



City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 6, 2021
Nonpublic Session – 5:30 p.m.
Public Session - 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall

Council in attendance: Mayor Jo Brown, Councilor Scott Clarenbach, Councilor Bob Desrochers, Councilor Ted Starkweather, Councilor April Bunker, Councilor Olivia Zink, Councilor Paul Trudel, Councilor George Dzujna.

Absent: Councilor Jay Chandler and Councilor Karen Testerman.

Others in attendance: City Manager Judie Milner, Councilor-Elect Blake and City Attorney Paul Fitzgerald by phone.

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order in Council Chambers at 5:49 p.m.

Motion – Councilor Bunker moved that the Franklin City Council enter into nonpublic according to RSA 91-A:3, II (1), Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

Motion – Councilor Dzujna moved that the Franklin City Council invite Councilor-Elect Blake into the nonpublic meeting. Seconded by Councilor Trudel.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

By a roll call vote.

Councilor Bunker	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Desrochers	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Testerman	<u>Abs</u>
Councilor Chandler	<u>Abs</u>	Councilor Dzujna	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Trudel	<u>Yes</u>
Councilor Clarenbach	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Starkweather	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Zink	<u>Yes</u>

Motion PASSED.

Entered into nonpublic at 5:50 p.m.

Motion – Councilor Dzujna moved to leave nonpublic session and return to public session. Seconded by Councilor Trudel.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

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City Attorney Paul Fitzgerald disconnected from the meeting after the nonpublic.

Public Session reconvened at 5:56 p.m.

Motion – Councilor Zink moved to seal the minutes. Seconded by Councilor Bunker.

By a roll call vote.

Councilor Bunker	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Desrochers	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Testerman	<u>Abs</u>
Councilor Chandler	<u>Abs</u>	Councilor Dzujna	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Trudel	<u>Yes</u>
Councilor Clarenbach	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Starkweather	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Zink	<u>Yes</u>

Motion PASSED.

Mayor Brown stated they will take a short recess.

Mayor Brown called the public meeting to order in Council Chambers at 6:02 p.m.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor Desrochers.

Councilor Desrochers honored the following: Specialist 5th class James A. Marchi served in the U.S. Army from 1943-1946. He also served in George Patton's 3rd Army and the Normandy Invasion. He was also owner of Marchi's Body shop in Franklin on Douchinett Street. Peter Gauthier served in the U.S. Navy Seabees and John Talbert, Jr. served in the U.S. Air Force. Mayor Brown recognized Senator Robert Dole from Kansas.

A moment of silence commenced in their honor.

Public Hearings

Resolution #07-22, to accept and appropriate \$6,076,391.29 of ARP ESSER III Funds for Franklin School District.

The public hearing opened at 6:02 p.m.

Mayor Brown asked if there was anyone who had comments or questions.

No comments on Resolution #07-22, public hearing closed at 6:03 p.m.

Resolution #08-22, authorizing the City Manager to borrow up to \$520,894 and appropriate \$454,106 in capital reserve funds for the police communications center upgrade.

The public hearing on Resolution #08-22 opened at 6:03 p.m.

Police Chief Goldstein discussed the needs of the communications center upgrade and used a wants vs needs as a comparison. The communications center is a need and is the most important thing to serve the taxpayers of the community. The communications center is done, there are no

longer parts for the system and it is at its end of life. If it is not replaced the police department will be reduced to possibly using only portable radios and cell phones. Police Chief Goldstein read some statistics that Dispatcher Jen Kulacz created showing how busy the police department is. These numbers are only from January 1, 2021 to present: Alexandria – 2,571; Andover – 3,880; Bristol – 9,588; Danbury – 1,746; Franklin – 38,255; Hill – 1,235 for a total of 57,275 calls. This total is only recorded calls and doesn't include walk-ins and non-recorded calls. Dispatchers are receiving on average 200 calls a day across three shifts. About 73,000 recorded calls are handled by the dispatchers a year. Police Chief Goldstein read a sheet of supporting information comparing this to other needs. He stated if this system cannot be replaced the dispatching is done and there is no place to go as State and County can't take us, this is it.

