desrochers led a moment of silence in honor of George Joseph Daigneault of the US Army (1954 – 1956).

Mayor Brown presented a Citizen of the Year Award to the Twin Rivers Food Pantry for all that they do for the community.

City Council 2023 Business:

Public Hearings:

Ordinance 06-24 regarding the elected and appointed officials code of conduct.

The public hearing opened at 6:13 p.m.

There was a small discussion on this. Councilor Desrochers read letters regarding this ordinance from Laurie Downing, Kathy Rago, Paul Doucette, and Jonathan Bowers. These letters are attached to the end of the minutes.

The public hearing on Ordinance 06-24 closed at 6:22 p.m.

Resolution 12-24 accepting and appropriating \$500,000 Community Development Block grant funds for the Healthfirst project.

The public hearing opened at 6:27 p.m.

There was no discussion on this hearing.

The public hearing on Resolution 12-24 closed at 6:27 p.m.

An informational document on the two following hearings was available to the public and is attached to the end of the minutes.

A proposed application to the Community Development Finance Authority for up to \$500,000 in CDBG Housing Grant Funds. Of the grant funds, up to \$30,000 will be retained by the City for administrative/labor compliance associated with the project, \$470,000 of the funds will be subgranted to Woodside Haven LLC, or related entity, to rehabilitate Franklin Woods, 11 Plains Court, Franklin, NH. The building contains 36 units of affordable housing.

The public hearing opened at 6:28 p.m.

Mayor Brown read the following:

The Public Hearing on the Proposed Franklin Woods, 11 Plains Court, Franklin Rehabilitation Project CDBG Application.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are available to municipalities through the NH Community Development Finance Authority. Up to \$500,000 annually is available for Economic Development Projects, up to \$500,000 for Housing Projects, up to \$500,000 for Public Facility Projects, up to \$350,000 in Emergency Funds, up to \$25,000 per Planning Study grant. All projects must directly benefit a majority of low- and moderate-income persons.

This is a proposed application to the Community Development Finance Authority for up to \$500,000 in CDBG Housing Grant Funds. Of the grant funds, up to \$30,000 will be retained by the City for administrative/labor compliance associated with the project, \$470,000 of the funds will be subgranted to Woodside Haven LLC, or related entity, to rehabilitate Franklin Woods, 11 Plains Court, Franklin, NH. The building contains 36 units of affordable housing.

This project conforms with Franklin's Housing and Community Development Plan's goals of: Goal: Address issues of affordable housing. Encourage safe, decent, attractive and affordable housing for all segments of the population, with a focus on the increasing elderly population.

Mayor Brown asked if there was any public comment on this hearing.

There was no discussion.

The public hearing closed at 6:30 p.m.

The Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan for the proposed Franklin Woods Rehabilitation Project.

The public hearing opened at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Brown read the following:

Council Opens the Public Hearing on the Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan for the Proposed Franklin Woods, 11 Plains Court, Franklin Rehabilitation Project.

Please note the public hearing notice in the Union Leader incorrectly said this public hearing was for the Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan for Healthfirst Family Care Center Improvements Project, which was a previous CDBG application. This Public Hearing is for the Proposed Franklin Woods, 11 Plains Court, Franklin Rehabilitation Project.

This plan outlines measures, under the Uniform Relocation Act, required for CDBG projects that involve any displacement or relocation of persons (or businesses), if the City were to undertake a CDBG project which involved displacement or relocation they would follow this plan. The plan outlines the measures they would take to find comparable, suitable housing for persons (or businesses) displaced or relocated. Any displacement or relocation is anticipated to be on-site with tenants moved into rehabilitated units, all moving costs paid by the developer. Units will be kept vacant for this.

Mayor Brown asked if there was any public comment on this hearing.

There was no discussion.

The public hearing closed at 6:31 p.m.

Motion - Councilor Webb moved that the Franklin City Council have the public comments start before Agenda 1 on 2023 business. Seconded by Councilor Zink.

5 in favor; 4 opposed. Motion PASSED.

Comments from the Public

Mayor Brown opened the public comments at 6:33 p.m.

Judith Ackerson, Ward 3, read from a letter that is attached to the end of the minutes.

Bob Lucas, Ward 1, gave a thumbs up to Mayor Jo Brown for all that she has accomplished. He urged everyone to stay on the path of revitalization and welcomed all of the newly elected officials.

Jason Gerhard, state representative, stated that he was concerned about the transparency with a current litigation going on against the city of Franklin. He wanted to know how much it has cost the city to date, as he was told to send a 91A request and didn't have any answer back. Milner answered and stated that City Attorney, Paul Fitzgerald, is in the process of responding to his 91A request. The litigation is being paid for by the insurance company so there have been no costs associated with the city.

Mayor Brown, seeing that no one else wished to speak, closed the public comments at 6:41 p.m.

Agenda Item I.

Approval of Minutes:

Council to consider the minutes of the December 4, 2023 City Council Meeting, the December 4, 2023 City Council Nonpublic meeting, the December 14, 2023 City Council Workshop meeting and the December 14, 2023 City Council Workshop Nonpublic meeting.

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council approve the minutes of the December 4, 2023 City Council Meeting, the December 4, 2023 City Council Nonpublic meeting, the December 14, 2023 City Council Workshop meeting and the December 14, 2023 City Council Workshop Nonpublic meeting. Seconded by Councilor Trudel.

Councilor Webb stated that the minutes were all correct, however, at the December 4th, 2023 meeting the council had two motions on the table in agenda 8 and only had a final vote on one. He suggested that they retake the votes after voting on the approval of the minutes. This was agreed upon.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council amend the motion to say one \$500,000 grant for the water feature and one \$500,000 grant for the land feature. Seconded by Councilor Trudel.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Motion - Councilor Trudel moved that the Franklin City Council authorize the City Manager to apply for (2) \$500,000 grants through Land & Water Conservation Fund for the construction of (2) water features in the river at Mill City Park. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item II.

Council to consider Ordinance 06-24 regarding the elected and appointed officials code of conduct.

Motion - Councilor Blake moved that the Franklin City Council adopt Ordinance 06-24 Code of Conduct for Elected Officials and Appointed Board Members. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

Mayor Brown asked if there was any discussion on this motion.

A discussion ensued about how this code of conduct has been in place for years. What this vote will do is turn it into an ordinance. The majority of the council wanted this brought to the Legislative Committee to be given more teeth and the committee decided not to codify it. Councilor Zink recommended some corrections on wording to the ordinance that was agreed upon.

The ordinance was revised and decided to read as follows:

ORDINANCE #06-24

AN AMENDMENT TO THE FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL CODE:

In the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four;

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Franklin add Chapter 308, Code of Conduct for Elected Officials and Appointed Board Members, to the Franklin Municipal Code as follows:

CHAPTER 308 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

308-1 PREFACE

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to assist Elected officials and appointed board members in performing their duties for the public. The Code of Conduct is a guide for the members to follow during their term in office. This Code does not reduce the authority granted to Elected officials and appointed board members by the laws of the United States and the State of New Hampshire, as well as the Charter for the City of Franklin.

We remember that we are, first and foremost, servants of the people and treat them with the highest respect and dignity in our public meetings and outside of those meetings. Further, Franklin's public officials should educate themselves on the requirements of the law and ordinances to ensure that they are never using their position to avoid either.

The Code of Conduct will be distributed to all City Council and board members annually in January, and new board members as they are appointed during the year.

308-2 ATTENDANCE

Elected officials and appointed board members should make every effort to notify the mayor, or City Manager (in the case of the City Council), or the Chair of their respective board, if they will be unable to attend or will be late to a meeting. In the event a member needs to leave a meeting, while the meeting is in session, the member should receive acknowledgement of their departure from the presiding officer.

