



**City Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 3, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers, City Hall**

**Council in attendance:** Mayor Jo Brown, Councilor Jay Chandler, Councilor Scott Clarenbach, Councilor Bob Desrochers, Councilor George Dzujna, Councilor Ted Starkweather, Councilor Karen Testerman, Councilor Paul Trudel and Councilor Olivia Zink.

**Absent:** Councilor April Bunker.

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

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order in Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m.

**City Council 2021 Business**

Mayor Brown invited the audience to be the choir and sing God Bless America.

Salute to the Flag was led by Franklin VFW Member Chris Pierce.

National Anthem was sung by Firefighter Sierra Rodenhuis.

Councilor Desrochers recognized Veteran Bruce Taylor who passed in December. He served in the army in the late 60's. A moment of silence commenced in his honor.

Mayor Brown presented two Citizen of the Year Award's to Karen Field and John Benham. Mayor Brown's recognition of these two Citizen of the Year Awards can be found attached at the end of the minutes.

Karen Field was not in attendance.

John Benham stated he enjoys working for the City of Franklin and the people. He mentioned he was in shock and thanked everyone.

**Agenda Item I.**

Council to consider the minutes of the December 6, 2021 City Council Meeting.

**Motion - Councilor Trudel moved that the Franklin City Council approve the minutes of the December 6, 2021 City Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilor Starkweather.**

Councilor Desrochers mentioned that a big section is missing and handed Mayor Brown his

comments that he read at the last meeting. He can not approve the minutes until these are added to make them complete.

**Motion - Councilor Trudel moved that the Franklin City Council approve the minutes of the December 6, 2021 City Council Meeting as amended with the insertion of the Franklin Solid Waste Ordinance Consideration that was presented by Councilor Desrochers. Seconded by Councilor Starkweather.**

**Councilor Testerman and Councilor Chandler abstained.**

Councilor Clarenbach mentioned that minutes do not reflect the item that they voted on after the nonpublic meeting.

**Motion - Councilor Clarenbach moved to authorize the City Manager to add the contract extensions that were discussed in their non-public meeting on December 6, 2021. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.**

**Councilor Testerman and Councilor Chandler abstained. All others in favor. Motion PASSED.**

Mayor Brown mentioned there are changes to the council and she would like to recognize Councilor Clarenbach as he has been on the Council since 2010. Councilor Testerman has been on the Council for three years. Mayor Brown stated she would like to do something different this year in lieu plaques. Councilor Clarenbach and Councilor Testerman have suggested for their recognition to have an engraved paver. These raised pavers will be installed in Mill City Park, similar to what is in Trestle Park, with the names and years of service to the City. Mayor Brown thought this was a far better recognition to those who have spent time on the council.

Mayor Brown stated Councilor Clarenbach has been on the Council since 2010 and during this time he has provided an incredible amount of knowledge of the inner workings of the City and has also served as Interim Mayor. Mayor Brown stated what she admires most about Councilor Clarenbach is his ability to move the Council forward. When tough problems and decisions need to be made, he found a way to make it work and kept the council moving forward. Mayor Brown wished him the best in his next phase of life and thanked him very much for his years of service.

Mayor Brown stated Councilor Testerman and herself share an altered life style and that perspective she believes makes them more engaged in trying to make sure the right decisions are made at the right time for the right reasons. Their military experience grinds them with integrity and the desire to find the best path forward. Although they may not always agree, Mayor Brown felt that Councilor Testerman is always speaking from her heart. All the best in whatever you do.

Mayor Brown concluded the 2021 City Council meeting.

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

**Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Testerman. She thanked everyone for allowing her the three years to get to know the City and how it operates better. Seconded by Councilor Clarenbach.**

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

**All in favor. Motion PASSED.**

Mayor Brown stated they will be taking a break before beginning the 2022 City Council Meeting.

**City Council 2022 Inaugural Program**

Mayor Brown invited Ken Ackerson to do the Invocation as Pastor Kate Harmon Siberine was unable to make it. Ken thanked the Mayor, Council, School Board and Franklin residents. He asked all to join in as he led the prayer, meditation and reflection.

Mayor Jo Brown pledged her oath as she was sworn in by City Attorney Paul Fitzgerald.

Councilor George Dzujna, Councilor Vincent Ribas and Councilor Valerie Blake pledged their oaths as they were sworn in by City Attorney Paul Fitzgerald. They each took their respective seats at the Council table.