Councilor Trudel asked what the service life is of what is being proposed for purchase. Police Chief Goldstein deferred to the representative from Ossipee Mountain and she stated a minimum of 10-12 years before you have parts issues. Councilor Trudel asked what the warranty and the representative from Ossipee Mountain stated the manufacturer's warranty is one year for the equipment with an option for the City to buy an extended warranty. Councilor Dzujna asked how long to get it up and running and the representative from Ossipee Mountain stated 9-12 months as it will be done in phases. Dispatcher Kulacz stated there is a lot of prep work that can be done while waiting for the equipment. Mayor Brown asked if there is any degradation of service while transitioning to the new one and the representative from Ossipee Mountain stated no.

Councilor Starkweather asked what are we getting for our money? Dispatcher Kulacz stated we are going from one transmit site to four transmit sites, going from direct transmit to a simulcast combo which is microwave with eline. Currently, we have copper wiring and it is the copper wiring that is causing issues with the transmission and quality of transmission. Dispatcher Kulacz explained in detail how the transmission works and will work with the new system. Councilor Starkweather asked if this will fix all the problems they had in the past with the station and the tower. Dispatcher Kulacz stated it should as long as they can get the elines from the PD to the water tower as those elines are to do away with the copper lines. The copper lines are costing the City more money than they realize as those lines can't be worked on anymore since it is antiquated technology and the City is paying for the 4 lines that go to the tower when the new system will only have one eline. Councilor Trudel asked if the eline is subject to storm damage and Dispatcher Kulacz replied it is no different than another other network line. Councilor Trudel asked if this is going to fix the repeater issue that has been going on for at least the last six years? Police Chief Goldstein stated that is the belief and hope. Dispatcher Kulacz explained how the microwave will work with the new system.

Councilor Bunker asked what is the total budget for the project and Mayor Brown stated it's the borrowed amount and the capital reserve amount. Dispatcher Kulacz stated that is the amount Ossipee Mountain can provide the City. There are items not included such as Ragged Mountain needs upgrade to our equipment that's up there. Councilor Bunker asked where that money will come from? Dispatcher Kulacz stated the equipment is in the number not the electrical contract or upgrade. She stated there are other avenues to get the funds. Councilor Bunker asked if this isn't approved tonight will there be a rise in costs and Dispatcher Kulacz stated absolutely as it has gone up since the quote a year ago. Councilor Bunker asked of the \$975K how much is for project management and implementation? (Couldn't hear amount.) Councilor Bunker asked if developments have been done for this project and if not can having no dead zones be a requirement of the project. Dispatcher Kulacz stated you can't totally eliminate dead zones but we can minimize it the best we can.

Councilor Dzujna asked if there will be anymore training need for the new system and Dispatcher Kulacz stated it would be minimal.

Councilor Trudel asked if the amount asked for tonight will not cover the total project costs? City Manager Milner stated the \$975K is for most of the project through Ossipee Mountain. There are other small costs that the City will take out of the budget and she doesn't see any other costs but if there are she will have to come back to the council. Councilor Trudel asked how do you lock in the contract for what we are approving? Police Chief Goldstein stated they are looking at some other funding sources and hope they come to fruition. Councilor Bunker asked if the licensing is part of the number and Dispatcher Kulacz stated yes. Councilor Bunker asked that the amount that is being asked for approval tonight is the \$520,894? City Manager Milner stated the council is approving authorization to borrow \$520,894 and appropriating the capital reserve money that is saved for a total of \$975K.

Police Chief David Suckling from Alexandria and Danbury Police Departments. He explained his departments issues with the system.

