



City Council Meeting and 2021 Inaugural Minutes

Monday, January 4, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Webmeeting via Zoom

City Council In attendance:

	Location/others present
Mayor Giunta	Florida/ no others present in the room
Councilor Jo Brown	Home/no other present in the room
Councilor Scott Clarenbach	Home/alone
Councilor Bob Desrochers	Home/no others present in the room
Councilors George Dzujna	Home/wife Christine is present
Councilor April Bunker	Home/no others present in the room
Councilor Ted Starkweather	Home/no others present in the room
Councilor Olivia Zink	Home/no others present in the room
Councilor Paul Trudel	Home/no others present in the room
Councilor Karen Testerman	Joined at 6:19 p.m. from her home/alone

Others in attendance: City Manager Judie Milner, City Attorney Paul Fitzgerald, City Department Heads, Superintendent Dan LeGallo, new school board members: Christine Martin, Reverend Glen Carter, Maureen Aube, and members of the public.

Mayor Giunta called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. via Zoom. He welcomed everyone and stated that due to these very unusual times, this is the first virtual Inaugural City Council Meeting in the history of our City. He asked everyone to close their eyes and imagine walking into City Hall and into Council Chambers.

Mayor Giunta then read the Compliant Right to Know Statement.

Salute to the Flag was led by City Manager's Secretary, Audrey Lanzillo.

Councilor Desrochers recognized veteran John Dyer who served in the U.S. Army from 1956-1959 and recently passed away. A moment of silence was dedicated in honor of Mr. John Dyer.

City Council 2020 Business

Public Hearings

Resolution #12-21, a Resolution to accept and appropriate \$185,200 in Federal CARES ACT Funding from the Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery Funds Program for the purpose of funding costs associated with COVID-19 for the Franklin School District.

The public hearing opened at 6:10 p.m.

Mayor Giunta asked if there was anyone from the public who had any questions or comments. There were none.

The public hearing for Resolution #12-21 closed at 6:11 p.m.

Resolution #13-21, a Resolution to accept and appropriate \$43,006.95 from the COVID-19 Child Care Assistance Supplement (CCCAS) through the CARES ACT for the purpose of funding costs associated with COVID-19 for the Parks and Recreation Before and After School Program.

The public hearing opened at 6:11 p.m.

Mayor Giunta asked if there was anyone from the public who had any questions or comments. There were none.

The public hearing for Resolution #13-21 closed at 6:12 p.m.

Agenda Item I.

Council to consider the minutes of the December 7th, 2020 City Council Meeting and the minutes of the December 7th, 2020 non-public City Council meeting.

Motion – Councilor Bunker moved that the Franklin City Council approve the minutes of the December 7th, 2020 City Council Meeting and the minutes of the December 7th, 2020 non-public City Council meeting.

Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

Mayor Giunta asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

Roll call:

Councilor Brown	Yes	Councilor Dzujna	Yes	Councilor Zink	Yes
Councilor Clarenbach	Yes	Councilor Bunker	Yes	Councilor Testerman	Absent
Councilor Desrochers	Yes	Councilor Starkweather	Yes	Councilor Trudel	Yes

Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item II.

City Council to consider Resolution #12-21, accept and appropriate \$185,200 in Federal CARES ACT Funding from the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery Funds (GOFERR) Program for the purpose of funding costs associated with COVID-19 for the Franklin School District.

Motion – Councilor Brown moved that the Franklin City Council vote to adopt Resolution #12-21, to accept and appropriate \$185,200 in Federal CARES ACT Funding titled GOFERR Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery Grant for the purpose of funding costs associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic for the Franklin School District.

Seconded by Councilor Bunker.

Mayor Giunta asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

RESOLUTION # 12-21

A Resolution Granting Authority to Accept and Appropriate \$185,200 of CARES Act funding under the GOFERR (Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery) Fund for the Franklin School District.

In the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire recognizes that the school district will receive \$185,200 in CARES Act funding through the New Hampshire Department of Education titled the GOFERR Fund;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin would like to appropriate \$185,200 of the above mentioned funds in order to expend for costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic for such things as technology costs for remote learning (chromebooks, computers, software), compensatory special education services, personal protection equipment, food service distributions costs, sanitizing equipment, continued contract costs, personnel costs, other instructional tools, etc., **Now,**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *that at a regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council on January 4, 2021, the City Council of Franklin New Hampshire does hereby vote to adopt resolution #12-21 to formally accept and appropriate \$185,200 of federal funding from the passage of the CARES Act by the federal government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic through the New Hampshire Department of Education under the GOFERR Fund for the Franklin School District.*

An Increase in Revenues:

GOFERR Fund (CARES Act) – One Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand, Two Hundred Dollars (185,200)

An Increase in Expenditures:

Federal Grant Expenditure – GOFERR - One Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand, Two Hundred Dollars (185,200)

Roll call:

Councilor Brown	Yes	Councilor Dzujna	Yes	Councilor Zink	Yes
Councilor Clarenbach	Yes	Councilor Bunker	Yes	Councilor Testerman	Absent
Councilor Desrochers	Yes	Councilor Starkweather	Yes	Councilor Trudel	Yes

Motion PASSED.

