



**City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 6, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall**

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

Absent: None

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

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

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor Starkweather, followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of veterans Richard Joe Kenney and John A. Jipson, who passed away this month, led by Councilor Desrochers.

Public Hearings:

Ordinance 05-23 re-adopting the Optional Veterans' Credit Chapter 272-4 Adoption of Provision; Designated Amount of the Franklin Municipal Code.

The public hearing opened at 6:03 p.m.
There was no discussion on this hearing.
The public hearing on Ordinance 05-23 closed at 6:03 p.m.

Ordinance 06-23 an amendment to the Franklin Municipal Code, Chapter 272, Taxation, Article III Optional Adjusted Elderly Exemptions, 272-3 Designated Amounts; Qualifications with regard to the elderly assessment exemptions amounts and qualifying income thresholds.

The public hearing opened at 6:03 p.m.
There was no discussion on this hearing.
The public hearing on Ordinance 06-23 closed at 6:04 p.m.

Resolution #09-23 to accept a grant totaling \$2,915 2023 Volunteer Fire Assistance funds and appropriate grant reimbursement funds in the amount of \$1,457.50 to the FY2023 budget and to authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents related to the grant program.

The public hearing opened at 6:04 p.m.
There was no discussion on this hearing.
The public hearing on Resolution 09-23 closed at 6:04 p.m.

Resolution 11-23 appropriating \$78,925 to the Franklin School District fiscal year 2023 budget.

The public hearing opened at 6:04 p.m.

There was no discussion on this hearing.

The public hearing on Resolution 11-23 closed at 6:05 p.m.

Legislative Update:

NH Representative, Jason Gerhard, let the mayor and council know that he did not have anything in particular. He stated that he represents Northfield and Franklin so he can be contacted with any questions. He mentioned that he has a bill coming up tomorrow that would allow for a public bank so that loans could be taken out without any interest for projects.

Comments from the Public:

Public comments opened at 6:07 p.m.

Jule Finley, Ward I, thanked everyone for their thoughts on City Hall/Opera House and spoke about the building and its cultural impact on children and adults. She read from a letter that she wrote, which is attached to end of the minutes.

Zoe Nagle, Ward III, also let the council know that she supports the Opera House renovations and explained why it is so important to her.

The Mayor's Drug Task Force Director, Stephanie Wolff, gave some updates:

- She attended the Capital Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. last week. She had the opportunity to network with coalitions across the country, as well as strengthen relationships with coalitions within the state. She also attended many training seminars that she found had very useful information.
- While in D.C. she also had the opportunity to meet with Senator Hassan, Senator Shaheen and Representative Chris Pappas. She did provide a document for them with Franklin's Drug Task force information and events and that is also attached to the end of the minutes.
- She is continuing to plan for their annual event that is occurring on March 24th. She stated that she has invitations for the mayor and council, which will be in their inboxes tomorrow morning.

Michael Lombardo, Ward III, let the council know that the rain has made the water rise quite a bit at Trestle View Park causing the water to lap over the lower surface of the amphitheater and wanted to let the council know in case it is a concern.

Desiree McLaughlin, Ward III, spoke about the increase in homelessness in Franklin due to illegal evictions. She stated that there was no emergency plan in place for the extreme cold weather over the weekend.

Fire Chief Foss approached the council to speak on behalf of the weather over the weekend and stated that they did take a proactive effort. The police department did go out to known

City Council APPROVED Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2023

Page 3 of 15

homeless encampments and contacted numerous individuals letting them know where they could get city resources. The welfare department was a good start to get help with places to stay. He was also in contact with the State of New Hampshire ahead of time in case people needed placement. Merrimack County had placement in Concord and beyond. There was also a conversation with the mayor of Laconia, who was offering the Dube Building as a shelter for the weekend.

Also, the NH 211 service has been referenced through nights, weekends, and holidays and there have definitely been instances where they have responded, as far as he knows.

Public comments closed at 6:26 p.m.

City Council Acknowledgement:

Councilor Blake thanked Executive Secretary, Lisa Jones, for everything that she does for the council to get them prepared for meetings, along with scheduling them and putting together packets.

Councilor Dzujna gave a shoutout to Tim Morrill and his board and volunteers for all that they are doing at the veteran's ski area.

Councilor Trudel thanked City Manager Milner and City Solicitor, Paul Fitzgerald, for the very important informational session that was held for the councilors and committee members.

Councilor Webb thanked everyone who came out and spoke tonight and wanted to assure the public that their voices are being heard. The council does acknowledge the value of Soldier's Memorial Hall, which is the actual name of the City Hall building, and the Opera House.