Ward 3 resident Deb Brown stated her support for the project. She asked if the service contract is annual and what is the cost? The representative from Ossipee Mountain stated it is an annual contract and she couldn't quote the cost off the top of her head. Resident Brown then asked what would be the approximate estimate for the next budget? Ossipee Mountain stated about 16,000. Resident Brown asked what are the revenues from the other towns to support the dispatch system? City Manager Milner explained that information is in the budget on the revenue portion as there is a line for dispatch services. She believes that line totals \$90K for 2022 and that line is evaluated every year so it can change or stay the same.

Ward 3 resident Tim Dow asked the council to support this funding for dispatch.

Ward 3 resident Kathy Rago reminded the City Council about their oversight of the Franklin School District based on the Charter chapter 82. She supports this dispatch project but she doesn't support the financing of it because the school district is receiving over \$10M over a three-year period while the City is scraping by to fund this. She doesn't understand why the City doesn't look outside the box to figure out other ways to fund City's needs. With the budget coming up, why the Council can't take a serious look at ways of reducing what the taxpayers are paying for a school district that is getting \$10M over three years. If the City would reduce what they give the school district for one year of \$600K that would fund this project.

Ward 3 resident Leigh Webb voiced his support for this project.

Police Chief Joe Mahoney talked about his experience and issues with the dispatch.

Ward 3 Michael Lombardo stated he has several experiences with calling emergency services and they have been very diligent and wonderful. He thanked all emergency workers. He asked if this will be an interdepartmental system or will his calls still go to Lakes Region Dispatch. Dispatcher Kulacz stated police goes through Franklin and Fire and Medical go through Lakes Region so it depends what your call is about.

The public hearing closed at 6:44 p.m.

Legislative Update - None

Comments from the Public

Ward 3 resident Leigh Webb asked where the solar sites were that was talked about on WMUR. Mayor Brown stated it is the Mark and Duffy solar sites. Resident Webb asked if there was any direct benefit to the City other than property taxes and City Manager Milner shook her head no. He stated there was an RFP out for a pay and classification study and wanted to know if any changes were made as a result of the 2014 study? City Manager Milner stated the 2014 study would have cost the City over \$1M if they implemented at once. Since 2014 they have taken the worst cases and implemented changes and regraded for those positions. Resident Webb asked if the next study implementation would be done in cycles? City Manager Milner stated those positions that they consider priorities would get recommendations brought to the council. Resident Webb stated the money to the school from federal sources are for specific purposes and can't be targeted. He stated there is a lot of money from the infrastructure bill and should be investigated for our needs. The urban compact is such a financial burden on the City for state roads so this might be the perfect time to go after that federal money.

Ward 3 resident Dean Laughy stated the way the WMUR broadcast regarding the solar was conveyed with what really happened. He asked if the Mark & Duffy, which is really Foundry Solar Development was that federally funded as that was said on WMUR as one of the seven sites and federally funded two of them? City Manager Milner stated they did host Undersecretary Torres-Small from Rural Development and talked with her regarding the \$10M in rural development over the last ten years has helped City of Franklin. For these types of projects, they offer low interest rate loans and that loan was what assisted the private project up on Mark & Duffy. Resident Laughy asked who got the loan and City Manager Milner stated she believes it was the original company who put the solar site in and Go Light purchased it and most likely the debt. Resident Laughy stated we have a federally funded program interest loan into a private company who sold it at market value capital to a third party in the City of Franklin. The way was it was conveyed on the news didn't put Franklin in a good light. This doesn't benefit the City as we get a little taxation but a digression in taxes for the residential neighbors. He believes this was conveyed in a light and was inconsistent with where the City of Franklin wants to go. He asked why the public didn't know this event was happening? City Manager Milner stated we are one of the last people to know that politicians are coming. She found out late Thursday night and Friday morning and she send out invitations over email to her contact list. She tries to do the best to get the information out as quickly as possible when she's notified. Resident Laughy stated he understands that any utility that operates and has equipment in the City has to pay taxes and asked do they? City Manager Milner stated yes, they do as they have to provide the assessor with their inventory and the assessor figures out what that inventory is worth and they get taxed. He questioned the permitting process for as the City doesn't have one so is there a way to get a handle on this so they are paying their justified taxes? Mayor Brown asked if they were talking about Eversource and asked what flexibility do we have to charge Eversource. City Manager Milner stated Eversource is required to give us their inventory for all of their items and we can dispute that inventory if we feel it is