308-3 CONDUCT AS A PUBLIC OFFICIAL

Public service is a public trust, requiring elected officials and appointed board members to place loyalty to the constitution of the United States and the New Hampshire Constitution, federal and state laws, city ordinances and Charter provisions and ethical principles above private gain for themselves or others.

Elected officials and appointed board members shall not, except as otherwise permitted by ordinance, solicit or accept any gift, service or favor from any person or entity seeking official action from, doing business with, or conducting activities regulated by the City of Franklin, whose

interests may be affected by the performance or non-performance of the elected official's or appointed board member's duties.

Elected officials and appointed board members shall never discriminate unfairly by the dispensing of special favors or privileges to anyone, whether for remuneration or not; and never accept favors or benefits under circumstances which might be construed as influencing the performance of their public duties.

Elected officials and appointed board members shall put forth honest effort in the performance of the public duties, remaining impartial and responsible to the public.

Elected officials and appointed board members shall make no promises of any kind binding upon the duties of their office, since an elected official or appointed board member only have authority to make binding decisions, when voting at a legally posted meeting of their board or committee, when a quorum is in attendance.

Elected officials and appointed board members shall not interfere with the powers and duties of the City Manager, as set forth in the Franklin City Charter, or interfere with the powers and duties of the Superintendent of Schools, as set forth by the laws in the State of New Hampshire. Interference by elected officials or appointed board members with the City Manager or Superintendent's powers and duties could constitute immediate forfeiture of their office and criminal charges.

308-4 CONDUCT AT MEETINGS

At City meetings a councilor or board member shall be recognized to speak by the mayor or chair or in his/her absence the person appointed by the Mayor/Chair. The behavior of an elected official/board member both in public and in private should reflect the trust placed in them as leaders of the community.

The goal of a Franklin elected official or board member is to provide the highest quality leadership for all its citizens, to be fiscally responsible and to be dedicated while listening to the needs of others.

308-5 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Elected officials and appointed board members of the City of Franklin shall avoid conflicts of interest when conducting City business – even the appearance of a conflict of interest.

State law demands that City officials, and board members, not participate in any matter in which they (or a member of their family) have a personal interest, which may directly or indirectly influence the impartial performance of their duties. In such instances, officials shall recuse themselves from discussion and decision-making.

If an elected or appointed office holder insists upon participation when there is a clear and serious conflict of interest, the Franklin City Council will consider this misconduct and may take corrective action allowable under State law and the City Charter.

Recusal means to remove oneself completely from all further participation in the matter. In the setting of a meeting, an official or board member who has been recused shall immediately leave the meeting room or seat themselves with other members of the public who are present. The person recused shall not participate in further discussions, unless it is clearly stated for the record that such comments are made only as a member of the public. A recused person may not deliberate or vote on the matter in question.

Immediate uncertainty about conflicts and recusal can be resolved by majority vote of the board or committee. Any such vote would be non-binding, but can assist the official's decision regarding participation.

308-6 LEGAL COMMUNICATIONS

Designate legal counsel shall attend any meetings of the Council when requested by the Mayor, City Manager or City Councilor. Any member of the Council (through the City Manager when possible) may call upon Counsel for an oral or written opinion to decide any question of law or parliamentary procedure.

All boards in the City of Franklin shall direct all communications to Counsel through the Chairperson of their respective boards, and the Chairperson shall inform the City Manager when possible.

Legal communications received from the City Attorney are not public information and will not be shared with the public unless authorized by the City Manager.

308-7 NON-PUBLIC SESSION

The meetings of all governmental bodies are open to the public, in accordance with the State of New Hampshire "Right-To-Know Law", RSA 91-A. There are occasions when governmental bodies need to conduct business in non-public sessions, as allowed under the provisions of RSA 91-A. The intent of non-public sessions, or "non-meetings" to meet with legal counsel are to allow for the governing bodies to discuss confidential information, that could affect someone's reputation, or releasing the information would make the action taken ineffectual.

The confidential information discussed, or actions taken in non-public sessions are to remain confidential. No elected official or appointed board member in the City of Franklin shall violate the confidentiality of non-public sessions by publicizing, gossiping or discussing the information acquired in the course of official duties without a legitimate reason to do so. No elected official or appointed board member in the City of Franklin shall use any confidential information acquired by virtue of the individual's official position for personal benefit, or for the benefit of any other person or business. This does not apply to information, which is readily available to the general public.

The misuse of confidential information by any elected official or appointed board member in the City of Franklin could lead to the forfeiture of their office, or even criminal charges.

308-8 SALE AND USE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

Elected officials shall protect and conserve City property and services and shall not use them for other than authorized purposes or for personal benefit and or gain. No elected or appointed official shall devote any City property or labor to private use, except as may be provided by Law or Ordinance.

308-9 SEXUAL HARASSMENT

All officials and board members of the City of Franklin are entitled to operate in an environment free of sexual harassment. History has shown that public entities are far from immune to this illegal behavior. This City is committed to preventing such misconduct. To accomplish these goals, the City's policy against sexual harassment shall be clearly communicated to all officials and board members. In addition, this policy will be reinforced through a complaint investigation procedure.

All complaints of sexual harassment or retaliation shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated by the City Manager or by the mayor or his/her appointed designee when necessary. While it can never be completely guaranteed, particular care shall be taken in the course of investigations to protect confidentiality. Should it be determined through investigation that an elected or appointed City official has committed sexual harassment; their immediate removal from office may be considered by the City Council. The reason for removal shall be brought to the attention of the Superior Court, who holds jurisdiction over removal proceedings.

Effective January 1, 2024 by a roll call vote.

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Councilor Blake	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Dzujna	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Zink	<u>abstained</u>
Councilor Ribas	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Bunker	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Chandler	<u>yes</u>
Councilor Desrochers	<u>no</u>	Councilor Starkweather	<u>abstained</u>	Councilor Trudel	<u>no</u>

5 in favor; 2 opposed; 2 abstentions. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item III.

Council to consider Resolution 12-24 accepting and appropriating \$500,000 Community Development Block grant funds for the Healthfirst project.

Motion - Councilor Zink moved that the Franklin City Council adopt adopts Resolution 12-24

accepting & appropriating \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant Public Facility Funds received through Community Development Finance Authority for the Healthfirst Renovation/Addition Project. Seconded by Councilor Webb.

Mayor Brown asked if there was any discussion.
No discussion ensued.

Motion - Councilor Zink moved that the physical address for Healthfirst be listed on the resolution. Seconded by Councilor Ribas.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

RESOLUTION #12-24

A Resolution Relating to a Supplemental Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2024.

In the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin has adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2024 which began July 1, 2023, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire supported, at their June 5, 2023 City Council meeting, an application through Community Development Block Grant Public Facility Funds for Healthfirst Family Care renovation/addition project at 841 Central Street, Franklin, NH, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin acknowledges receipt of a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$500,000 from the Community Development Finance Authority for the Healthfirst Renovation/Addition Project, **Now**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that at the scheduled meeting of the City Council on Monday, January 8, 2024, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire does hereby adopt resolution 12-24 accepting the community development block grant in the amount of \$500,000 from the Community Development Finance Authority and authorize the following non-lapsing appropriation:

An increase in revenue:

Federal Grants – CDBG Healthfirst Acct No. 14-9-012-33110-467 – Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000),

And an increase in expenditure:

Federal Grant Buildings – CDBG Healthfirst Account No. 14-9-012-40720-467 in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000).

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Councilor Blake	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Desrochers	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Starkweather	<u>yes</u>
Councilor Bunker	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Dzunja	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Trudel	<u>yes</u>
Councilor Chandler	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Ribas	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Zink	<u>yes</u>

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item IV.