School Board Member Deb Brown pledged her oath as she was sworn in by City Attorney Paul Fitzgerald. School Board Member Delaney Carrier was not in attendance due to illness.

Mayor Brown proclaimed her State of the City Address and can be found attached at the end of these minutes.

Mayor Brown read her Mayoral Proclamation to Peabody-Crane Paper Mill which can be found attached at the end of these minutes.

Mayor Brown invited the public to be the choir and close out the Inaugural Program by singing the Battle Hymn of the Republic. A reception with refreshments followed.

**City Council 2022 Business**

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

**Absent:** Councilor April Bunker.

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

Mayor Brown wanted to remind everyone that public comments are absolutely welcome. The comments will be taken under advisement by the City Manager and City Council but we must be careful about asking for the ongoing status of items. Those requests need to be addressed to the City Manager or her designee during regular business hours. The City Council is a public body and are required to conduct the business that is on the agenda. Following up on service requests is really outside the Council's purview and does detract from the Council's obligation to complete business of the evening as the Council is bound to their agenda. Mayor Brown stated all public comment is 3 minutes per person for a total time of ½ hour for public comment. If time is needed outside of that she gave her email address or stated they can drop off their comments to her mailbox in the City Manager's office and she will get back to them.

**Comments from the Public**

Resident Leigh Webb, Ward III, wanted to publicly acknowledge Councilor Desrochers acknowledgment of the recycling situation. He has spoken with Director Hanscom and Deputy Director Marsh regarding this and hopefully they can bring more things back to the transfer station like single stream compactor. Figure out how to do more to get clean cardboard and recycling to hopefully make more money on. Mr. Webb stated since there are legislators in the audience, what will be the process for Franklin to get their hands on the infrastructure money that specifically relates to storm water management, drinking water management and roads since we are an urban compact. He would like for the City to be able to do more for their roads so they don't have to go into a renaming campaign like saying Main street/Pain street, Orchard Street/Torture Street or Pleasant Street/Unpleasant Street. It would be lovely if federal money can go a long way to help that.

Resident Judith Ackerson stated she had a public service announcement, there will be a presentation on Tuesday, January 25 at 6:00 pm at the Franklin High School presented by Fair Funding NH to discuss the funding of our schools. These presentations are being done around the state and there are flyers on the table at the back of the room.

Mayor Brown closed public comment.

**City Council Acknowledgements**

Councilor Desrochers commented that the Municipal Service Department did a great job on Christmas with the road conditions. He spoke to some of the workers and they had to sand the streets backwards because they were so icy. He has lived here all his life and Franklin has always done a great job on the roads. He doesn't like to see snow on Christmas because that means those workers don't get to spend time with their families.

Councilor Dzjuna recognized the people who made the downtown look so beautiful this season. He recognized the Tree Lighting Committee – Katherine Zink, Laurie Magoon, Carol Lard, Glenn Morrill, Josh Lee, Ellen Hurst – as they are the ones who work on getting everything together for the big tree and the poles, which is a yearlong commitment. Councilor Dzjuna thanked Beck and Belucci for bringing over their bucket truck and Mark Pickard for decorating, for the past 20 years, the big tree.

Councilor Trudel thanked Councilor Testerman and Councilor Clarenbach for their years of service on the Council and their commitment to the taxpayers in the City of Franklin. He extended a welcome to Councilor Blake and Councilor Ribas and looks forward to working with them in the future.

Councilor Zink thanked Choose Franklin and all those who paddled down the river on January 1 to make it a great day in the City.

**Legislative Comments** – Representative Hill stated the legislature will be back in session on Wednesday through Friday this week in Manchester to go over the bills that were retained from last year. There are roughly 70-80 of those bills and four vetoes they have to vote on and he

believes those will all be sustained. His mail for the retained bills seems to be on four subject matters.

The first is the \$200 Million of the budget from last year returning to taxpayers. Franklin will be seeing additional room and tax meals money coming in somewhere around \$195,000 more than last year. Additional money going directly to taxpayers by lowering the statewide property tax portion of the tax bill. \$100 million has been dedicated to lowering the statewide swept, which is what it is called. No idea how much is going to Franklin residents but it is interesting that the swept is targeted to raise \$365 million statewide and this year we are only taking in \$263 million in building the swept account and \$100 million will be coming from the general fund. Schools will still remain whole and getting money out of that account but taxpayers will be seeing a reduction in their tax bill directly.