Mayor's Update:

- This weekend was a challenge with the cold weather and she did see a lot of people at the laundromat. She stated that there are a lot of people that are very grateful that she keeps her doors open to anyone in need.
- Mayor Brown gave a shout out to the police department, the fire department and the welfare department for everything they did over the weekend. They were all very busy on Friday.
- The Winter Carnival is now in full swing. There is another three weekends to go that will end with the kayaking boat bash.
- She gave kudos to City Manager Milner, who wrote, completed, filed and received an \$80,000 grant to do some work on our street safety here in our city. She was also nominated and recognized as the Marquis Who's Who in America. Congratulations to City Manager Milner.

Councilor Desrochers wanted to bring up an item from City Manager Milner's update from last month where she had mentioned that the petition provided by Desiree McLaughlin regarding a trash ordinance, they were protesting had 119 signers, yet only 51 were registered voters. He stated that he represents every person who lives in the city of Franklin, not just registered voters. He believes that checking to see if the signers on the petition are registered voters is not

right and excludes all voices. He provided the email from Milner as well to be attached to the end of the minutes.

City Manager Milner explained that she agrees that the councilors should listen to all residents in the city, however, they were following a New Hampshire RSA regarding that petition and were doing their job as far as that goes.

Agenda Item I.

Approval of Minutes.

Council to consider the minutes of the January 9, 2023 City Council/Inaugural meeting.

Motion - Councilor Dzujna moved that the Franklin City Council approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023 City Council/Inaugural meeting. Seconded by Councilor Ribas.

There were no comments on the minutes.

8 in favor; 1 abstained. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item II.

School Board Update.

Superintendent LeGallo gave the following updates:

- **State Assessment Results:** The school assessment results released and the scores were disappointing, yet expected, as they continue to recover from the pandemic. He reminded everyone that the standardized computer tests done in one day do not measure everything that they do for students.
- The elementary and middle school have been identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement schools for performance levels in the bottom 5% in the state for Title I schools. He stated that they will be receiving \$118,797.36 for the elementary school and \$151,870.53 for the middle school to assist in their improvement efforts. The high school has been identified as a Targeted Support and Improvement school for low performance of its white student subgroup. They are focusing their efforts on things they can control, which include:
 - Continued implementation of their new reading program and assessments K-8 with the support and expertise of their newly hired Reading Specialist.
 - Implementation of a new math curriculum for K-8 next year.
 - Continued tutoring available at all levels for students.
 - Developing a partnership with Plymouth State University to provide professional development to teachers in reading and math instruction, as well as recruitment of student teachers.
 - Continued work on recruitment and retention of teachers.

- Continued work with their Portrait of a Graduate program to redesign the high school.
- **Dropout Rate:** LeGallo stated that he was pleased to share that their dropout rate for 22-23 was reduced to 1.5%. This is down from 8.33% 2 years ago and is right at the state average of 1.51%.
He mentioned that they have worked hard over the past two years to address this. They started by looking at the outcomes for each of their students who dropped out back in 2019-2020. They then implemented weekly meetings focusing on at risk students so that they could develop personalized programming for students. They changed the master schedule from half year to full year classes with more options and pathways for students. They also offered summer school for the past two summers for credit recovery and also offered competency recovery weeks at the end of each semester.
- **Portrait of a Graduate Forum:** They held their Portrait of a Graduate Forum at the Opera House on January 18th. He thanked the mayor and the city council members who attended the session, as well as the student and parent presenters. They will continue to engage parents and the community in their redesign efforts.
- **Community Safety Forum:** They held the Community Safety Forum on January 31st at the middle school. He thanked Police Chief Goldstein and Fire Chief Foss for participating in the presentation. The presentation will be up on their SAU website for anyone interested in viewing it.

Agenda Item III.

Council to consider Ordinance 05-23 re-adopting the Optional Veterans' Credit Chapter 272-4 Adoption of Provision; Designated Amount of the Franklin Municipal Code.

Motion - Councilor Chandler moved that the Franklin City Council adopt Ordinance 05-23 re-adopting the Optional Veterans' Credit Chapter 272-4 Adoption of Provision; Designated Amount of the Franklin Municipal Code. Seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

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

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

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

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item IV.

Council to consider Ordinance 06-23 an amendment to the Franklin Municipal Code, Chapter 272, Taxation, Article III Optional Adjusted Elderly Exemptions, 272-3 Designated Amounts; Qualifications with regard to the elderly assessment exemptions amounts and qualifying income thresholds.