not correct. Resident Laughy stated that without a formal permitting process that the City had 10-12 years ago, how do we know they are paying their fair share? He asked what is it going to take to get this permitting process started? Councilor Clarenbach stated City Manager Milner wants to do it in house before bringing it to the MSD Committee. City Manager Milner stated she did ask to have city staff handle it before bringing it to the MSD Committee so we can understand it and bring a recommendation to the committee. Her understanding was that the Planning & Zoning Director and the Mayor already had a conversation on this but she will follow up. Resident Laughy stated it has already been two years and he had 5 different meetings with former Planning and Zoning Director Lewis and he couldn't find anything. He knows Assistant Deputy Director of the PUC visited MSD and city hall and he couldn't find anything.

Councilor Bunker stated they should be telling us they are putting up a pole, correct? Resident Laughy stated they should be but on the Foundry Solar they just showed up and he had a conversation with the Eversource gentlemen who stated he was putting that pole in and if you don't like it, he was still doing it and the poles went in.

Ward 1 resident Christine Dzujna spoke in support of the dispatch upgrade being a school employee.

Councilor Desrochers read a statement that he wrote as both a Councilor and taxpayer regarding the City's scheme to circumvent the tax cap with a new solid waste ordinance to have a fee for curbside trash pickup for buildings with 3 or more apartments. Councilor Desrochers statement is attached at the end of these minutes. Mayor Brown stated there is metal and glass recycling at the transfer station. She stated that since you are on the MSD Committee you had the opportunity to talk about this. She stated they are going through with the Solid Waste Ordinance and he will still have the opportunity to speak regarding it. Mayor Brown said all the committees are open to the public and are posted so if you want to talk about something please attend the meeting.

Ward 3 resident Leigh Webb stated before single stream there was recycling at the transfer station and only about 5% of the population did recycle. There still is glass and all metal recycling at the transfer station.

Councilor Desrochers stated you need to make this mandatory and not an option to do recycling.

Ward 3 resident Wayne Ives mentioned the flower boxes outside city hall are great and thank you for how beautiful they were.

City Council Acknowledgements

Councilor Dzujna thanked Stacy Marshland for bringing in 25 vendors to the library for the holiday stroll.

Mayor's Update

Mayor Brown shared her thanks to Councilor-elect Blake, Judy Tilton, City Manager Milner, Pastor Kate, Kandyce Tucker, Beth DeGrood, Linda Phinney, Christine Dzujna and several others for all their hard work on the Holiday Stroll. She talked about the tree lighting and some not thinking it was as good this year as they changed it to have students in the middle school to write about their hero and Mason Vandel was selected. She thanked all those who came out and she is sure it will only get better each year.

Mayor Brown touched upon on the visit from Undersecretary of Rural Development Torres-Small and the funding. The City really relies on that funding and the focus was really on what the City has done with that money.

Agenda Item I.

Council to consider the minutes of the October 25, 2021 City Council Special Meeting, the minutes of the November 1, 2021 City Council Meeting, and the minutes of the November 1, 2021 City Council Nonpublic session.

Motion - Councilor Dzujna moved that the Franklin City Council approve the minutes of the October 25, 2021 City Council Special Meeting, the minutes of the November 1, 2021 City Council Meeting, and the minutes of the November 1, 2021 City Council Nonpublic session. Seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

Councilor Dzujna made an amendment to the October 25th minutes as his name wasn't listed but he was there.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item II.