The second is the abortion ban which occurs only after 24 weeks and that puts them with about 26 other states that have similar restrictions beyond the 24 weeks.

The third is redistricting beyond the house representative stage. He doesn't have any information beyond the house representative stage but it is an enormously complicated process. You're dealing with county, federal regulations and the one representative for 3500 people. The calculation to do this is enormous.

The fourth is school choice option. Last year a bill was passed that allowed parents access to the state funding portion for their child at any of the public schools. This new option gives parents access to local portion of taxes that are raised for public education. The things in the letters he is seeing are the misunderstandings and they are enormous. What is missed in all social media blurbs is this has to be approved at the local level and not the state level. This option would have to be approved by the Franklin voters at the 60% level. The other thing that is missed is this option would only give parents 80% access to the local money and 20% would remain going to the school district as well as all the federal and state money. The school district would only get about half the money they would be getting with no responsibility to educate that child.

Representative Hill stated there were three bills that he was involved with last year that affected or could potentially affect the City of Franklin.

The first was charter schools have the first right of refusal for any unused school property. Beginning two days ago, all schools have to notify the Department of Education if they have any unused school buildings. If any school buildings that are sold they have to have that right of first refusal in the agreement. That gives all the charter schools in the state the opportunity to purchase a property at market price.

The second is the legislature created an opportunity for five school districts to move together and form a risk pool so they are able to self-insure to cover each other for special education costs that arise after their budgets are set.

The third is window tint which is now allowed on either side of the driver. There are only three states left that have the ban. This is to help skin cancer, safety from glare and it protects from UV.

Councilor Starkweather asked if there is any chance or hope the judicial branch will work for the public again? He stated there are code enforcement officers that get their paperwork to the prosecutor to then go to court but the paperwork gets stuck on someone's desk for upwards of three years, is there anyway to get that sped up? Representative Hill stated this was the first he has heard of it. If a complaint can be put in writing he will give it to the chairs of the committees who handle that and get an answer for him.

Councilor Desrochers stated the Representative Hill mentioned redistricting was something of a rubik's cube but when he was in school that rubik's cube was solve in 30 seconds and he can get him the names of those who did that.

Councilor Dzujna thanked Representative Hill and all the representatives for all they do. He asked on the school funding what number is the bill? Representative Hill ask for clarification on which one and Councilor Dzujna stated the one coming out. Representative Hill believes it is 602. Superintendent LeGallo mentioned it was 607. Councilor Dzujna asked about the people moving in for the risk school, will that be part of the community the person left or the community the person is going to or both? Representative Hill stated only if those towns are two or more of the towns that are part of the risk school that was formed. There is no nexus that requires this it is up to the district to form. There is a bill coming this year that follows the Massachusetts scheme that would make the school district in the town the student moved from to bear the costs for that student since that student was already in that school's budget. Education has 100 bills this year and 20 of those are repealing a portion or all of that school choice bill.

Leigh Webb from the audience asked a question regarding infrastructure funding. Representative Hill stated he is also on the infrastructure committee for schools, which has not been formed yet, but they are asking for all the information and how much money they will have access to and what parameters that money can be used for. Right now, it sounds like the rules are very lax and is set up to be whatever the Superintendent says they need to spend it on. This is only the school money and not what you're asking. He hasn't heard anything but they are having a meeting with the public works committee and are going to talk about the things you are asking.

### **Agenda Item I.**

Monthly School Board update to the City Council.

Superintendent LeGallo wanted to acknowledge this is his seventh State of the Mayor address and this is the first time he has ever heard the school mentioned within it and it speaks to our collaboration with the City. He mentioned that the Council already heard about the robotics grant for the next two years, manufacturing going very well and the fair funding project presentation on January 25.

Superintendent LeGallo stated the Department of Education released the dropout rate for 2021 and it is 4.89% which is 13 students but is a reduction from 8.333% from the previous year, which was a revised rate from 7.95, which is 23 students during pandemic year. We are headed

in the right direction but the state's average rate is 1.1%, so we still have more work to do here. He is encouraged by their four-year graduation rate increase. In 2020, pandemic year, it was 56% and this year's rate was 84%, the highest in the last three years. This does well for next year's dropout rate percentage if they keep the momentum going.