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council adopt Ordinance 06-23 an amendment to the Franklin Municipal Code, Chapter 272, Taxation, Article III Optional Adjusted Elderly Exemptions, 272-3 Designated Amounts; Qualifications with regard to the elderly assessment exemptions amounts and qualifying income thresholds. Seconded by Councilor Trudel.

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

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

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

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item V.

Council to consider Resolution #09-23 to accept a grant totaling \$2,915 2023 Volunteer Fire Assistance funds and appropriate grant reimbursement funds in the amount of \$1,457.50 to the FY2023 budget and to authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents related to the grant program.

Motion - Councilor Dzunja moved that the Franklin City Council adopt Resolution #09-23 to accept a grant totaling \$2,915 2023 Volunteer Fire Assistance funds and appropriate grant reimbursement funds in the amount of \$1,457.50 to the FY2023 budget and to authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents related to the grant program. Seconded by Councilor Blake.

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

RESOLUTION #09-23

A Resolution Relating to a Supplemental Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2023.

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

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2023 which began July 1, 2022, **and;**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire understands the Fire Department received a state grant called 2023 Volunteer Fire Assistance funds totaling \$2,915, \$1457.50 state and \$1457.50 match for the purpose of purchasing wildland firefighting equipment, **and;**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire understands the matching funds are appropriated in the FY2023 budget, **and;**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire wishes to accept the grant and appropriate the grant portion, **Now,**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that at the scheduled meeting of the City Council on Monday, February 6, 2023 the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire does hereby adopt resolution #09-23 accepting the 2023 Volunteer Fire Assistance funds in the amount of \$2,915, authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary paperwork and authorizing an increase in FY2023 revenues:

Federal Grant Revenue – 2023 Volunteer Fire Assistance Acct. No. 01-2-201-33111-440 – One Thousand Four Hundred and Seven dollars and 50 cents (\$1457.50),

And an increase in FY2023 expenditure accounts,

Suppression Equipment – 2023 Volunteer Fire Assistance Acct No. 01-2-202-40740-440 - One Thousand Four Hundred and Seven dollars and 50 cents (\$1457.50),

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Councilor Chandler yes Councilor Desrochers yes Councilor Webb yes

Councilor Dzujna yes Councilor Blake yes Councilor Trudel yes

Councilor Ribas yes Councilor Starkweather yes Councilor Zink yes

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item VI.

Council to consider setting a public hearing on Ordinance 03-23 relating to Chapter 257, Solid Waste, of municipal code.

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council set a public hearing on Ordinance 03-23 repealing and replacing current Chapter 257 “Solid Waste” of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire, Municipal Code for Monday, March 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, to be read in title only. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

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

A few members of the council found a few minor grammatical corrections to be made. These will be provided in order to update the ordinance before the public hearing.

7 in favor; 2 opposed. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item VII.

Council to consider setting a public hearing on Resolution 10-23 authorizing a retention bonus program and appropriating one time revenue for same.

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council set a public hearing date for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2023, regarding Resolution #10-23 authorizing a one-time retention bonus program for employees and appropriating \$100,266 in one-time unanticipated FY2023 revenues to support the program. Seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

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

There was a discussion about this retention being separate from the pay & class study that will be presented at the March city council workshop meeting. This is to thank employees for sticking with the city through COVID and to hire new staff using it as a hiring bonus after the first year of service.

Some of the councilors expressed a preference for prorating the retention bonuses so that employees with a longer tenure would receive a bigger bonus.

City Manager Milner stated that she did not prorate since other communities are offering \$2k - \$4k as a hiring bonus so she was trying to make Franklin competitive as well.

She will provide an option for prorating and will send it to the council for review.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item VIII.

Council to consider Resolution 11-23 appropriating \$78,925 to the Franklin School District fiscal year 2023 budget.

Motion - Councilor Webb moved that the Franklin City Council adopt Resolution 11-23 appropriating \$78,925 to the Franklin School District fiscal year 2023 budget. Seconded by Councilor Ribas.

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

RESOLUTION # 11-23

A Resolution Granting Authority to Accept and Appropriate \$78,925 of the SAFE grants awarded by the New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) and the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHED) and the Barr Foundation and NGLC (Next Generation Learning Challenges.