Council to consider Resolution #07-22, to accept and appropriate \$6,076,391.29 of ARP ESSER III Funds for the Franklin School District.

Motion – Council Bunker moved that the Franklin City Council vote to adopt Resolution #07-22, to accept and appropriate \$5,987,252.10 of ARPA Act funding under the ESSER III (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) Fund and \$73,458.43 for ARP IDEA/Preschool and \$15,680.76 for ARP Homeless Children and Youth, for the purpose of funding costs associated with COVID 19 pandemic for the Franklin School District. Seconded by Councilor Trudel.

By a roll call vote.

Councilor Bunker	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Desrochers	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Testerman	<u>Abs</u>
Councilor Chandler	<u>Abs</u>	Councilor Dzujna	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Trudel	<u>Yes</u>
Councilor Clarenbach	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Starkweather	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Zink	<u>Yes</u>

Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item III.

Council to consider adoption of Resolution #08-22, authorization to borrow and appropriation of Capital Reserve Funds for the Police Communication Center Upgrade project.

Motion – Councilor Dzujna moved that the Franklin City Council adopt Resolution #08-22 authorizing the City Manager to borrow up to \$520,894 and appropriating \$454,106 in capital reserve funds for the police communications center upgrade. Seconded by Councilor Clarenbach.

Councilor Zink mentioned that the CAR states the interest rate is 1.95% but the Resolution says we will borrow for the best interest rate the City can receive. Is that an estimate of what they City is thinking it can receive? City Manager Milner stated that was the rate from our last long-term debt. The City has done a long-term debt in between and got a lower rate so she left the 1.95% hoping to get the best rate they can when it is funded. Councilor Zink asked when will the loan close and City Manager Milner replied she was going to get it done as quick as possible after tonight to take advantage of the low rates. Councilor Dzujna talked about how he always err on the side of safety.

By a roll call vote.

Councilor Bunker	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Desrochers	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Testerman	<u>Abs</u>
Councilor Chandler	<u>Abs</u>	Councilor Dzujna	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Trudel	<u>Yes</u>
Councilor Clarenbach	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Starkweather	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Zink	<u>Yes</u>

Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item IV.

Superintendent Dan LeGallo provided an update to the City Council.

Superintendent LeGallo did some digging regarding personnel from last month's conversation as 63% of the budget goes towards salary and benefits. Some percentages from other towns are: Manchester, Gilford, Laconia 75%; Newfound 76%; Belmont and Merrimack Valley 80%. Last month we also talked about why only 3% for supplies in the school budget, which was believed to be too low, but it equates to \$464,000 of the budget. Councilor Bunker asked what the numbers of the supplies were. Superintendent LeGallo replied for books/electronics/supplies it was \$464,326, software \$13,067, equipment/computers/capital software \$32,641, dues and fees \$47,500. He stated he sent reading scores for grades 1-3 and the district was challenged as kids returned to school. There are 120 kids in remediation and over 70 getting special services for about 200 students that are behind but it's a starting point for the new program they talked about last month.

Carisa Corrow talked about the portrait of a graduate program and passed out a draft graphic. Councilor Bunker asked to add a skier to the graphics. Mayor Brown asked how they will measure community resource limits, etc on these? Ms. Corrow stated its not measuring it is understanding how students are demonstrating their commitment to the community. Councilor Dzujna asked how many students are involved with this? Ms. Corrow stated they have students working on this

in many different ways. She spoke about the student facilitator and student working teams. Councilor Dzujna asked is it only high school or middle school involved as well. Ms. Corrow stated that the action plan calls to involve the whole school. They have a community advisory that is being formed. Councilor Dzujna asked how long will it take to set up the community advisory? Ms. Corrow stated they are going to see what it looks like in six months to see what did and didn't work. Councilor Bunker asked if there is someone tasked to overseeing what the course descriptions are and rebranding them? Ms. Corrow replied no but that is part of the work that's done.