Councilor Desrochers requested that Councilor Dzujna be allowed to make this next final motion of 2020 since this will be his last meeting. All agreed.

Agenda Item III.

City Council to consider Resolution #13-21, to accept and appropriate \$43,006.95 from the COVID-19 Child Care Assistance Supplement (CCCAS) through the CARES Act for the purpose of funding costs associated with COVID-19 for the Parks and Recreation Before and After School Program.

**Motion – Councilor Dzujna moved that the Franklin City Council vote to adopt Resolution #13-21, to accept and appropriate \$43,006.95 from the COVID-19 Child Care Assistance Supplement (CCCAS) program through the CARES Act for the purpose of funding costs associated with COVID-19 Pandemic for the Parks and Recreation Before and After School Program.
Seconded by Councilor Brown.**

Mayor Giunta asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

RESOLUTION #13-21

A Resolution Relating to a supplemental appropriation for Fiscal Year 2021.

In the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty One,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2021 beginning July 1, 2020, **and**;

WHEREAS, the City Council realizes the State of Emergency due to Covid-19 pandemic and,

WHEREAS, the City of Franklin Recreation department has been awarded at total of \$43,006.95 due to the passing of the Federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act. These monies are being disbursed through the COVID-19 Child Care Assistance Supplement (CCCAS) and,

WHEREAS, the City Council appreciates and acknowledges the Recreation workers' continuing efforts to provide an essential service to the working parents of this community during this time now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that at their regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council on Monday, January 4th, 2021, the City Council of Franklin, New Hampshire does hereby vote to adopt resolution #13-21 to authorize the City Manager to accept and appropriate the funds of \$43,006.95 (Forty-three Thousand Six dollars and Ninety-Five cents)

An Increase in Revenue:

Federal Grants Operating- CCRSP Acct. No. 01-5-211-33111-126

An Increase in Expenditures:

Recreation Adm Supplies, Spec Program- CCRSP Acct. No. 01-5-211-40685-126

Roll call:

Councilor Brown	Yes	Councilor Dzujna	Yes	Councilor Zink	Yes
Councilor Clarenbach	Yes	Councilor Bunker	Yes	Councilor Testerman	Absent
Councilor Desrochers	Yes	Councilor Starkweather	Yes	Councilor Trudel	Yes

Motion PASSED.

Mayor Acknowledgement

Mayor Giunta presented Councilor Dzujna with a years of service plaque as City Councilor for the City of Franklin. Councilor Dzujna served three consecutive terms of nine years of dedication to the City of Franklin.

Dzujna accomplished an incredibly long list of items for this City. Mayor Giunta stated that in all those years, Dzujna never missed a City Council Meeting. Dzujna was also dedicated to many other committees and especially proud of being part of Franklin for a Lifetime which has been a catalyst and foundation for where the City is going now; highlighted with the White Water Park.

Mayor Giunta thanked Dzujna and displayed a photo of his plaque complete with a special Energizer Bunny pin.

Dzujna thanked everyone and especially his wife, Christine for her patience and understanding. He would not have served all that time without her support. He thanked each of the department heads for all their hard work and patience with providing the necessary information to vote on certain topics that affect the City's budget. He also thanked City Manager Milner and previous City Manager Dragon. He thanked all the residents stating that it was an honor to serve them.

Dzujna concluded with words from American Actress, Hattie McDaniel, "I tried my best and God did the rest."

Councilor Karen Testerman joined the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Citizen of the Year Presented by Mayor Giunta

Mayor Giunta described how different this past year has been and how choosing this person was very different than in past years. Because there wasn't the visibility that most of us are used to, he thought about it in a way that described this person's personality. Due to the pandemic, this individual presented himself as a true leader.

Mayor Giunta proudly announced that Fire Chief Mike Foss was chosen as Citizen of the year for 2020. Foss was described as always going above and beyond to make everyone feel important, listened to a person's input, and took a natural leadership role during this most difficult year.