Council to consider a proposed application to the Community Development Finance Authority for up to \$500,000 in CDBG Housing Grant Funds. Of the grant funds, up to \$30,000 will be retained by the City for administrative/labor compliance associated with the project, \$470,000 of the funds will be subgranted to Woodside Haven LLC, or related entity, to rehabilitate Franklin Woods, 11 Plains Court, Franklin, NH. The building contains 36 units of affordable housing, AND the Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan for the proposed Franklin Woods Rehabilitation Project.

Motion - Councilor Dzunja moved that the Franklin City Council approve the submittal of the CDBG application and vote to authorize the City Manager to sign and submit the CDBG application, and upon approval of the CDBG application, authorize the City Manager to execute any documents which may be necessary to effectuate the CDBG contract, and any amendments thereto. Seconded by Councilor Ribas.

Mayor Brown asked if there was any discussion on this motion. There was none.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Motion - Councilor Dzunja moved that the Franklin City Council adopt the Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan. Seconded by Councilor Ribas.

Mayor Brown asked if there was any discussion on this motion. There was none.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item V.

Council to consider unsealing any non-public meetings from 2022 & 2023.

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council unseal the nonpublic meeting minutes dated April 4, 2022, February 13, 2023, June 5, 2023, and December 14, 2023. Seconded by Councilor Trudel.

Mayor Brown asked if there was any discussion on this motion.
A small discussion ensued.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item VI.

Council to consider authorizing the City Manager to enter into franchise agreement negotiations with Comcast.

Motion - Councilor Trudel moved that the Franklin City Council authorize the City Manager to engage Attorney Kate Miller of Donahue, Tucker and Ciandella as legal counsel for negotiations and enter into cable franchise agreement negotiations with Comcast for the City. Seconded by Councilor Blake.

Mayor Brown asked if there was any discussion.
Milner explained that this would be in addition to Breezeline so it would give residents a choice on which service they would like to go with. Comcast approached Franklin and would like to build a new 100% fiber network to the premises of 4258 addresses in the city without city or grant support.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item VII.

Council to consider city Customer Aggression Policy.

Motion - Councilor Zink moved that the Franklin City Council send the policy on Acceptable Customer Behavior to the Legislative Committee to review. Seconded by Councilor Ribas.

Mayor Brown asked if there was any discussion.
This policy was asked for by the council based on city employees being threatened by the public. There was a recommendation that the council should possibly have a workshop meeting on this policy after the Legislative Committee takes a look at it.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Desrochers and seconded by Councilor Chandler.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Mayor Brown recognized Councilor Desrochers for his term of service from 2012-2023 on the City Council and presented him with an award.

Councilor Paul Trudel, Councilor Jay Chandler, and Mayor Jo Brown all opted to have a Mill City Park paver made to recognize their service on the City Council.

Mayor Brown thanked the city manager, the department heads and everyone else for everything they have done for the City of Franklin during her term. She wished the newly elected mayor and city council the very best and she concluded the 2023 City Council meeting.

City Council 2024 Inaugural Program:

Mayor McLaughlin invited Deacon Tom Matzke to do the Invocation. Deacon Matzke thanked the Mayor, Council, School Board and Franklin residents. He asked all to join in as he led the prayer, meditation and reflection.

Mayor Desiree McLaughlin pledged her oath as she was sworn in by City Clerk Michelle Stanyan.

Ward I Councilor Timoth Johnston, Ward II Councilor Susan Hallett-Cook and Ward III Councilor Ed Prive pledged their oaths as they were sworn in by City Clerk Michelle Stanyan. They each took their respective seats at the Council table.

School Board Members Myla Marie Danforth, Liz Cote, and Jane Cote pledged their oath as they were sworn in by City Clerk Michelle Stanyan.

Mayor McLaughlin proclaimed her Inaugural Address which can be found attached to the end of the minutes.

A reception with refreshments followed.

City Council 2024 Business:

Council in attendance: Mayor Desiree McLaughlin, Councilor Valerie Blake, Councilor Tim Johnston, Councilor Ed Prive, Councilor George Dzujna, Councilor Vince Ribas, Councilor Ted Starkweather, Councilor Susan Hallett Cook, Councilor Olivia Zink and Councilor Leigh Webb.

Absent: None

Others in attendance: City Manager Judie Milner, City Department Heads, and members of the public.

Mayor McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 8:09 p.m. and stated that, without objection, that she would like to move up agenda item 3 before comments from the public. There was no objection from the council.

Agenda Item III.

Choose Franklin to present Junior Essay Contest Winner

Dan Darling presented a \$500 award from Choose Franklin to the winner of this year's Junior Essay Contest, Savaughna Slocum.

Ms. Slocum read her essay titled 'Don't Come to Franklin' and this can be found at the end of the minutes.

Comments from the Public

Public comments opened at 8:17 p.m.

Mayor McLaughlin stated that persons wishing to address the council may speak for a maximum of three minutes. No more than thirty minutes will be devoted to public commentary. Reminder that public comment is welcome and will be taken under advisement by the Manager & Council. Ongoing requests for status should be addressed to the city manager or her designee during regular business hours. The council is a public body required to conduct the business before it on the agenda that has been vetted through the City's professional staff.

Bob Desrochers congratulated the new councilors and the new mayor. He let them know that they do not always have to agree and wished them all the best of luck.

Kaitlyn Shaw, Ward 1, read from an email that she sent out. This email can be found attached to the end of the minutes.

Mike Lombardo, Ward 3, asked who would take over the moment of silence for veterans and the answer was Councilor Ed Prive.

Tim Morrill, Ward 1, thanked the new mayor and councilors for stepping up to take office and wished them the best.

Coalition Coordinator, Stephanie Wolff, provided updates on Franklin's Partners in Prevention:

- January 10th from 6pm-7pm they are hosting an Overdose Prevention Kit Assembly night at the Bessie Rowell. Thanks to the community partners such as Healthfirst, Archways, The Doorway, Partnership for Public Health and many more; they are able to assemble these kits with two doses of Narcan, CPR face shields, Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips, basic first aid supplies and resources for treatment and services. These kits will be dispersed throughout the Winnepesaukee Region. They welcome anyone who would like to help to come and join them.
- As the Legislative session is picking up, she wanted to let everyone know about some bills that they are keeping an eye on:
 - **SB 335**: relative to alcohol packaging. Senate Bill 335 aims to reduce the attractiveness of advertising toward children and teenagers. The bill adds labeling restrictions to current alcohol advertising laws that will prohibit cartoons, toys, and

characters in labels and advertisements. It also adds a prohibition on alcohol products that are named, packaged, marketed, or designed in a way that mimics commercially available non-alcoholic products.

- **SB 505**: relative to the prohibition on the sale of hemp products containing certain levels of THC. Senate Bill 505 aims to prohibit sales of Delta-8 products in retail stores, a substance similar to the active ingredient in marijuana. The bill repeals the sunset provision, making the prohibition on these products permanent.
- January 26th to February 2nd she will be traveling to Washington DC with the High School's Student Assistance Coordinator and Climate and Culture Specialist to the CADCA Leadership Forum to learn about the latest information and strategies of substance use prevention. She looks forward to updating the council at next month's meeting on how it goes.
- FPIP Is currently working on creating a youth leadership through adventure project block with the schools Climate and Culture specialist. This project block would look to build leadership skills and prevention education into experiential learning opportunities

Councilor Blake read a letter in support of LeAnne Fifield being appointed to the School Board for Ward II. This letter can be found attached to the end of the minutes.

State Representative Jason Gerhard stated that he had not received information back on a request pertaining to an ongoing lawsuit. City Manager Milner let him know that he would be receiving an answer from City Attorney, Paul Fitzgerald.

Councilor Webb read a letter from Marty Parichand and that can be found attached to the end of the minutes.