Councilor Desrochers asked if the drop out rate is because of the manufacturing program so kids going to school can use something in their life when they get out? Superintendent LeGallo stated it is too early to see if that has had an impact. He feels that impact will be felt next year but 4.89% is still very high and doesn't want to get the wrong conclusion. He stated 13 students is still too high but better than 23 but they won't rest until they see 0 students and that is something everyone is shooting for. The manufacturing program should start to show next year and beyond.

## **Agenda Item II.**

Mayor's Drug and Alcohol Task Force Update.

City Manager Milner stated Drug Task Force Coordinator Tucker is out with COVID so she will give a little update on what the leadership committee is doing. The City of Franklin through the task force has been the first to do several things in the state which was banning K2 spice and Kratom from the community and almost first, we were second, in raising the tobacco age to 21 before the state raised the age to 21.

The grant that covers this task force was a \$1.25 million grant over a ten-year period. We are currently in a second grant of \$1.5 million over a five-year period and this also funds a second position at the school district that works with the Drug Task Force Coordinator. The leadership committee through Drug Task Force Coordinator Tucker are working on getting ahead of the law that maybe coming where marijuana is legalized in the State of New Hampshire. Drug Task Force Coordinator Tucker is working on an ordinance for the City of Franklin that is similar to the K2 spice, Kratom and tobacco where the City can opt out of having cultivation, manufacturing, delivery, testing and store fronts in the City of Franklin and has been working closely with the City of Manchester and the Town of Raymond who have already done these pieces. This will have to do with planning and zoning so it will have to go through that process as well. The ordinance once written and will be sent to the City Attorney and then a presentation to the City Council. Other states that have legalized marijuana have opt outs like Massachusetts and Colorado where several communities have opted out. There are several states that are getting ahead of it where it is not legalized like New Jersey and New York.

## **Agenda Item III.**

Council to review the Code of Conduct for Elected Officials.

Mayor Brown mentioned that at the bottom of CAR there is information to codify this document and asked City Manager Milner to explain what it means. City Manager Milner stated several meetings ago there was a vote which could have been read as a conflict of interest. The policy now is just a suggestion and the elected officials or appointed board members could or could not follow the policy. If the policy is codified or done as an ordinance and sent to the legislative

committee then it can become a rule. Anything within the document would have to be followed and you would have to opt out of some votes when there is a conflict of interest. That is the difference between the two and we have always done a policy with this document not being codified previously. City Manager Milner is asking which way the Council would like to go?

**Motion – Councilor Desrochers moved that the Franklin City Council approve and review the Code of Conduct. Seconded by Councilor Chandler.**

Mayor Brown asking for discussion and mentioned that she believes they maybe talking about the school board vote a few months ago that had a potential conflict of interest.

Councilor Desrochers asked if it is codified is it just going to make it a legal document but who is going to enforce it? This is a problem as you can pass many regulations but if there are no means of enforcement, what is the point.

Councilor Dzujna mentioned this Code of Conduct has been around his nine past years as a councilor and thinks it is a good idea to codify it and the Council will be the ones to enforce it. The issue a few meetings ago was not a big issue and they got it straightened out unfortunately by calling the City Attorney Fitzgerald for a ruling late in the evening. He believes these parameters should be for all boards in the City as this watches out for all of us and what we are doing.

Councilor Trudel stated at this time he doesn't feel the need to codify this document especially if it was because of that one instance of a potential conflict of interest which was resolved by City Attorney Fitzgerald. Most of what is in the Code of Conduct already is probably already governed under existing state or federal laws. He feels the Council doesn't need it but if the issue is that someone needs to recuse themselves for a vote before the City Council then the Council can bring this to committee and see what can be done there. This one instance he feels doesn't justify having to put it in the City's RSAs.

Councilor Blake stated she sees both sides but feels more inclined to codify it as that will bring clarity to the rules and gives an opportunity for a method to acknowledge people. She believes it makes sense to have a more formal product.

Councilor Trudel stated he believes within the City Charter or the RSAs these are already existing about when you should recuse yourself if there is a conflict of interest. He asked if this could be tabled until that is investigated further.

Mayor Brown stated this document has language regarding recusal. City Councilor Trudel replied he was not talking about in this Code of Conduct but in the City Charter. Mayor Brown stated they should focus on this Code of Conduct that they have read and beyond that it should go to legislative. City Manager Milner replied when they consulted City Attorney Fitzgerald, he mentioned they didn't have anything else that said a person had to recuse themselves because our Code of Conduct wasn't codified. It is just a suggestion to ask the person to recuse themselves.