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

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire recognizes that the school district will receive \$54,925 for the SAFE grant funding from HSEM and NHED.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire recognizes that the school district will receive from the Barr Foundation and NGLC of \$24,000: and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin would like to appropriate an additional \$78,925 to fund the upgrading of the door access controls systems at the Paul Smith School and to participate in the Portrait of a Graduate onsite visit to schools in Vista, California. ; **Now,**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *that at a regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council on February 6, 2023, the City Council of Franklin New Hampshire does hereby vote to adopt resolution #11-23 to formally accept and appropriate \$78,925 of additional revenues for the Franklin School District as follows:*

An Increase in Revenues:

New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management Fifty-Four Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$54,925)

Barr Foundation and NGLC – Twenty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$24,000)

An Increase in Expenditures:

School District Expenditures – Seventy-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$78,925)

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Councilor Blake	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Desrochers	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Starkweather	<u>yes</u>
Councilor Webb	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Dzunja	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Trudel	<u>yes</u>

Councilor Chandler yes Councilor Ribas yes Councilor Zink abstained

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item IX.

Council to consider setting a public hearing for Resolution #12-23 to accept and appropriate \$44,179.50 from the CCDF (**Child Care Development Fund**) for the purpose of stabilizing child care for the Parks and Recreation Before and After School and Summer Program.

Motion - Councilor Webb moved that the Franklin City Council set a public hearing on Resolution #12-23 at 6:00pm on March 6th, 2023 to accept and appropriate \$44,179.50 from the CCDF (Child Care Development Fund) for the purpose of stabilizing child care for the Parks and Recreation Before and After School and Summer Program. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

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

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Mayor Brown read resolution 12-23 to the public:

RESOLUTION #12-23

A Resolution Relating to a supplemental appropriation for Fiscal Year 2023.

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

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2023 beginning July 1, 2022, **and**;

WHEREAS, the City Council realizes the child care workforce crisis and the need for stabilization and,

WHEREAS, the City of Franklin Recreation Department has received \$44,179.50 from the Child Care Scholarship Data Pilot from CCDF (Child Care and Development Fund) 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 now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *that at their regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council on Monday, March 6th, 2023, the City Council of Franklin, New Hampshire does hereby vote to adopt resolution #12-23 to authorize the City Manager to accept and appropriate the funds of \$44,179.50 (forty-four thousand, one hundred seventy-nine dollars and fifty cents).*

An Increase in Revenue:

Federal Grants Operating- CCASP Acct. No. 01-5-211-33111-129 – *forty-four thousand, one hundred seventy-nine dollars and fifty cents* (\$44,179.50)

An Increase in Expenditures:

Recreation Admin Summer Rec – Childcare Stabilization - Acct. No. 01-5-211-40121-129 – *forty-four thousand, one hundred seventy-nine dollars and fifty cents* (\$44,179.50)

Agenda Item X.

Council to consider setting a public hearing on Resolution 13-23 appropriating \$325,667.89 to the Franklin School District fiscal year 2023 budget.

Motion - Councilor Zink moved that the Franklin City Council set a public hearing on March 6th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers for Resolution 13-23 appropriating \$325,667.89 to the Franklin School District fiscal year 2023 budget. Seconded by Councilor Ribas.

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

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Mayor Brown read resolution 13-23 to the public:

RESOLUTION # 13-23

A Resolution Granting Authority to Accept and Appropriate \$325,667.89 from The New Hampshire Education Department (NHED) for funding Comprehensive School Improvement (CSI) programs and Beyond School Enrichment programs

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

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire recognizes that the school district will receive \$118,797.36 for the Paul Smith Elementary School from NHED and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire recognizes that the school district will receive \$151,870.53 for the Franklin Middle School from NHED and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire recognizes that the school district will receive \$20,000.00 for the Franklin Middle School from NHED for a drama program and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire recognizes that the school district will receive \$20,000.00 for the Franklin High School for a drama program from NHED and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire recognizes that the school district will receive \$15,000.00 for the Franklin High School for a freshman orientation program from NHED.; **Now,**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *that at a regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council on March 6, 2023, the City Council of Franklin New Hampshire does hereby vote to adopt resolution #13-23 to formally accept and appropriate \$325,667.89 of additional revenues for the Franklin School District as follows:*

An Increase in Revenues:

New Hampshire Education Department of Three Hundred Twenty-Five, Six Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars and Eighty-Nine Cents. (\$325,667.89).

An Increase in Expenditures:

School District Expenditures – Three Hundred Twenty-Five, Six Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars and Eighty-Nine Cents. (\$325,667.89).

Agenda Item XI.

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

Motion - Councilor Desrochers moved that the Franklin City Council unseal all of the 2022 nonpublic meeting minutes. Seconded by Councilor Blake.

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

City Manager Milner stated that there were only two nonpublic meetings in 2022 (July 11, 2022 and August 1, 2022) that were recommended to be unsealed. The other minutes should be left sealed at this time.

Motion - Councilor Ribas amended the motion, moving that the Franklin City Council unseal the nonpublic meeting minutes dated July 11, 2022 and August 1, 2022 only. Seconded by Councilor Blake.