Fire Chief Mike Foss humbly replied that he was completely shocked to have been chosen. He continued to explain that Franklin employees make a great team and the community has been very caring so he felt his job was fairly easy. Everyone worked together throughout this pandemic. Foss thanked City Manager Milner, his staff, and the entire community.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Dzujna and seconded by Councilor Brown.

Roll call:

Councilor Brown	Yes	Councilor Dzujna	Yes	Councilor Zink	Yes
Councilor Clarenbach	Yes	Councilor Bunker	Yes	Councilor Testerman	Yes
Councilor Desrochers	Yes	Councilor Starkweather	Yes	Councilor Trudel	Yes

Motion PASSED.

The City Council 2020, prior year business, meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

2021 INAUGURAL PROGRAM

Mayor Giunta began the Inaugural Program at 6:33 p.m., inviting Reverend Glen Carter to deliver his Invocation.

Reverend Carter asked everyone to bow their heads as he shared a heartfelt prayer to all.

Attorney Paul Fitzgerald requested that Secretary Audrey Lanzillo record the swearing in of the following:

Audrey confirmed that each of the new members were present on the zoom call as they took their oaths and accepted their duties to the Citizens of the Franklin.

Swearing in of Councilors (3-year term):

Ward I, Councilor-Elect Jay Chandler

Ward II, Councilor-Elect Bob Desrochers

Ward III, Councilor-Elect Paul Trudel

Swearing in of School Board Members (3-year term)

Ward I, Christine Martin

Ward II, Reverend Glen Carter

Ward II, Maureen Aube

Mayor Giunta - State of the City Address

Franklin-A Tale of Two Cities

Happy New Year everyone, welcome to 2021. Where did 2020 go? I'm sure many of us are glad to see it in the rearview mirror-but still, man did time fly! Like many of you, Christmas snuck right up on me and I often find myself earning to get into the Christmas spirit. So, on Christmas eve I watched Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer and A Christmas Carol with Allister Simms (he's my favorite Scrooge). Nothing like Charles Dickens to get you in the Spirit. But 2020 can best be described by a phrase from another Dickens classic, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times" in his Tale of Two Cities.

The best of times? 2020? For the past several months, I've been hearing about record stock market closes. The markets' have never been higher. Let's celebrate because Wall Street is cooking with gas! But these are clearly "the worst of times". We're still living in a pandemic era. Since this awful virus struck there have been 20.5M confirmed cases in the United States alone. Over 350,000 deaths reported from this disease and we're entering our 3rd phase of infections. To help slow the spread, we've had to take extraordinary measures including isolating ourselves from our friends our families from each other. Depression is at an all-time high and expectations for a brighter future are at an all-time low. "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."

When things seem like they just keep going from bad to worse, what works for me is to say, "that's it, enough, it stops now". Then set my thoughts and actions on positive things. Let this be our moment to brush ourselves off of 2020 and looking forward to 2021. Let's remember, that even though 2020 gave us great challenges, we accomplished incredible things.

- We received permits to create our Whitewater Park. A huge accomplishment and first of its kind in all New England. This will change everything!
- Moving forward with Mill City Park to further compliment the Whitewater Park
- Peabody Home will have its largest expansion in its history
- The JP Stevens Mill project received final approval and will mark the largest single investment in our downtown's history.
- We finally completed a very complex deal clearing the way for Cumberland Farms to build one of their largest stores in all New England.
- Investments in our Central Street properties continue

- Major investments in properties throughout the City continue
- Franklin properties are selling in 5 days and for above asking price
- People are moving here from all across the country and when you can attract people from Massachusetts and Texas, well we must be doing something right!

This year we'll start to see the fruits of all our 2020 labor start to take shape. Let's enjoy it, let's revel in it, and let's be prepared to keep our foot on the gas because as the old adage goes, "success breeds success" and many more great things are headed our way! City Council, School Board members, fellow citizens let's work together to keep this success rolling!

Stay healthy, stay strong, and God willing, we will all together again in 2021. God Bless all of you and God Bless the City of Franklin."

Tony Giunta
Mayor - City of Franklin
January 4, 2021

At 6:48 p.m., Mayor Giunta welcomed the City's new Ward I Councilor, James (Jay) Chandler who stated that he was attending this evening from his home and was alone in his office.

Comments from the Public

Ward I Resident, George Dzujna thanked Kirk Wyant from the Three Rivers Wreath Company for donating the two large Christmas wreaths that hung from the wheel at Trestle View Park. Mr. Wyant donates them every year and it makes the downtown area look wonderful during the holiday season.

There were no further comments from the public.