Councilor Zink mentioned that she didn't have any issue sending this to the legislative committee to look at state laws to see if we want to put all of it into an ordinance or pieces that are worthy.



It is probably best to send to Legislative committee to do that work.

Councilor Desrochers stated if they can remember when they were using zoom, they had asked some members to recuse themselves and they did. For the code of conduct, any of the councilors can ask someone to recuse themselves and it is basically common sense if you read through it. A person should know when they need to recuse themselves or not. It shouldn't have to be a legal thing and if a person doesn't recuse themselves, he believes there is other recourse besides the code of conduct.

Councilor Chandler agreed with Councilor Zink that the legislative committee should look at this document. A lot of this is already in the state laws as if you look at the Code of Conduct under conflict of Interest it states "State law demands city officials and board members not to participate in any matter in which they have a personal interest...", he wondered if they are repeating state law and what is the validity of codifying it. He does believe codifying it brings teeth to it. If this is a suggestion then he believes it is better off being codified but he also agrees with Councilor Desrochers. If the legislative committee could put some RSAs to it and doesn't feel repeating it and putting it in the Code of Conduct.

Mayor Brown reminded everyone the current motion is to adopt this and if they would like it to go to legislative committee, she would need that motion amended.

**Motion – Councilor Desrochers moved that the Franklin City Council amend the current motion on the table to send the Code of Conduct to the legislative committee for review. Seconded by Councilor Starkweather.**

**All in favor. Motion PASSED.**

Councilor Desrochers thanked Councilor Chandler as last year when there was an issue with the budget, he laid some of the blame on the Council. Councilor Desrochers agreed that Councilor Chandler was correct and Councilor Desrochers suggested that the City Manager, in this year's upcoming budget, have a separate line item with a \$100,000 minimum to use for roads and sidewalks and not for Central St or North Main St. It is to be used in other areas such as Pleasant St or Terrace Rd to name a couple. This is a suggestion so the Council knows where the money is and a way to track it.

Councilor Desrochers mentioned he wanted to talk about Solar 1 and 2 as Mr. Fife hadn't been able to plant this year but that is can be discussed at another time.

Councilor Desrochers referred to the Code of Conduct that the goal of a Franklin elected official or board member is to provide the highest quality leadership to all its citizens, be fiscally responsible and dedicated to listening to the needs of others. Councilor Desrochers stated he made a motion last year that was approved by the Council to move \$250,000 for two parking lots, Keegan and Church St, in that motion it was stated \$125,000 for Keegan parking lot and \$125,000 for roads and sidewalks not on Central St. A short time after it was it was finished, he asked for the estimated costs for the Keegan parking lot and to date he has not received an answer to the question. This is not micromanaging but a legitimate question for the citizens of Franklin and this body has a right and need to know moving forward. It is a question and a duty that each one of us councilors have as elected officials. He is asking the question again, what was the costs for the

Keegan parking lot and if the costs were less than \$125,000 that was appropriated, what were the balance of the funds used for? He is also requesting what if any projects that the \$125,000 for streets and sidewalks was or are being used on. He is requesting a written explanation of the answers to these questions be submitted to each councilor.

Mayor Brown mentioned that before we set budget limits or requirements of the City Manager and before we know what next year's budget looks like, particularly for roads and grounds, Councilor Dzujna is that chair of that committee and as she stated in her address with the committees meeting more frequently, she would encourage anyone interested in any subjects to attend the meetings. She advised through that forum they can work out what is an appropriate expense. She feels it would be best to look at all the options and not tie the City Manager's hands or MSD's hands on how they need to spend their money without having a full understanding from the committees.

Mayor Brown mentioned the answers to Solar 1 and 2 will be in the City Managers Report.

City Manager Milner stated she will add the Keegan block follow up to the spreadsheet for next month's report.

#### **Agenda Item IV.**

##### **Other Business**

##### **1. Mayor/Council: Committee Resignations & Appointments**

Mayor Brown mentioned that the planning board has an opening coming up for a primary and alternate which is a council decision. She would like to nominate Councilor Blake as primary and Councilor Starkweather as alternate and will vote on that next month.

Mayor Brown appoints Leigh Webb as an alternate on the Heritage Commission, seat HC7, Term of Service, January 2025.

Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council appoint Timothy Fisher to the Library Board of Trustees, seat LT4, Term of Service, January 2025. Seconded by Councilor Trudel.