Councilor Dzujna read a letter from an anonymous city employee addressed to the new mayor and that can be found attached to the end of the minutes.

Mayor McLaughlin did respond to the letter and stated that she appreciated the employee's bravery and she hopes that in the future that all employees will feel comfortable enough to come speak with her about any issues they are having so that a solution can be made together.

Councilor Dzujna stated that for two years, Mayor Brown had allowed him to honor people in the community who have helped or have been heroes and he appreciated the time that she had given him. He wanted to thank Mayor Jo Brown for the following:

- Her leadership.
- Her dedication to service.
- Her attention to detail.
- For organizing the NH Forward board toward helping the children to have a chance to train and enter a manufacturing field.

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- For working with our federal government, specifically Senator Hassen, Congresswoman Kuster, and Senator Shaheen toward obtaining grants for the city.
- For working with Easter Seals to bring in the veteran Resource Center to Franklin.
- For being a tireless advocate for Franklin and making us proud.
- For working closely with both the Police Department and the Fire Department to help in any way she could during difficult times.

Councilor Dzujna stated that he worked on many boards with Mayor Brown, including Choose Franklin, NH Forward and the city council, and was always proud to work with her as our mayor and he is proud to call her his friend.

Mayor McLaughlin closed public comment at 8:44 p.m.

City Council Acknowledgements

Councilor Blake thanked everyone from MSD for helping with a water issue that came up over the weekend.

Councilor Zink thanked Ken Kreis from MSD for coming out to take care of an issue on her property and also thanked the entire MSD department for the many hours of service they put in for snow removal yesterday.

Councilor Webb stated that Franklin had a tremendous 1st Day and there were many people downtown observing and participating in the events.

Legislative Comments

State Representative Jason Gerhard gave some updates:

- On Thursday the House voted and passed the Defend the Guard bill. This bill would prevent the NH National Guard from being shipped overseas unless Congress declares war.
- Also, as a Franklin related issue directly, he put a bill in stating that if any bond is issued over \$500,000 that if there are 50 or more residents to sign a petition, it'll have to go to a public vote and would only be able to pass with 2/3 vote.
- Lastly, the USS Liberty was attacked in 1967 by Israel where 34 US Sailors were killed, 173 were wounded and no legitimate investigation was ever done. On Friday, in state federal relations committee, the bill will be heard, debated, and hopefully brought to law so they can have a commission finally put to rest this tragic incident.

Councilor Webb stated that there were several house bills regarding the funding of education. He asked Mr. Gerhard if he was aware of those bills and which ones he approved of, which ones he didn't, and why.

Gerhard did not have any answers for Councilor Webb on that matter.

Agenda Item I.

City Manager's Update

- Contingent Grant Line Activity – Received \$1,000 from an anonymous donor so that a child could attend the afterschool program for the rest of the year.
- Trust fund for school funding – \$272.55
- Shout Out – Zeke’s Sweets, who was featured on WMUR Chronicle on November 30th.
- Committee Meetings – January - Normally Finance Committee and Fire Committee is in January so once the new committees decide on dates/times those will be going out.
- Council Workshop – January 29th @ 6pm at the Lodge of Elks. The council will be hearing from all departments on challenges within the departments and the city as a whole.
- City SPIRIT Program with the NH DOJ– Save the Date for April 6th at the Bessie Rowell Community Center. This will be an all-day event.
- City Offices Closed – Monday, January 15, 2024, Civil Rights Holiday.
- City Clerk’s Office Closed – Tuesday, January 23, 2024 for elections, reopening at noon on Wednesday, January 24, 2024.
- Media Contacts – Union Leader, who did an article on the school district and on 1st Day.
- Congrats – Firefighter Eric Tucker for receiving his firefighter 1 certification and MSD employees Adam Green, who just received his CDLB certification.
- Signage for the Safe Workplace is on order with the NH Correctional Industries, which will say the following: “This is a safe workplace. Please treat our staff with respect. Aggressive behavior and any form of verbal or physical abuse to our employees will not be tolerated.” These will be going up in a few spaces soon.
- Stanley Mill RFP – Request for proposal to get a qualified engineer professional for the project is with the granting agency for review at this point.
- City Hall Update – She has not seen anything come back from the architect yet in her emails. She will follow up with the council on Friday.
- Legislative Updates:
 - **House Bill 1479** is a house bill that needs to be addressed or the NH Municipal Association thinks needs to be addressed. It limits a town’s ability to budget for our advocacy through the NHMA. The School Board Association and the NH GOFA is also affected. Any association, we would not be allowed to advocate for communities at the legislature. It basically takes away our voice as a community. There is a letter that

the Executive Director of the NHMA worked on with several of our partners that they would like us to sign and send in to the committee that is hearing this bill. She had that letter tonight for the council to sign so she could get it mailed out.

- **House Bill 1002** is up for a hearing on 1/17 @ 9am. This is about Right to Know Requests including voluminous requests, and whether or not we can charge per hour after a certain number of hours, generally 10 hours per request and then charging after that amount. She stated that she can send a link if anyone would like to write in to the committee. That is something that is being supported by the NHMA.
- **House Bill 1640** is the qualified immunity bill. It is the exact same thing as the bill from last year and is back. It is in House Judiciary Committee. This would take away all of our protections that we have as a community. For example, if someone uses an apparatus in one of our parks incorrectly, it takes away our protection from being sued so it affects the taxpayers. She will send that link to the council as well.
- **House Bill 307** is requiring that municipalities pay attorney fees for any Right to Know requests, lawsuits or through the ombudsman. It doesn't matter if the community wins or loses. Hopefully, everyone can see where this would be problematic. It is at the point where the councilors need to reach out to Senator Innis on this because it is going to be going through the Senate. She will be sending the link to that one as well.

Milner stated that these are the big bills that need the council's attention right away.

- **Myth Busters:**

- There was no bond that was ever brought forward to the city council. There were 11 public forums on whether or not to bring that bond forward to the council and it never was. The accusation that there was no public input is wrong.
- CDFA Tax Credits and how they work – The CDFA has a tax credit program, which they give it out like a grant, however, we have to sell these to businesses. So, the businesses buy these tax credits. They then get to take a percentage of the amount they buy as a tax burden for the NH business profit or business enterprise tax. The remainder is a charitable donation, as it goes towards a charitable project that is approved and it is likely that they can take it off of their federal tax return. It is a very competitive program and Franklin has been successful in it a few times so far.
- There was talk about the city council changing the way that they vote. This is not the case. We follow the Roberts Rules and there are certain votes that require a roll call vote and certain votes do not require a roll call vote. That has not changed at all. Voting on Resolutions and Ordinances must be a roll call vote, as well as if someone is calling into a meeting remotely. The mayor can certainly ask for a roll call as well, if that is requested.
- Update on Central Street flashing lights – they are back to flashing since the timer was taking too long when they were fixed. Please take it easy in the meantime and try to be extra cautious.

Agenda Item II.

Monthly School Board update to the City Council:

Superintendent LeGallo went over the following updates:

- **Strategic Plan:** They have launched their new 3-year Strategic Plan. It has been sent out electronically to the community. He will have hard copies for City Councilors at the February City Council meeting. They have designed a webpage for the plan where the community can track the progress with them with updates coming every 3 months through June of 2027.
- **Class Day Parade:** The 100th year of the Class Day Parade will be on Thursday, June 13th at 12:30pm. If anyone is interested in being on the committee, please let him know.

Agenda Item IV.

Other Business:

1. Mayor/Council: Committee Resignations & Appointments

Mayor McLaughlin reappointed Rob Sargent to the Planning Board Committee, seat PB2, term of service to January 2026.

Mayor McLaughlin appointed Leigh Webb to the Heritage Commission, seat HC1, term of service to January 2027.

Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council accept the resignation of Debbie Davis from the Zoning Board of Adjustment Committee as an Alternate, seat ZBA6, AND reappoint Richard Soucier to the Personnel Advisory Board, seat PA2, term of service to January 2026, AND reappoint Sandra Burney to the Library Board of Trustees Committee, seat LT1, term of service to January 2027, AND reappoint Christine Dzujna to the Library Board of Trustees Committee, seat LT2, term of service to January 2027, AND reappoint Sam Durfee to the TIF District Board, seat TIF1, term of service to January 2026, AND reappoint Caite Foley to the TIF District Board, seat TIF2, term of service to January 2026, AND accept the resignation of Roy Hubble from the Supervisors of the Checklist, Ward III, seat SCW32, effective immediately, AND appoint LeAnne Fifield to the School Board, Ward II, seat SBW21, term of service to January 2026. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

All in Favor. Motion PASSED.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Zink and seconded by Councilor Ribas.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Jones
Executive Secretary

From: laurie downey lauriegdowney@hotmail.com
Subject: Tonight's City Council Meeting
Date: Jan 8, 2024 at 4:52:17 PM
To: rodaj@netzero.net

Dear Councilor Desrochers,

Thank you for reading this email into the minutes of tonight's meeting.

I am writing to express my concern along with questions regarding Agenda Item II, namely Council to consider Ordinance 06-24 regarding the elected and appointed officials code of conduct. In reading through the minutes of December 4th 2023 it states that this is to be a public hearing in which the Council is to vote on the Code of Conduct for Elected Officials and Appointed Board Members, yet in looking at the agenda for tonight, it appears that the public will not be allowed to provide comment until after this is voted on. Tonight's agenda shows that the public comment comes AFTER the vote and swearing in ceremonies of the newly elected officials. My question is: If this is to be a public hearing, why is the public not allowed to comment until AFTER the council votes?

Screenshot of the minutes regarding the Agenda Item mentioned:

Agenda Item IX.

Council to consider setting public hearing on Ordinance 06-24 regarding the elected and appointed officials code of conduct.

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council set a public hearing for 6pm on Monday, January 8, 2024, regarding the adoption of Ordinance 06-24, Code of Conduct for Elected Officials and Appointed Board Members. (In title only) Seconded by Councilor Trudel.

Mayor Brown asked if there was any discussion on this motion.
No discussion ensued.

All in favor. Motion PASSED

Additionally, in further review of the minutes (listed as page 46 of 99) I read that on **FOUR** separate occasions the code of conduct was referred to the Legislative committee and on all **four** occasions their recommendation was to adopt the code of conduct as **policy** and not to codify. My concern is that it appears some want to dismiss the Legislative committee

recommendations and write their own history. If city officials, regardless of their title, dismiss these types of recommendations, then why have a Legislative committee at all if they won't take their recommendations seriously and chose to write their own rules? I do not support codifying this ordinance and believe that it should remain policy. We have enough rules and regulations as it is within our City, let's not add to it something additional that will be difficult to enforce.

Screenshot of Page 46 of 99 minutes:

History:

This is a current policy not city code. Last review was 2/1/21, last change 9/8/15.

At 1/3/22 Inaugural meeting code of ethics was referred to legislative committee for review and codification recommendation.

Legislative committees (2/22/22 & 3/1/23) have recommended keeping the code of conduct as a policy and not codifying the code of conduct.

Council sent the code of conduct back to legislative committee at the April 3, 2023 meeting to consider codification again. The legislative committee met on May 16, 2023 and recommended to adopt the code of conduct as a policy not to codify.

July 10, 2023 City Council directed to have code of conduct codified by ordinance.

Furthermore, Councilor Desrochers - I would like to thank you for your years of service to the City of Franklin and your constituents. You have been one who is always willing to answer questions and listen to our concerns. I appreciate all that you have done and for your being a voice for the citizens of Franklin. I wish you well in your retirement.

Sincerely,
Laurie Downey
Ward II Taxpayer

Lisa Jones

From: Olivia Zink <councilorzink@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:58 PM
To: Lisa Jones
Subject: Fwd: New Aggression Policy

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kathleen Lauer Rago <kathy.lauer.rago@gmail.com>
Date: January 7, 2024 at 3:17:03 PM EST
To: txkatlr <txkatlr@msn.com>
Subject: New Aggression Policy

January 7, 2024

Dear City Councilors,

I'm writing in regards to this new Customer Aggression Policy Agenda Item #7 that you will be voting on Monday night.

After reading this policy I have many concerns, but will only address a couple of them. First of all, why is the public not being allowed to speak at all at the meeting prior to 2023 agenda items? We have always had that in the past. This is highly unusual to not allow public comments until after the 2024 council has been sworn in and all 2023 agenda items have been voted on.

Looking at Item 1.4 of the policy prohibits excessive emails, excessive voicemails and abusive messages on social media sites. Just these few items are a flagrant violation of Franklin citizens first amendment rights. I believe the claim of 'excessive' emails/vm's would never have happened recently had the city manager/mayor and some councilors been forthcoming with all the issues surrounding and arising from MCP and bond discussions kept from the public and how they were going to pay for them.

With this policy even our newly elected mayor would be banned from city hall for what the city manager deems 'excessive' 91-a requests. Which again, would not have been needed had previously mentioned persons been forthcoming to the public.

Maybe instead of attacking the citizens and trying to control what they think, say or write you should instead focus on providing training to staff on how to deal with challenging people. A new policy does not have to be put in place to do that very thing.

Item 5.1 should also apply to treating Franklin citizens in a courteous and civil manner by the staff.

I strongly encourage you to vote DOWN this policy and protect the Franklin citizens first amendment rights, after all, the First Amendment applies to all speech even that to which we may disagree.

Kathy Rago, Ward 3

Kathleen Lauer-Rago
603-393-6500

Lisa Jones

From: Olivia Zink <councilorzink@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:58 PM
To: Lisa Jones
Subject: Fwd: CUSTOMER CODE OF ETHICS

Begin forwarded message:

From: Paul Doucette <pauldoucette@metrocast.net>
Date: January 7, 2024 at 6:05:33 PM EST
To: ozink@franklinnh.org
Subject: CUSTOMER CODE OF ETHICS

Honorable Oliva Zink ,

Customer Code of Ethics.

The customer code of ethics is entirely unenforceable , via personal research and chatting with attorney and friends. There is no reciprocity that is public officials elected officials appointed officials dealing interacting with the public.

This code took place without any public hearings. The public needs to be involved and there needs to be public hearings. Also goes for public hearings for reciprocity them to the citizens.

Enforcement is whimsical at the whims of an individual which means it is arbitrary and capricious. It seeks to limit highly protected political speech. Political speech has a much higher threshold of protection than pure speech. First Amendment cases are overseen by the Federal Courts.

Impossible for the City to prosecute, therefore the highly unlikely that a police officer would arrest anyone or remove them from City Hall because of social media postings. The code seeks to remove civil rights, equal rights , equal protection, and equal access to government. The entire customer code of ethics is unenforceable, moot and mundane.

Purely a grab for power by those that are losing power. Dictators and despots go this route when they are on the losing end.

Lastly, the code lacks sufficient due process; taking of personal rights. Due process authority and jurisdiction derives from a quasi Judiciary Board. A quasi Judiciary Board to have sufficient due process rights is via enactment by the State Legislature. Definitely not some witchery that the City of Franklin can implement.