Councilor Dzujna talked about the discussions regarding the \$6M and now \$10M funds. Are the extra teachers for the children with learning issues in these funds? Superintendent LeGallo stated they have to spend at least 20% of the funds on learning. Councilor Dzujna stated he knows this money is earmarked and that information really needs to be made clear to all. Superintendent LeGallo stated they have to work within the federal guidelines but are taking suggestions as that is a requirement to get community input. They are still taking community input as there are still 2 ½ more years of the funds. DOE just approved the conceptual plans that were submitted at the end of summer.

Councilor Zink asked what the numbers are for kids moving in and out of the district, homeless kids or kids living afar. Superintendent LeGallo stated the numbers are consistent with what has been in the past. We are at 18% of kids in and out and its only December. They feel it is about 30% but it is hard to track over the last year. For homelessness they haven't seen a huge increase. Councilor Zink asked if the backpack program still going. Superintendent LeGallo stated yes, they received 50 hats, coats and mittens for kids and the food bags go out every Thursday. Councilor Bunker asked if the extra funds can be used on infrastructure improvements for school buildings? Superintendent LeGallo stated the school board is looking at ventilation and windows.

Agenda Item V.

City Council to consider Building Permit Proposals for Property on a Private Road, 41 Riverview Dr, Map-Lot 115-024-00.

Motion – Councilor Desrochers moved that the Franklin City approve the issuance of a Building Permit and year-round Certificate of Occupancy for 41 Riverview Dr, Map-Lot 115-024, and authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement and Notice of Release of Liability between the City of Franklin and the owners. Said fully executed agreement is to be recorded at the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds; the recording and recording fees are the responsibility of the applicant. Recording must be complete before permits are issued. Seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

Councilor Clarenbach talked about how they are going to ask for the municipal release after the fact. He stated we are telling them not asking them as they are already residing there. We are making up on something that was missed as a housekeeping item. Planning & Zoning Director Creighton stated the City caught it before the Certificate of Occupancy was issued so a three-season temporary Certificate of Occupancy was issued. He stated the owners want this and it has already been to the planning board.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

City Council to consider a request to build a freestanding residential accessory structure (barn/garage) at 68–70 Kelly Rd, a Class VI road.

Motion – Councilor Zink moved that the Franklin City approve and issue a Building Permit for a garage/barn at 68-70 Kelly Road (a Class VI road), Map-Lot 138-403.1 with the condition that the City's standard Release of Liability be signed by both parties and recorded at Merrimack County Registry of Deed. The recording and recording fees are to be the responsibility of the applicant. Applicant also understand they shall maintain the road such that it supports the weight of Fire Department apparatus, per NFPA 1 Chapter 18. Recording must be complete before permits are issued. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

Councilor Clarenbach stated this request is different then the last one and the second paragraph under discussion states they want to add a barn/garage to a property which currently houses two single family homes. Are one of those homes an accessory dwelling unit or how are two single family homes on one parcel? Planning and Zoning Director Creighton stated the Zoning Board back in the 2000's gave a variance to allow two single family homes on one lot.

Six in Favor and One Opposed. Motion PASSED.

City Council to consider approving a request to build a 10,000 +/- woodworking shop at 21 Kenrick Farm Rd, a private road

Planning and Zoning Director Creighton asked to postpone this as it is not ready for discussion at this time. Mayor Brown stated they will table it for now.

Agenda Item VI.

Council to consider approval of a three-year Employee Labor Contract with the State Employee's Association of NH (SEA) (representing municipal service department positions).