8 in favor; 1 abstained. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item XII.

Other Business:

1. Mayor & Council Appointments

There were no appointments at this time.

2. Committee Reports

Councilor Ribas stated that the Finance Committee met on January 26th and looked at the pay & class study along with the retention bonus proposal. The 2021 audits are complete and 2022 is underway. The Joint Finance Committee looks like it will need to be rescheduled so that will be posted once confirmed.

Councilor Webb noticed that there is generally a Legislative Committee meeting held this month, but is unaware of any issues that need to be discussed. There may be some topics for next month.

There was a discussion about the recount ordinance that was placed back on the table and the code of conduct being items for the next Legislative Committee meeting.

3. City Manager's Update:

- Contingent Grant Line Activity – Received \$500 from the Lions for the basketball uniforms and \$956.73 under the sex offender compliance grant.
- Trust fund for school funding – \$273.21
- Congratulations: Judy Bibbins, in Planning & Zoning, for achieving her Justice of the Peace and the fire, police and welfare departments for all that they did over the weekend to help the homeless. She also thanked the mayor for coordinating with the mayor of Laconia on the use of beds, if needed, for people in need from Franklin.
- Committee meetings – February:
 - Legislative – This will need to be scheduled. A Doodle Poll will be sent out to coordinate a date.
 - Municipal Services – 2/22 @ 10 a.m.
 - Joint Finance - This is being rescheduled to either 2/21, 2/22 Or 2/23
- Welcome: Katherine Drapeau to the Police Department.
- Random Acts of Community – “Glen Morrill Posse”, which is a group of volunteers that have taken on the work of cleaning up the hill across the street from Trestle View Park, which looks phenomenal.
- Media contacts – Laconia Daily Sun, Concord Monitor and ENR
- February Workshop – This will be on February 13th and it will be all about Soldier's Memorial Hall/City Hall renovations.
- Economic Development Community Forum – March 8th 6pm Location TBD (possibly within the Steven's Mill)
- City Offices closed Monday, 2/20/23 – In observance of Presidents' Day
- Myth Buster – The city is not targeting people with the downtown parking tickets. It is an enforcement action that is now being done due to more activity in the community in order to make parking fair in the downtown.

- Elected Official/Appointed Board Member forum – This was on January 28th and was very successful. She received a lot of positive feedback and would love any extra ideas for topics on the next one she sets up. She is thinking about making it an annual forum.
- \$80,000 DOT grant that was received, is a part of the American Rescue Act money. The \$5B was put into DOT for safe streets for all types of grants. The first is a two-step grant, so first receiving the money to produce what they would call the Action Plan grant. This is the part that Franklin received. Once the action plan is done, Milner stated that they will be eligible to apply for the implementation part of this grant. She believes that the threshold is \$5M - \$6M and she will then need a lot more help writing that part of the grant since it is a lot more technical.
- Late Item – This handout was at the table for the councilors and is also attached to the end of the minutes.
- (2) Non-Public Meetings Needed

4. Late Items:

Repurchase of Tax Deeded Property by previous owner, Jane A. Ingram, Edmunds Street (land only).

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council deed Edmunds Street Map/Lot #118-024-000 back to Jane A. Ingram. Seconded by Councilor Webb.

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

The property was recently tax deeded to the City of Franklin for failure to pay property taxes. Ms. Ingram was able to come up with the money needed to buy back the property by the January 31, 2023 deadline (for FY2022 tax deeded properties). This is not Ms. Ingram's primary residence so the total due was \$7,244.27, including the statutory penalty of \$4,000 equivalent to 10% of assessed value at the time of the deeding. Ms. Ingram has paid the total due.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Motion – Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council enter into nonpublic according to RSA 91-A:3, II (I) Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community AND according to RSA 91-A:3 II(a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Seconded by Councilor Trudel.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Starkweather yes Councilor Dzujna yes Councilor Ribas yes

City Council APPROVED Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2023

Page 15 of 15

Councilor Blake	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Webb	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Trudel	<u>yes</u>
Councilor Desrochers	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Chandler	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Zink	<u>yes</u>

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Entered into nonpublic at 8:02 p.m.

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

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Public Session reconvened at 10:39 p.m.