**Kind Regards,
Paul Doucette Ward 2.**

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Lisa Jones

From: Olivia Zink
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 2:11 PM
To: Lisa Jones
Subject: Fw: 1-8-2024 meeting

From: Jonathan Bowers <jonbowers@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 7, 2024 9:23 PM
To: Ted Starkweather <TStarkweather@franklinnh.org>; gdzunja@franklinnh.org <gdzunja@franklinnh.org>; Jay Chandler <JChandler@franklinnh.org>; Olivia Zink <OZink@franklinnh.org>; Vince Ribas <VRibas@franklinnh.org>; Robert Desrochers <RDesrochers@franklinnh.org>; Leigh Webb <LWebb@franklinnh.org>; Valerie Blake <VBlake@franklinnh.org>; Paul Trudel <PTRudel@franklinnh.org>
Subject: 1-8-2024 meeting

You don't often get email from jonbowers@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of City Council,

I write to you today with my concerns regarding two upcoming votes at the 1/8/2024 city council meeting. The first is in regard to the "policy on Acceptable Customer Behavior".

While I think that everyone agrees that our city employees deserve to be treated with respect, there are great concerns over government restriction of first amendment rights. The first regard is the vagueness of the term excessive. In recent months much has been discovered through email 91-A requests to the city. As written, the city manager or any other department head can cut off a citizen of the city when they are exercising their right to know.

The next comes to the idea of abusive messages on social media. This too is extremely vague and without definition. The first amendment permits freedom of speech without punishment within reason. In this case what is the scope of this policy? Criminal threatening is already illegal so what does this define? Afterall, if it is permissible for a city representative such as Niel Cannon to utilize Facebook to call those who criticize his ideas "Idiots" without repercussion, then by default the same liberties must be afforded to all residents. In fact, it was discovered that this also carried over to email conversations with the city manager in which similar abusive language was utilized, yet again without repercussions.

Next citizens are being informed that they must not record without prior approval. In this case ALL public meetings of late have been recorded. Consent works both ways. In this matter if the city takes the liberty to assume consent to record when individuals attend these meetings, then the consent to record by the citizen is by default granted. (see section 4.5 for an example)

Up next, we have the idea of restricting privileges based upon the idea that the person “refuses to accept documented evidence as factual.” This is another affront to a person’s first amendment right. It is also a dangerous approach for the city to force their views upon the taxpayers. I recall early in 2023 it was denied by the soon to be former mayor that Mill City Park was promised to be at no expense to taxpayers despite audio and written proof to the contrary.

There were zero repercussions to Jo Brown regarding this when proved otherwise. Citizens are afforded the right to form an opinion of their own without malicious coercion by the government. This yet again proves to be a potential violation of constitutional rights.

Because of the ambiguity of this policy, I strongly urge it be sent back for further review due to the fact that as written, it is too vague and too risky for the constitutional rights of the citizens of the city.

The next set of concerns comes from the proposed Code of Conduct for Elected Officials and Appointed Board Members.

In Section 308-6 It limits the release of legal communications to the discretion of only the City Manager. This is in fact a very dangerous precedent. The city council must retain all right to release this information as seen fit. The council DOES NOT work for the city manager and this power, being limited to just one person, prevents the city as a whole from knowing if there are any infractions or abuses taking place by the city manager.

Next is the actual attempt to restrict access to legal counsel by making requirements of council to go through the city manager. Once again, this places too much control on just one person, especially if such communications are in reference to the city manager’s office. Council must maintain their ability to seek council without such impedance.

Finally this code completely lacks the same standards in regard to abusive language towards citizens/customers as the previously mentioned ordinance. In Fact, over the last two years, it has become common for elected officials in official meetings on the record to refer to citizens as (and please excuse the language however it came from elected officials all on official city audio recordings) “Thugs” “Psychopaths” “Bitches” etc. This is completely unacceptable and must be addressed in this code, especially seeing that such slander has already been brought up in at least one pending lawsuit against the city. For the city to demand respect from its citizens, it must also reciprocate such expectations.

Thank you for your time,
Jonathan Bowers
Ward 3

Sent from my iPhone

Handout

CITY OF FRANKLIN, NH
Public Hearings
Community Development Block Grant Project

January 8, 2024 6:05pm

Public Hearing on the Proposed Franklin Woods, 11 Plains Court, Franklin Rehabilitation Project CDBG Application

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are available to municipalities through the NH Community Development Finance Authority. Up to \$500,000 annually is available for Economic Development Projects, up to \$500,000 for Housing Projects, up to \$500,000 for Public Facility Projects, up to \$350,000 in Emergency Funds, up to \$25,000 per Planning Study grant. All projects must directly benefit a majority of low- and moderate-income persons.

This is a proposed application to the Community Development Finance Authority for up to \$500,000 in CDBG Housing Grant Funds. Of the grant funds, up to \$30,000 will be retained by the City for administrative/labor compliance associated with the project, \$470,000 of the funds will be subgranted to Woodside Haven LLC, or related entity, to rehabilitate Franklin Woods, 11 Plains Court, Franklin, NH. The building contains 36 units of affordable housing.

This project conforms with Franklin's Housing and Community Development Plan's goals of: Goal: Address issues of affordable housing. Encourage safe, decent, attractive and affordable housing for all segments of the population, with a focus on the increasing elderly population.

Public Hearing on the Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan for the Proposed Franklin Woods, 11 Plains Court, Franklin Rehabilitation Project

Please note the public hearing notice in the Union Leader incorrectly said this public hearing was for the Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan for Healthfirst Family Care Center Improvements Project, which was a previous CDBG application. This Public Hearing is for the Proposed Franklin Woods, 11 Plains Court, Franklin Rehabilitation Project

This plan outlines measures, under the Uniform Relocation Act, required for CDBG projects that involve any displacement or relocation of persons (or businesses), if the City were to undertake a CDBG project which involved displacement or relocation they would follow this plan. The plan outlines the measures they would take to find comparable, suitable housing for persons (or businesses) displaced or relocated. Any displacement or relocation is anticipated to be on-site with tenants moved into rehabilitated units, all moving costs paid by the developer. Units will be kept vacant for this.

To: Members of City Council – Current and Outgoing

From: Ken & Judith Ackerson

Re: Thank you to Mayor Brown

Date: January 8, 2024

To members of the Franklin City Council and residents of Franklin, we wish to express our thanks to Mayor Jo Brown for her years of service as Mayor and for her many contributions to the health and vitality of our city.

Mayor Brown also started a successful small business in our downtown which showed her love of and commitment to our community.

Mayor Brown has served us with dignity, dedication and with a great understand. During her tenure, she forged relationships with the governor's office and our delegation to Washington DC. For a small city which is dependent on grant money for many of our needs, this has been vital to our success.

Mayor Brown worked cooperatively with the school board to create a bridge between the staff at Lakes Region Community College and Plymouth State University so that their staff and students could cover gaps in our teaching staff.

There are many more accomplishments I could mention but the most important of all is the relationships she formed with those who serve our city and her availability to all citizens of Franklin. Thank you, Mayor Brown, for your service.

January 8, 2024
City Council Meeting
Inaugural Address

Good evening to All,

I want to personally thank everyone attending tonight, either in person or in zoom, who has contributed not only to this evening but to this vibrant and proud community and for making it as wonderful as it is. Deacon Tom, The Franklin Elks Club, The Boy Scouts of Troop 61, The Franklin High School Choir, Members of the City Council both of 2023 and 2024, The City Manager, Judie Milner and her tireless support staff, Mayor Jo Brown, You, the residents of Franklin, and my overwhelmingly supportive and loving family and friends.