City Council Acknowledgments

As a veteran, Councilor Brown acknowledged the participation of our Franklin Police Force and Franklin Fire Department for their Pass in Review in December when many lives were lost at the Franklin Veterans Home. Surrounding communities also participated in the Pass in Review in front of the Veterans Home and it was inspiring. Brown thanked everyone who continue to support our veterans. A link to the video of the Pass in Review will be posted on the City's Website.

Councilor Trudel thanked Councilor Dzujna for his nine years of service to the community and stated that it had been a pleasure serving with him. He also thanked Dzujna's wife Christine for her sacrifices and wished them Godspeed in their future endeavors.

Councilor Starkweather thanked the Municipal Services road crew for their work during the recent snow storm. They worked very hard clearing a lot of snow that caused a problem on Lake Shore Drive.

There were no further acknowledgements.

Agenda Item I.

Superintendent LeGallo wished everyone a happy new year and welcomed the three new School Board members. He then thanked the three outgoing members: Chris Kneeland, Jeff Savary, and Scott Burns for their service to the school children and the community.

LeGallo stated that the school is still holding classes under the hybrid model and thanked the Council for approving the \$185K of GOFERR Funds. LeGallo stated that there will be more stimulus dollars coming their way and he will keep the City informed on the details when he knows more.

LeGallo was excited to mention that the Manufacturing classes will begin next month during the school's third quarter. He concluded stating that the 2022 budget season will begin shortly.

Councilor Testerman asked LeGallo to share a breakdown of where the additional funds have been going that the school has been receiving. LeGallo replied that he will provide that and the information on the teachings of the Constitution with related test scores to the City Manager who can then share with the City Council.

There were no further comments or questions for Superintendent LeGallo.

Agenda Item II.

Council to consider setting a Public Hearing on Resolution #14-21, a Resolution to accept and appropriate Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds for the Infield Parking Lot Project.

**Motion – Councilor Trudel moved that the Franklin City Council set a Public Hearing on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 6 p.m. regarding Resolution #14-21, accepting and appropriating an \$80K Community Development Block Grant Fund Public Facility Funds received through the Community Development Finance Authority for Parking Lot improvements. To be read in title only.
Seconded by Councilor Desrochers.**

Mayor Giunta asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

Roll call:

Councilor Brown	Yes	Councilor Chandler	Yes	Councilor Zink	Yes
Councilor Clarenbach	Yes	Councilor Bunker	Yes	Councilor Testerman	Yes
Councilor Desrochers	Yes	Councilor Starkweather	Yes	Councilor Trudel	Yes

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Mayor Giunta read Resolution #14-21 in title only. A Resolution relating to a supplemental appropriation for Fiscal Year 2021.

Councilor Desrochers requested an update on the solar one and two lease. He also requested an update on how the time tracking for MSD and the Water Department was coming along.

Motion – Councilor Desrochers moved that the Franklin City Council instruct the City Manager to research an increase of \$100 for the veteran exemption in the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget.

Desrochers stated that other communities give a \$500 exemption to veterans.

Mayor Giunta responded that City Manager Milner planned to respond to the first two questions from Desrochers in her Manager update. Regarding the motion, Giunta suggested that this should be an agenda item to allow the public to provide their comments and support.

Desrochers agreed. There was no second to the Motion and no further discussion on the topic.

Agenda Item III.

Other Business

1. Council Appointments

- a. **Motion – Councilor Trudel moved that the Franklin City Council re-appoint Christine Dzujna to the Library Board of Trustees seat LT2. Term of service is 3 years to January 2024. Seconded by Councilor Desrochers.**

Mayor Giunta asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

Roll call:

Councilor Brown	Yes	Councilor Chandler	Yes	Councilor Zink	Yes
Councilor Clarenbach	Yes	Councilor Bunker	Yes	Councilor Testerman	Yes
Councilor Desrochers	Yes	Councilor Starkweather	Yes	Councilor Trudel	Yes

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

- b. Motion #1 – Councilor Trudel moved that the Franklin City Council re-appoint David Testerman to the Zoning Board of Adjustment seat ZBA1. Term of service is 3 years to January 2024.**

Motion #2 – Councilor Trudel moved that the Franklin City Council re-appoint Debra Davis to the Zoning Board of Adjustment seat ZBA2. Term of service is 3 years to January 2024.

Seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

Mayor Giunta asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

Roll call:

Councilor Brown	Yes	Councilor Chandler	Yes	Councilor Zink	Yes
Councilor Clarenbach	Yes	Councilor Bunker	Yes	Councilor Testerman	Abstained
Councilor Desrochers	Yes	Councilor Starkweather	Yes	Councilor Trudel	Yes

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

- c. Motion #1 – Councilor Brown moved that the Franklin City Council re-appoint Brian Sullivan to the Concord Regional Solid Waste Resource Recovery Cooperative, Regular member. Term of service is 3 years to January 2024.**

Motion #2 – Councilor Brown moved that the Franklin City Council re-appoint Justin Hanscom to the Concord Regional Solid Waste Resource Recovery Cooperative, Alternate member. Term of service is 3 years to January 2024.

Seconded by Councilor Clarenbach.

Mayor Giunta asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

Roll call:

Councilor Brown	Yes	Councilor Chandler	Yes	Councilor Zink	Yes
Councilor Clarenbach	Yes	Councilor Bunker	Yes	Councilor Testerman	Yes
Councilor Desrochers	Yes	Councilor Starkweather	Yes	Councilor Trudel	Yes

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

2. City Manager's Update:

- a. Milner wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- b. She gave congratulations to Chief Foss for his Citizens of the Year award and also thanked Chief Goldstein for taking the lead as well during this pandemic.
- c. The Veterans Home parade was very moving and will be shared with the Council.
- d. Solar One and Two is on the list for Attorney Fitzgerald to respond to. There are a couple of outstanding questions out to Fitzgerald that Milner is waiting for and the City should be receiving his legal opinion within the next month or two.
- e. Milner referred to Desrochers earlier question on the Water Department and MSD time allocation and it is on the agenda for February. She stated that it needs to be more transparent.
- f. Contingent Grant Line Activity (last 2 months) - \$500 for Parks and Recreation, \$278.20 for a family in need of assistance, \$3,141.59 Active Shooter Warm Zone Grant, \$651 Drug Task Force BBQ fundraiser, and \$6,426.20 Book Club earnings moved to the Drug Task Force.
- g. The Trust Fund for School Funding is \$141.22

- h. Due to the pandemic, the City couldn't come together for the annual holiday luncheon where Years of Service Awards are given out. Below is the list shown in 5-year increments:

Department	Employee	Years
Assessing	Lauraine Paquin	5
City Clerk	Amy Davis-Burley	5
City Clerk	Marie Morang	25
Finance	Melissa Newton	15
Fire	Alexander Green	5
Municipal Services	Dan Bushman	15
Municipal Services	Ken Labraney	5
Municipal Services	Todd Small	5
Municipal Services	Matt Parent	5
Police	Joe Guerriero	5
Police	Dan Ball	10
Police	Kent Matthews	10

- i. On December 9th, Milner attended the outdoor Swearing in and Pinning Ceremony of our new firefighters Austin Wakefield and Michael Mussey.
- j. Milner also attended the outside sendoff for retiring Fire Captain Gary Hicks on December 16th.
- k. The Construction Request for Proposal for Mill City Park, in water features, was sent out on December 18th. A construction company will be chosen by the end of February. Construction is planned to begin on July 12th. Due to the low water expected during this time of year, it will be the best time to begin the work in the river.
- l. Milner attended the FBIDC meeting on December 23rd and provided a Year in Review presentation highlighting the many accomplishments in Franklin this past year during the pandemic. Milner would like to provide a similar presentation to the Council early this year.
- m. COVID update – Thus far, 5 employees tested positive and were required to quarantine. This caused some extra OT which should be reimbursable through FEMA.
- n. Milner requested that the City Council resume the LEAN/SWOT meetings on the 4th Monday each month. This upcoming meeting would focus on the Solid Waste Ordinance. There were no objections from the Council.
- o. Milner sent an email to the Ward II Polling Location Ad Hoc Committee explaining the purpose and needs to be addressed. A doodle poll will be sent out to find a good time to meet.
- p. Primex and the NH Municipal Association are holding a Cybersecurity Summit and Franklin has been invited to present via Zoom. This is planned for April 2021. Franklin will talk about what was learned from the Cyber attack last year. This will be a pre-recorded presentation which will be shared with the Council ahead of time.

Councilor Trudel stated that the Serendipity Singers were greatly missed during tonight's Inaugural and hoped they can come back to City Hall next year and participate as in previous years.

Mayor Giunta agreed with Trudel and also recognized St. Paul's Choir who also sang at the Inaugural in previous years.

3. Late Items – none.

There was no further discussion.

Councilor Chandler moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Trudel.

Roll call:

Councilor Brown	Yes	Councilor Chandler	Yes	Councilor Zink	Yes
Councilor Clarenbach	Yes	Councilor Bunker	Yes	Councilor Testerman	Yes
Councilor Desrochers	Yes	Councilor Starkweather	Yes	Councilor Trudel	Yes

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Lanzillo