Motion – Councilor Bunker moved that the Franklin City Council approve a three-year agreement as presented from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024 between the City of Franklin and the State Employee's Association of New Hampshire, Inc. (Municipal Service Department (MSD) Employee's). Seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

Councilor Zink questioned the uniform increase is only one sweatshirt and was that something they requested and City Manager Milner nodded yes. Councilor Zink asked about the total cost increase. City Manager Milner stated the first increase is \$600 for sweatshirts and the "me too" portion in the contract is already in the budget with COLA \$4800 and the steps just under \$4300.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item VII.

Other Business

1. Mayor/Council: Committee Resignations & Appointments

Mayor Brown accepted the resignation of Dave Testerman from the Planning Board, seat PB9, effective as of November 3, 2021.

Councilor Bunker moved that the Franklin City Council accept the resignation of Dave Testerman from the Zoning Board of Adjustments, seat ZBA1, effective as of November 3, 2021. Seconded by Councilor Clarenbach.

All in Favor. Motion passes.

Christine Dzujna from the Library Board recommended Robin Roper based on she is a new resident who wants to get involved in the community, she and her family frequents the library and she teaches at Paul Smith School.

Councilor Bunker moved that the Franklin City Council appoint Robin Madore Roper to the Library Board of Trustees (seat LT6). Term of service is 3 years to January 2023. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

All in Favor. Motion passes.

Councilor Zink stated she thought it was wonderful that Franklin had three residents who were willing to serve on the Library Board at a time when volunteering for boards is down. She thanked the other two people for filling out the application and maybe they can be appointed in another year. Councilor Dzujna mentioned a gentleman prior to the meeting approached Executive Secretary Lanzillo about how to get on the school board but since that position was already filled, he was told about other board positions he could apply for. Councilor Clarenbach asked if a thank you letter could be send to the two applicants who didn't get the position.

2. Committee Reports: None

3. City Manager's Update: (two months of information)

- a. Contingent Grant Line Activity - \$75 for Recreational Scholarships, \$35 from Watts for Fire Department, \$2,553 raised from Soup Fest; \$684.42 for Sex Offender Compliance Grant, \$2,500 from Wilsons for Mayor's Drug Task Force Lock Boxes.
- b. Trust Fund for School Funding is \$147.79.
- c. Welcome Heather Getman our new Finance Assistant, thanked Audrey Lanzillo for her work with in the City Manager's Office as she moves on to her new position and congratulations to Rocky Marsh who was promoted to Deputy Municipal Services Director.
- d. Next Workshop Meeting is on 1/24/22 for economic development.
- e. The cannon is back in front of the old Elks Club. Thanked Leo Paquin for the fundraising and Mike & MaryAnn Moses for restoring the cannon.
- f. Committee Meetings for December – Police Committee will be meeting Monday the 13th from 5:30-7:30 pm at the police station.
- g. Media Connections – Union Leader about the White Water Park.
- h. Business & Professional Women held an event at Lodge of Elks on November 17 and projects happening in the city was also discussed and it was a very informative night.

- i. NHMA does a bi-monthly magazine that we have been getting in paper form will be no longer as we have gone to digital. All councilors have been signed up using the emails that are used on the City's website.
- j. Mill City Park Update – Engineer from Colorado to be here on Weds. the 8th to make sure the feature is running as it should and is complete. All plantings will be done in the spring. Mill City Park board expects a ribbon cutting ceremony on third Friday in June.
- k. City offices will be closed at noon on 12/23 and all day on 12/24 for the holiday. City Manager Milner gave a shout out to the Holiday Stroll that was organized by the newly formed downtown business group. She gave a shout out to Recreation Dept, MSD, Library, Mayor's Drug Task Force and Fire Department for all their hard work that Friday night.
- l. Undersecretary of Rural Development – got to spend time talking with her prior to the actual meeting regarding the \$8M the City has received over the ten years. Was able to show her several projects in the City and projects coming forward. Thanked them all for choosing Franklin to visit.

City Manager Milner passed out a spreadsheet of City Council follow up. She is working on the letter per Council direction from the November 1 meeting. She thanked Mayor Brown for talking with Dan Darling regarding new microphones and what he would recommend is hoping to order them this week. She mentioned that there is still no decision regarding the Mojolaki Solar case in Superior Court.