Many of my relationships in this city have been forged through my community engagement efforts or rather became established where the community engaged me, most often with little to no warning. When my family and I opened a small laundromat in the center of downtown, I had no idea it would be a life altering event. If in 2006, when we opened our doors, you told me I would be standing here, in the Elks club, addressing you as the Mayor of Franklin, I would have laughed at the whimsy. But alter my life the City of Franklin did, and what a change for the better. What a privilege to raise a child, grow a family and develop personally in this little City. As an individual who was raised in a loving, intact family but surrounded by the isolation of urban living, Franklin is a little slice of heaven. From the City's many multigenerational family's, rich with history, the natural resources and landscapes and most importantly, the core personal values that result from an environment steeped in tradition like the Outing Club at the Veterans Memorial Ski Area or our class day parade, this year is the 100th! At every turn and within every resident our City is abundant with its beauty. Let me tell you how I was not surprised in the least to discover we even have an article published in 1947 titled "Here's Your Home" "How a small New Hampshire City is solving the housing problem. By helping veterans it is also helping the community." by Isabelle H. Daniel. What better way is there to illustrate the deeply rooted culture and generous nature reflected in the Franklin people today? So many of our daily interactions reflect ideals that have been preserved from generation to generation. This is the reason I have devoted so much of my time to the protection of this way of life. It is the essential element to the strong foundation Franklin will use to enter the next phase of its future. Already so many new opportunities have begun to weave their way into the existing fabric of Franklin life. It is truly wonderful to see these changes evolve around

me. It is my sincere ambition to provide the balance these new opportunities need to flourish and exist in harmony with the present structure and population of our beautiful City.

I also beg for the patience of residents, members of the local government, and the agencies that we work with as I continue learning the proper stewardship of our City. If I can communicate and educate any one fact this evening, please come away with this knowledge that every single member of this local government whether appointed, elected or volunteer invests a precious number of hours a week to make sure this City continues running. I commit to working with many to foster relationships that will prove beneficial to the City and its people. Lets look forward to a public body that communicates with its residents, that acknowledges concerns, listens to feedback and puts in the work to overcome obstacles and protect the interests of the people. It is my goal to be an asset to this community. We have so much to work with, the potential is boundless. I feel it appropriate to end with Psalm 133 How pleasant is it when Gods people live together in Unity.

Mayor of Franklin

Desiree McLaughlin

Don't Come to Franklin

By: Savaughna Slocum

Why would someone choose Franklin, as somewhere they would like for their family to settle? There are many reasons why you should not choose Franklin. Don't come to Franklin if you don't want to be a part of a community that is binding closer and closer as time passes. Don't come to Franklin if you don't like trails that connect surrounding towns, while hearing the rushing of the river. Don't come to Franklin if you don't want to be immersed in history, with a step into nature one minute from downtown.

Don't come to Franklin if you don't want to be a part of a community that has become closer over the last few years. With more businesses coming to downtown Franklin, it has led to more opportunities for people who call Franklin home to come together and celebrate the new accomplishments and opportunities they now have access to. The Franklin High School's athletics department has branched out to reintroduce two sports, winter cheer and wrestling, while also adding more clubs for students to be a part of making it so everyone is getting involved. Home football games leave the stands full of cheering fans from all over the community, leading our team to victory. One of the Franklin football team's wide receivers, Kourtney Kaplan said "The fans that come out to see us play have a big impact on the performance of the team. They support us and push us to do our best and fight until the final buzzer goes off".

Don't come to Franklin if you don't like trails that connect surrounding towns. The Northern Rail Trail connects nine different towns that have multiple access points, Lebanon (3),

Enfield (2), Canaan/ Orange (2), Grafton (1), Danbury/ Wilmot (3), Andover (2), East Andover (3), Franklin (2), Boscawen (3). The Northern Rail Trail offers multiple activities that it can be used for. In Spring-Summer-Fall you can partake in walking, jogging, bicycling, and horseback riding. In Winter you can snowmobile, dog sled, snowshoe, and cross country ski. The trails of Franklin are valued by those who live here, for their beauty and how they connect us. “When the rain blew away today, I took a walk down the Winnepesaukee River Trail -- and when I saw the bridge in sunlight, I just had to scramble down the bank to catch some views” Karen Darling, a resident of Franklin, had posted in the towns facebook group, to share with her neighbors.

Don’t come to Franklin if you don’t want to be immersed in history, with a step into nature one minute from downtown. Downtown Franklin is filled with old mill buildings, many of them have been revamped and turned into new, upcoming businesses. While walking downtown, across from the wheel is one of the access points to the Northern Rail Trail. The trail is home to the old railroad tracks with signs explaining some of Franklin’s history. Franklin has a Historical Society’s Education Committee that informs residents and provides them with resources and knowledge of our town's history. “It’s really cool to see all of the old railroad tracks, while walking the trails with my family. It enables us to share our pride in our city with each other, while learning about those who were here before us” Sage Slocum, one of Franklin High School students said.

Come to Franklin if you want to be a part of a community that supports each other in times of need. Come to Franklin if you like feeling connected to surrounding towns. Come to Franklin if you want to learn about your cities’ history while being surrounded by nature. If these are things that you hold dear, come to Franklin and be a part of the change.

Lisa Jones

From: kaitlyncampbellshaw@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 8:39 AM
To: Lisa Jones
Subject: Fwd: Public comment for 1/8/24

Categories: Replied

You don't often get email from kaitlyncampbellshaw@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Lisa,

Forwarding this to you- please distribute to new mayor. I was unable to find her official email address.

Thank you!

-Kaitlyn Shaw

Begin forwarded message:

From: kaitlyncampbellshaw@gmail.com
Date: January 8, 2024 at 8:24:53 AM EST
To: JChandler@franklinnh.org, Gdzujna@franklinnh.org, TStarkweather@franklinnh.org, citymgr@franklinnh.org
Subject: Public comment for 1/8/24

Hello,

I am writing to support the elected and appointed officials code of conduct and the customer aggression code of conduct. Franklin employees should have a clear document to refer to when they are being mistreated by customers.

I would suggest the elected and appointed code of conduct be edited to include the use of social media by elected officials. Here is an example of a city social media policy. https://www.manchesternh.gov/Portals/2/Departments/human_resources/City_Of_Manchester_Social_Media_Policy.pdf?ver=2022-07-25-085427-047

Give the focus on RSA91A lately, it makes sense for elected officials to use a public figure social media account such that RSA 91A may be maintained.

The following is for public comment related to the swearing in of the new mayor and questions to the councilors. I could not find the new mayors official email- please forward to her.

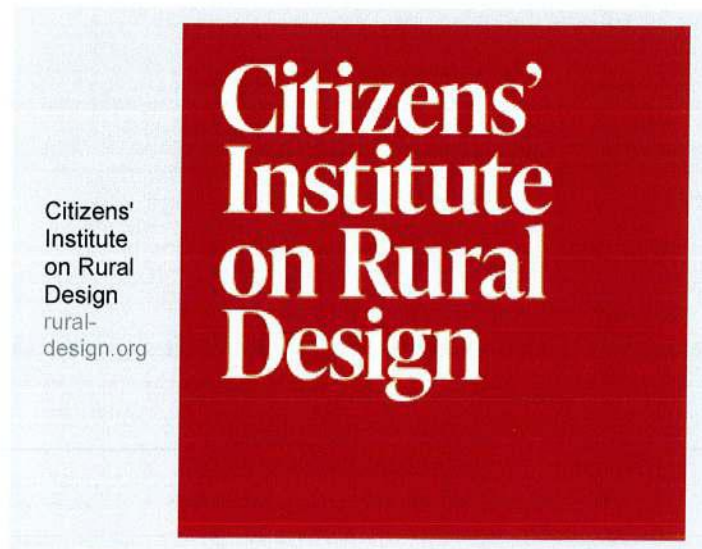
Dear madam mayor and councilors,

Congratulations on your appointments, I look forward to seeing how you will further the mission of Franklin.