Motion — Councilor Ribas moved to seal the minutes. Seconded by Councilor Webb.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Starkweather	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Dzujna	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Ribas	<u>yes</u>
Councilor Blake	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Webb	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Trudel	<u>yes</u>
Councilor Desrochers	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Chandler	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Zink	<u>yes</u>

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Jones
Executive Secretary

2/6/2023

Good evening,

City Councilors, City Manager and Mayor Brown, thank you for the opportunity to share a few thoughts on the impact of this building and Resolution 15-23. My name is Jule Finley (Ward 1) and I have been working and living in Franklin for the last 29 years. I am not even going to remotely address the central convenience for all city residents for all city business or the wonderful partnership and working relationship we have built between the city and the Opera House. I am purely going to speak about the impact of this building on so many adults and children who come here to seek cultural nourishment and the impact it has on the city of Franklin overall and for its future.

Starting the FHS Players and Franklin Footlight Theater 28 years ago, in the fall of 1994 through the summer of 1995, are two of the greatest accomplishments of my life. I now look at the thousands of people it has supported, the friendships and relationships that have developed, the futures that were provided with strong stepping stones, and the power and connections that have been created. When the Opera House was reopened in 2000 and provided a variety of entertainment as well as a “home” for the already existing theater programs, things continued to flourish. Between Franklin Footlight Community Theatre, the FHS Players, the new FMS Players, the Franklin Area Children’s Theater Summer camps and the District Wide Arts Integration Project, not to mention all of the Opera House events, thousands of people from around the Lakes Region and beyond, flow through this building multiple times a year. When I was finishing my graduate work at PSU, I did a qualitative research project on the impact of the Arts on the students in Franklin. I knew, I saw and continue to see it all the time, but to actually read numerous testimonials from students that spanned dozens of years- it was astounding. I still have that research if anyone is interested in reading it. To have now watched students graduating who started performing on this stage when they were in kindergarten, and have achieved levels of self confidence and belief in themselves to want to pursue further education or believe in themselves enough to make whatever their dreams are come true- that is worth more than anything else and ANY amount of money to me. This building, this theater, has become their home, their community, their safe space, their passion, their drive and their place that they love.

But let’s look at the more practical lens that I know some look through. Recently, someone from Hopkinton, who drove here to borrow resources from the Franklin theater department, asked how many shows we had going on right now. My answer was 4. The response was “Oh my goodness? Are there full time people?” and my response was, “No- this is all volunteer”. That of course does not include the Opera House events, which add even more to the schedule, more volunteers and fortunately a few part time paid staff.

Why? Because people care and love what the arts bring to them and to this city. A few weeks ago, the Opera House had the Dueling Piano show. Not only was the Opera House bustling with people, but so was Franklin. People were out, the streets were filled, parking was limited, restaurants were full and there was energy and excitement. THAT is what the Opera House brings to the city- constant cultural energy, a positive outlet for everyone, an energy to the city that supports the energy being brought by the waterpark. I spent months on an Arts and Culture Task Force as well as the Task Force to look at the best use of this building- and both outcomes consistently decided that the Opera House, the arts and culture of the city of Franklin, was crucial to further development and success.

Franklin Footlight Theatre has been recognized as the Best Community Theater program by the New Hampshire Community Theater Association, our high school FHS Players have been recognized numerous times through the New Hampshire Educational Theater Guild (notice the plaques on the wall), and we have students who have left here and are continuing to do bigger and better things due to their time here at the Opera House. We have 5 year olds to 85 year olds sharing this stage together, learning together, sharing memories and stories. And the work they produce has countlessly been compared to professional venues in other much bigger cities. It is crucial that we band together, support the arts in our community, support the impact that the arts can have on the growth of our city, and get this building up to code so it can be used and maximized for the greatest outcome for everyone in Franklin.

We are asking that the city support the needed updates to this building so the work can continue, and we also ask that decisions start to move soon. Footlight, the Opera House and everything I do with all the school programs, plan a year in advance. It takes that much time to get everything organized and in place. The span of time that this has already taken has been a financial and planning burden on all organizations. We also need some answers to start moving in a creative direction while the building is unusable. Shutting down these programs for two or more years is not an option. That would be worse than bouncing back from the impact of covid, and I don't believe there are federal funds sitting there to support that loss. We're going to need to figure out new spaces, what we can actually do in those alternative spaces and how to get information out so the public and dedicated patrons know. There are many other opportunities in nearby communities and cities, and I do worry that people will get used to attending those events and lose the passion we have built to attend our own events here in Franklin. It's taken us 20 years to build what we have right now and it will be a devastating blow if we need to rebuild it all again.

Please help us start moving forward and get done what needs to be done.