Councilor Clarenbach stated he had several questions – 1. The water department has a new water van and is the old van going to the MSD, is that correct? He is not sure if we should be transferring assets from an enterprise to the City without fair market value or some compensation for the use of that vehicle going from one to another. 2. He asked about the Chinburg Project and the building permit for the Die House? Is that separate from the rest of the project. City Manager Milner stated she will follow up on those for the next meeting.

Councilor Zink has been approached by several people regarding a changing table in the restrooms. City Manager Milner stated the Opera House has approached her and it has been approved but she is unsure how one will fit in the men's room as that is very small.

Councilor Bunker stated she was approached by a community member with another community member regarding a community wood pile along the same lines of the community garden. She wanted to mention the idea but not sure of a location.

Mayor Brown thanked everyone for being here and to have a wonderful holiday season.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Dzujna and seconded by Councilor Bunker. All in favor. Motion PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauraine Paquin

Councilor Desrochers Statement

Dec 6th Council Meeting

Franklins Solid Waste Ordinance Under Consideration

There are no politically correct words to describe my disappointment and dismay with this cities latest scheme to circumvent the tax cap.

In case you do not know what I am referring to it is the solid waste ordinance currently under consideration. Under the new waste ordinance buildings in the city of Franklin with three or more apartments will have to pay for curbside trash removal. From what I understand this also applies to commercial property within the downtown area. Currently this fee is only charged for six or more apartments.

Under the new ordinance being considered the cost is \$250 per container. For example a three unit building with six trash cans equates to \$1500 charge per year for curbside trash pick up. That translates to a \$42 per month rental increase per tenant. By the way the city of Franklin is scheduled to get a 10-15% kick back from Pinard. So much for Franklin for a lifetime.

The building that I own has fewer trash containers than several single family and two family structures around the city. The council been told that MSD will survey the city to see who and how many trash containers each residence has. Yah right.

I have spoken to other property owners needless to say they are not happy. By the way, these same property owners' tax dollars were used to purchase the trash containers. Now the cities plan is to collect said containers (or change the lids to yellow top containers) and charge the property owners \$250 per container per year for curbside trash pickup.

What happened to the money the city was saving from hiring an outside vendor for curbside pickup?

The building I own property taxes are approx. \$3400 per year. \$3400 plus \$1000 for trash equals \$4400 in taxes (a 30% increase) on my tax bill. I dare you to raise everyone's taxes in this city by \$1000 or 30% per year.

All this is being done on the premise of reducing the amount of solid waste generated.

Will someone please explain to me how charging for curbside trash pickup is going to reduce the amount of trash generated?

The only way to reduce the amount of trash generated in to install some form of mandatory recycling program.

There have been several suggestions in the past on ways to reduce the amount of solid waste generated. Composting, recycling cardboard, mandatory recycling of glass to eliminate glass from trash, place a container for aluminum at the transfer station. The standard answer is the city does not have the time or manpower to implement any of the above suggestions. I guess it is way easier to take the easy way out and raise fees.

I have lived here all of my life, what are getting for our tax dollars? The city removes sidewalks instead of repairing them unless it is on Central Street between the bridges, few if any streets get paved, sidewalks that are older than I am don't get resurfaced (really how much does it cost to repave a sidewalk)? Sidewalks that were plowed from the time I could walk and before don't get plowed. I have never seen the city in such deplorable condition.

I have had more than one MSD employee ask me when the council is going to do something about the condition of the roads throughout the city.

I have served on this council for nearly ten years. Many times over those years I have heard members of this body talk about cost shifting from the state to cities and towns. Well people we have come full circle, now were doing it to ourselves.

To date this is one of the most ridiculous thing I have seen other than the city leasing land for 20yrs. with absolutely no monetary gain.