I request that within your first month as mayor that you and the councilors answer the following questions:

1. What role will social media play in civil discourse during your tenure?
2. Typically, city council meetings comments are made via email or during public comment. Do you plan to consider social media comments as public comment, and if so how will you consider all comments equitably and ensure all comments are made by residents?
3. What is your specific actionable plan to further the stated mission of the city: "We will work as a Team to Ensure Franklin's future by Strengthening Education, Promoting Recreation, Supporting Businesses and Providing a Safe Community through the Efficient use of Resources and Talent. We will Eliminate waste at all levels to Maximize Value to our Taxpayers."?
4. How will you measure and gauge progress on this mission?
5. How will you continue to enact, update, and evolve the City's Master plan and the documents that came out of the Franklin for a Lifetime visioning exercise in 2015?
(Priorities from this community charrette included:
 1. Marketing: "Champions for Franklin,"
 2. Community events and recreational opportunities, 3. Housing and infrastructure, 4. Arts and culture, and 5. Volunteerism and civic life).

All these items are still important to Franklin. Working together as a united community will serve all the people of Franklin and foster collaborative avenues for progress on issues.



Sincerely,
Kaitlyn Shaw, Ward 1



School Board opening

1 message

Chris Seufert <cseufert@seufertlaw.com>
To: vplblake@gmail.com <vplblake@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 5:48 PM

Valerie-

I understand that the school board has an upcoming opening and Leanne Fifield has thrown her hat in.

I have known Leanne Fifield for some time and she would make a great addition. Her family has long legs in this community so I know she would have the students best interests at heart.

Christopher J. Seufert, Esq.
Seufert Law Offices, P.A.
59 Central St. , Franklin, NH 03235
(603) 934-9837

January 8, 2024
City Council
Franklin, NH 03235



Dear City Council and Welcome,

As a community, we have our fair share of problems. Most are due to the unwillingness of addressing decades of decay, deterioration and deferred maintenance. A prime example are the roads. Everyone wants them fixed, but no one is willing to pay for them or work towards a solution.

The list of items that need to be addressed in a sustainable way seems to increase: City Hall, the School, funding for additional city staff (as most departments are under funded), the Trestle Bridge, funding the Capital Improvement Plan, and the list goes on.

Mill City Park is a solution and action based organization. Our crew does not sit on the sidelines and gossip. We get dirty, volunteer and work towards the solutions and priorities of the organization, which are documented in our Master Plan and Strategic Plan (see millcitypark.com).

In December, we answered City Councilor's questions, that were pertinent to the Memorandum of Agreement. In support of future initiatives, we are providing them for your reference and review, as well, please see attached.

Some of you ran for office on platforms that disparaged and attempted to defame us and others. While that is deplorable, as an organization built to make waves (aka change), we understand that our work is complex and difficult, that it draws attention and that not everyone will agree with our approach or work. That is okay.

The American Planners Association recently wrote an article, entitled "Strategic Investments in Parks Can Spark Economic Vitality Downtown." It documented why "homing in on people-centered places may be the best bet for reviving struggling city centers." See more here: <https://planning.org/planning/2023/fall/strategic-investments-in-parks-can-spark-economic-vitality-downtown/>

If you are a City Councilor or resident and you don't understand what we are trying to do, or how it could reduce residential tax payer's burden, then reach out. We are here to answer your questions and collaborate on moving Franklin forward.

Sincerely,

Marty Parichand

Franklin Resident
Mill City Park at Franklin Falls
Buell Block Properties
Outdoor New England

A Message to Mayor McLaughlin to be read into Public Comment January 8, 2024:

Over the past year, you personally have created an atmosphere of anger, hatred and distrust of City employees through your posts on social media. You have encouraged others to voice their anger through escalated levels of vulgarity and hatred by simply not having the courage to stand up and speak out against the total disrespect for the people who actually keep the City of Franklin running. You say you care about all the people of Franklin, but your words and actions, and silence and inaction, speak to the total opposite.

Your complete lack of understanding of how municipal government functions, the laws that govern how municipalities must do things, and your inability to find common ground in your disagreements has fueled the ignorance of the general population who believe they can bully city staff into doing things their way, regardless of the laws and our policies and ordinances.

All of this has created a situation where city staff do not feel safe coming to work. And you, Mayor McLaughlin are personally responsible for that. We are here to do a job, to serve the people of Franklin to the best of our ability. We are not perfect, mistakes may occasionally happen, because we are human. There is a grave difference between making a mistake, and the word you throw around constantly – malfeasance. You will make mistakes in your new role, I guarantee it. It is a very steep learning curve, especially when you have no experience in municipal work. Should the public assume that every misstep of yours is done intentionally to deceive and manipulate the public? No, I don't think they should. And for your sake, I hope they will give you the space to learn. I pray you have the humility to accept that you have much to learn and take the time to do so.

Going forward, I implore you to be a voice of calm and reason, of respect, appreciation, and decency toward all City employees, to demonstrate what you claim is your goal for the City of Franklin. Unfortunately, I have felt the need to keep this message anonymous out of fear for my safety and possible retaliation from those who think violence and bullying is the way to make their voice heard. The uncomfortable truth is 'you broke it', and the question now is how are you going to fix it? Perhaps you could start by denouncing those who have weaponized social media to attack and insult those they disagree with. We all want the best for Franklin, even if we see different pathways to achieve it. There is room for everyone at the table.

Signed,

A concerned City employee

Lisa Jones

From: Olivia Zink <councilorzink@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:58 PM
To: Lisa Jones
Subject: Fwd: Customer aggression policy

Begin forwarded message:

From: Scott Godbois <sgodbois74@gmail.com>
Date: January 7, 2024 at 4:03:56 PM EST
To: Gdzujna@franklinnh.org, ozink@franklinnh.org, JChandler@franklinnh.org, TStarkweather@franklinnh.org, citymgr@franklinnh.org, Vince Ribas <VRibas@franklinnh.org>, RDesrochers@franklinnh.org, VBlake@franklinnh.org, lwebb@franklinnh.org, PTrudel@franklinnh.org, mayor@franklinnh.org
Subject: Customer aggression policy

Hello councilors,

I am writing this email to all of you as you all represent all the taxpayers, I feel that this customer aggression policy is a form of censorship and a violation of our first amendment right to free speech. I do understand that us as a taxpayers base should be civil to each other as well as you all as councilor, and other members that provide services to us as taxpayers. We elected you because we believe you would do the best for us as a city. We may not agree on everthing that is voted on or don't see everthing that goes on behind the scenes, and are told to do our own research so we are forced to file for 91a to come to our own conclusions and make our own educated decisions. So for this policy to go into place if someone feels that we are being excessive on the request then we could be limited or even denied our right to information.

Also in this policy it extends to even including social media which is a violation of our first amendment rights and could set up for a civil suit for the city. This is on the agenda and we as a taxpayer don't even have a right to voice our opinion on this policy cause the public comment is not till after you vote on this issue again seem to be a form censorship.

This policy wants to tell us as taxpayers how to act and conduct our selves in the public but what about how our elected officials and public worker act towards us how is that ethical?

Email received via 91a

From: Niel Cannon coielcannon16@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2023 2:47 PM
To: 'lim Aberg' <ihabers@mettocast.net>; City Manager <citymgr@franklinnh.org>; Seth Creighton <Creighton@ftankiinnh.arp>; "Marty Parichand" <matty@nutdoornawengland.com>
Subject: Tonight
Importance: High

Looking forward to this evening (NOT!). Two things.

1 I would recommend that we not talk about hotel specifics..."we are still talking". It is one of several investment opportunities being looked at in the downtown, all spurred- at least in part- by the WWPI However, if we get too detailed it will open up the developers to negative trash

from the idiots, and if the deal subsequently falls through it will be I told you so". The Council has been briefed on the details and they are the ones that count.

This policy should be struck down and not voted on..

Thank you for you time

Scott and Samantha Godbois ward 2