Thank you,

Jule C. Finley

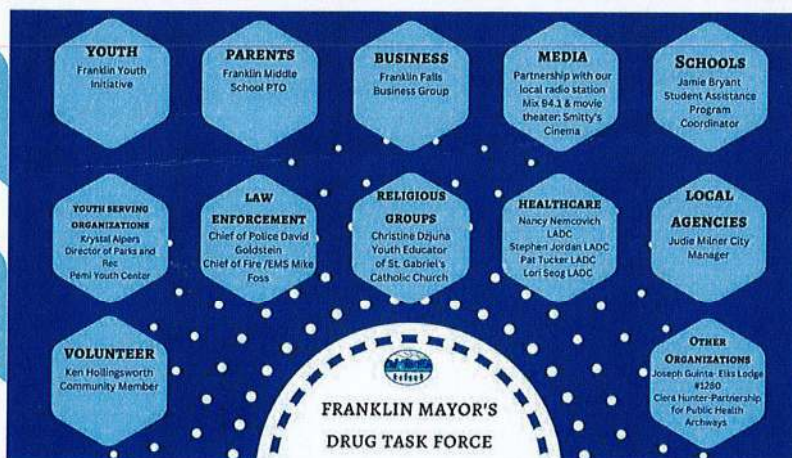


FRANKLIN MAYOR'S DRUG TASK FORCE

Promoting Wellness Through the Power of Community

We ensure all twelve sectors of our community play an active role in our coalition.

Our goals are simple: increase community engagement and decrease substance misuse in youth and adults



We are funded through Substance Use and Mental Health Administrations Partnership For Success Grant

We utilize the Strategic Planning Framework to achieve our goals

SOME OF OUR ANNUAL PREVENTION EVENTS INCLUDE:

Chem-Free: an after-prom event that offers substance free entertainment and activates for students attending the prom. In May 2022 we had 70 students attend this event.

Drug Take Back Day: a bi-annual partnered event with Franklin Police, Partnership for Public Health, and the DEA to provide the opportunity for residents to safely dispose of prescription medications. We also give free lock boxes while educated the importance of locking up medications. In October 2022, we collected approximately 175lbs of prescription medication and handed out 40 lock boxes.

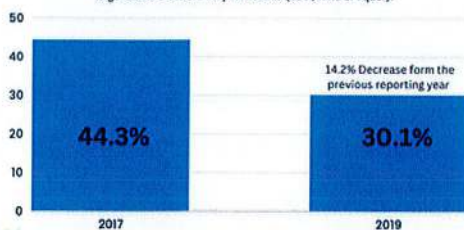
Annual Event: and event geared towards our community to discuss collected data, review highlights from the last year, present plans for the upcoming year and present community award. We will be hosting this event for the first time since 2019 in March 2023.

Community Day: An outdoor event hosted by a non-profit community partner to bring resources to our residents. At this event we survey our community members for coalition visibility, prevention effectiveness, current use and overall feedback. In 2022 we received 82 respondents.

Sticker Shock & Pizza Box Flyers: An annual campaign using stickers and flyers to educate community members on Social Host Liability. Our Franklin Youth Initiative group participates in this event by going to local convenient stores and grocery stores and places stickers on alcoholic containers. Our Coalition will give flyers to local pizza restaurants to post flyers on their delivery boxes.

FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL ALCOHOL USE - YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

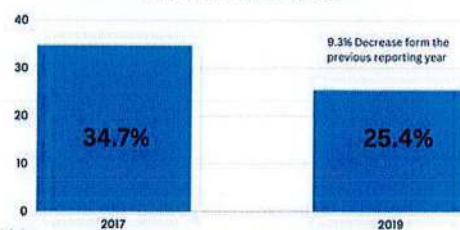
Percentage of Students who think it would be very easy for them to get some alcohol if they wanted to (beer, wine or liquor).



Our coalition targets several substances in our community: Alcohol, Marijuana, Prescription Drugs and Methamphetamines. These graphs show some of our successful impacts on accessibility of alcohol to minors.

FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL ALCOHOL USE - YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

Percentage of Students who usually got the alcohol they drank by someone giving it to them (among students who currently drank alcohol) during the past 30 days



EXCITING NEWS FOR THIS YEAR!

The Franklin Mayor's Drug Task force is rebranding! On March 24th at our Annual event we will be announcing our official name change:

FRANKLIN PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

The Clerk's office has completed their review of the petition and found the following:

Of the 119 names on the list, 51 (or 43%) are registered voters. Names who were duplicated were only counted once if they were a registered voter. Reminder, although we have to certify by registered voter, it does not mean the 51 names are property owners in the City.

The 51 certified signatures equate to 1.12% of registered voters and .58% of population based on 2020 census.