**All in Favor. Motion passes.**

City Manager Milner stated at the last minute the write in candidate for the school board seat withdrew. If the Council recalls they had two candidates interested in serving on the school board for ward II and they appointed one of them and the second was interested in serving as well, which is Laurie Cass. She was also the write in but was directly below the write in who won the seat and no longer wants the seat. City Manager Milner wasn't sure if the Council wanted to do this tonight or vote on it next meeting.

Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council appoint Laurie Cass to School Board Ward II, seat SBW 23, Term of Service to next City Election. Seconded by Councilor Blake.

**Seven in favor and one opposed. Motion passes.**

**2. Committee Reports: None**

**3. City Manager's Update:**

- a. Contingent Grant Line Activity - \$3,500 from Boomers BBQ for the toy drive, \$4,518.73 from Merrimack Valley Day Care for the afterschool program.
- b. Trust Fund for School Funding is at \$147.79.
- c. Welcome Kirk Kelly, new Buildings and Grounds Foreman, Chris Laquidara to the water/sewer department, Ainsley Bruno and Allysia Burton to the Police Dept and with those two new hires the Franklin Police Department is at 22% female officers.
- d. Congratulations to Sierra Rodenhuis, CDL certification for FD; John Allesandro, Water Treatment II License for MSD; Mike Miller, CDL certification for MSD; Kendall Poirer from PD was sworn in as a Deputy US Marshal; Kent Matthews, certified drone operator and certified bike instructor for PD; Dan Ball, certified instructor in deploying less than lethal chemical munitions for PD; Jon Francis, certified bicycle instructor for PD; 4 officers completed the Sig Sauer SWAT training and 6 officers trained warrant containment team.
- e. Fire Department swearing in ceremony was held on 12/15 for Paul Bourque III as new firefighter, Sierra Rodenhuis as new firefighter, Aiden O'Brien promoted to Master firefighter, Alex Green promoted to Captain and Dan Chapman promoted to Captain.
- f. Employee Luncheon on December 23 for Years of Service Awards were given to: 5 years of service: Steve Reale – FD, Sherry Ryea – Welfare, Matt Parent – MSD, Rocky Marsh – MSD, Jacob Drouin – PD, Ken LaBraney – MSD; 10 years of service: Eric Drouin – PD, Forrest Walker – PD; 15 years of service: Jason Jenkins – FD, Tracy Goldthwaite – FD; 20 Years of Service: Rob Sargent – Library; 40 years of service: Richard Davis, Jr - FD.
- g. Next workshop meeting is 1/24/22 for economic development.
- h. Committee Meetings for January – Fire Committee will be meeting Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at the fire department. Finance will be determined after City Manager Milner talks with Finance Chair Ribas. A CIP meeting is expected this month and City Manager Milner will talk with the Chair Councilor Desrochers.
- i. City Offices are closed on Monday, January 17, 2022 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr/Civil Rights Day.
- j. City Manager Milner has some scheduled days off – 1/6, 1/7, 1/14, 1/21 in pm only and Finance Director Gaudette will be in charge during her absence.
- k. Media Connections – Concord Monitor and Laconia Daily Sun mainly regarding the White Water Park and its progress.
- l. NH Business Review, NH 200 The Granite State's Most Influential Business Leaders – Hospitality Category – Franklin's own Marty Parichand, Outdoor New England
- m. Industrial Relics Walk – celebrating arts and culture the Franklin way. Alan Larder has a lot of industrial relics from Franklin and beyond that he is willing to loan to us to scatter around the City for an Industrial Relics Walk. Hopefully these items can be identified and we will have signage. Eric Chinberg, Peabody Place, Mill City Park all expressed interest in having some relics on their properties and we are looking for other locations so think about what City properties to put these items on. This is working really well in Meredith and gets you up and behind the Central St there.
- n. Mill City Park update – 1<sup>st</sup> day went really well and surprised how many people

weathered the rain and several people came down the river to watch as well. The engineering tweaks will be done on the feature next week.

- o. Cumberland Farms update – The City did close on the Birke's property on 12/16 and Cumberland Farms closed on the Elks property last week. Cumberland Farms is looking to do their ground breaking on April 11, 2022.

City Manager Milner passed out the agenda due dates for 2022. There are meetings on the schedule that are on holidays and those will be addressed as we go.

Councilor Dzujna stated he is sure the Elks are very happy on the closing.

**Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Desrochers and seconded by Councilor Chandler. All in favor. Motion PASSED.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauraine Paquin