Have a Wonderful Weekend,

Judie Milner

Judie Milner,
City Manager
City of Franklin
316 Central Street
Franklin, NH 03235
Ph: 603-934-3900 ext 250
Fx: 603-934-7413

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The contents of this email message and any attachments are intended solely for the addressee(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information and may be legally protected from disclosure.

Late Item



**CITY OF FRANKLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

City Council meeting February 6, 2023

From: Judie Milner – City Manager

Subject: Repurchase of Tax Deeded Property by previous owner
Jane A. Ingram, Edmunds Street (land only)

Recommended Motion

Councilor moves, "I move the Franklin City Council deed Edmunds Street Map/Lot #118-024-000 back to Jane A. Ingram."

Mayor calls for a second, discussion, and vote.

Discussion

The property was recently tax deeded to the City of Franklin for failure to pay property taxes. Ms. Ingram was able to come up with the money needed to buy back the property by the January 31, 2023 deadline (for FY2022 tax deeded properties). This is not Ms. Ingrams primary residence so the total due was \$7,244.27, including the statutory penalty of \$4,000 equivalent to 10% of assessed value at the time of the deeding. Ms. Ingram has paid the total due.

Attachment

Repurchase letter



CITY OF FRANKLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
"The Three Rivers City"

316 Central Street
Franklin, NH 03235

(603) 934-3900
fax: (603) 934-7413
citymgr@franklinnh.org

October 31, 2022

Via Certified Mail – Address Service Requested - Return Receipt Requested

Ingram, Jane A.
10 Grove Street
Franklin, NH 03235

Re: Disposal of Tax Deeded Property
Edmunds Street-Land Only – Map/Lot 118-024-000

Dear Ms. Ingram:

This notice is being provided to you pursuant to RSA 80:89 as notification of the City's intention to sell real estate (hereafter "the property") located at Edmunds Street, land only (Tax Map 118, Lot 024-000) by sealed bid or public auction or disposition on or about January 31, 2023. The property was acquired by the City pursuant to a Tax Collector's Deed dated September 15, 2022 which was recorded in the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds at Book 3808, Page 23 on October 5, 2022.

You are listed as the former owner of the property.

In accordance with RSA 80:89-I, you, as the former owner, have the right to repurchase the property prior to the City disposing of said property. You may repurchase the property from the City for the sum of **\$7,244.27 (Seven Thousand Two Hundred Forty Four Dollars and Twenty Seven Cents) ***. This figure has been determined as follows:

- **\$2,434.10** representing all taxes assessed but unpaid as of the date of the tax deed, together with all taxes which would thereafter otherwise have been assessed against such property based on its valuation, but for its ownership by the municipality. See RSA 80:90, I(a);
- **\$531.04** representing all statutory interest actually accrued on all back taxes as of the date of the tax deed, together with all statutory interest which would otherwise thereafter have accrued on all taxes listed in subparagraph (a), but for the property's ownership by the municipality. See RSA 80:90, I(b);
- **\$79.13** for all fees associated with notice and recording in connection with the tax collection process. See RSA 80:90, I(c);

- **\$150.00** for all legal costs incurred by the municipality in connection with the property, including those connected with the municipality's sale or the former owner's repurchase. See RSA 80:90 I(d);
- **\$50.00** representing the incidental and consequential costs incurred by the City in connection with the ownership and disposition of the property. See RSA 80:90, I(e);
- **\$4,000.00** representing the statutory penalty of 10% of the assessed value of the property as of the date of the tax deed, adjusted by the equalization ratio for the year of assessment. See RSA 80:90, I(f); and

If you intend to exercise your right to repurchase the property for the amount specified above, you must inform the City of your intention within thirty (30) days of this notice 12/012022). See RSA 80:89, II. Notification to the City of your intention to repurchase must be by certified mail and shall indicate that you are ready, willing, and able to pay all back taxes, interest, costs and penalties, as defined in RSA 80:90, except that if the property is the former owner's principal residence, or was the former owner's principal residence at the time of execution of the tax deed under RSA 80:76, the additional penalty under RSA 80:90, I(f) shall not apply. See RSA 80:89, II. Within 15 days after notifying the City of your intention to repurchase the property, you must tender the repurchase amount by certified or bank check to the City for \$7,244.27 See RSA 80:89, II.

If you fail to notify the City of your intention to repurchase the property within the time prescribed above or if you fail to tender required payment within fifteen (15) days after notifying the City of your intention to repurchase, the City will proceed with its offering for sale by sealed bid or public auction and disposition of the property. See RSA 80:89, II.

If you should have any questions in this matter you may contact me at the address on this letterhead or by telephone at (603) 934-3900.

Sincerely,



Judie Milner
City Manager

Cc:
Michelle Stanyan, Tax Collector