



**City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 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 6:00 p.m.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor Webb, followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of veterans Dr. William Bennett (US Army & Army Reserves 1958-1964), Alan Woods (US Army 1966-1969) and William Laflamme (15-16 years as a Cubmaster & Scoutmaster), who passed away this month, led by Councilor Desrochers.

Public Hearings:

Ordinance 03-23 repealing and replacing current Chapter 257 “Solid Waste” of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire, Municipal Code.

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

A few members of the public did speak on behalf of the ordinance. There were comments made about feeling as though the purple bag option is pointless and will cause residents to dispose of trash inappropriately. A new petition was handed to the mayor from resident, Desiree McLaughlin of Ward II, that was now against the entire revision being voted on. There was also a question about how much money this ordinance revision will be saving the city.

The public hearing on Ordinance 03-23 closed at 6:11 p.m.

Resolution 10-23 authorizing a one-time retention bonus program for employees and appropriating \$100,266 in one-time revenues to support the program.

The public hearing opened at 6:12 p.m.

Resident Kathy Rago, Ward III, asked where the one-time revenues were coming from. City Manager Milner answered stating that in resolution 10-23 it is a one-time contribution from their workers comp program and their unemployment programs that had contributions during the year of Covid, some American Rescue Plan Act monies and also some monies from the State of New Hampshire as far as the opioid settlements.

The public hearing on Resolution 10-23 closed at 6:13 p.m.

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.

The public hearing opened at 6:14 p.m.

There was no discussion on this hearing.

The public hearing on Resolution 12-23 closed at 6:14 p.m.

Resolution 13-23 appropriating \$325,667.89 to the Franklin School District fiscal year 2023 budget.

The public hearing opened at 6:14 p.m.

Resident Kathy Rago, Ward III, asked where the funds were coming from.

City Manager Milner stated that according to the council agenda report provided by the school district the funding is coming from the New Hampshire Education Department (NHED) Funding for Comprehensive School Improvement (CSI) for the Paul Smith Elementary School of \$118,797.36 and the Franklin Middle School for \$151,870.53. Also, the awarding from NHED for Beyond School Enrichment for the Franklin Middle School for \$20,000 to support an after-school drama program, the Franklin High School for \$20,000 to support an after-school drama program and for the Franklin High School for \$15,000 to run a freshman orientation program for the summer of 2023. The total amount of additional funding is \$325,667.89.

The public hearing on Resolution 13-23 closed at 6:16 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 personally with any questions.

Comments from the Public:

Public comments opened at 6:17 p.m.

NH Representative, Jason Gerhard, stated that he has been looking for the data on any recent police reports. He asked how that can be accessed. Milner let him know that he can look at the annual budget reports, which are located on the website at www.franklinnh.org. This also has all of the police data included. She also let him know that if he is looking for something else or something more recent, he can reach out to her so that she can find this information for him.

Resident Christine Dzujna, Ward I, read a letter to the council and the public in support of Police Chief Goldstein and his department. The letter is attached to the end of the minutes.

Resident David Therrien, Ward II, stated that to save the city money, employees should be

leaving their company vehicles at work instead of driving them home.

Resident Desiree McLaughlin, Ward II, thanked the mayor and Councilor Webb for attending her event on Friday at the laundromat. Partners in Prevention was present along with other nonprofits. She stated that it's been a continuing effort of hers to connect the people with resources that benefit the community. Also, the state is now behind her donation location 100% and let her know how to become a nonprofit, which makes her eligible for state aid so that she can expand.

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

- On February 22nd the Task Force partnered with three other coalitions from across the state to educate NH representatives on potential consequences of Marijuana Legalization and the impact it could have on our youth and communities prior to the vote on House Bill 639. It was a great display of state-wide partnership.
- Last Thursday, the Task Force hosted a community free ski night. Despite it being a little rainy, they had a little over 60 people attend.
- The Task Force is partnering with Franklin High School on March 22nd to make this the best SAT testing day for the students. The Task Force will be coordinating with Hannaford's and Choose Franklin to provide breakfast and lunch to the students attending the testing day. Also, she wanted to say thank you to the owners of May Garden for donating gift certificates to raffle off on this day. Franklin High School will be planning other activities and games for the students following the test. She stated that If anyone would like to become involved in this event to please let her know.
- The Task Force Annual Event is coming up quickly! March 24th they will be presenting to the public who they are, what they do and how they do it. This will be at Mojolaki Country Club. There will be great food and drink, music and dancing, raffles and education. The link to purchase tickets is on the Task Force Facebook Page.
- The Chem- Free date has been rescheduled to May 13th. It is indeed the same day as Community Day so it will be a busy day for the Task Force. Any and all volunteers for either event are welcome. She asked everyone to feel free to reach out if interested in volunteering or donating to Chem Free.
- Wolff mentioned that she is applying for the Herren Project After-Prom grant which gifts awards up to \$2,000. She will have an answer on that on March 24th.
- Lastly, she echoed the coalitions confidence in Chief Goldstein and his department.

Resident Paul Duncanson, Ward I, wanted to know how the council determines whether the sale of a city property is discussed in a nonpublic session or not.

Milner answered, letting Mr. Duncanson know that there are a few reasons for going into a nonpublic. One example would be if the city had a strategic plan for selling a property that would give some people an unfair advantage if released to the public. There are several different items that determine going into a nonpublic and that can be found per RSA 91-A:3, II(d), which states that 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.

Public comments closed at 6:36 p.m.

City Council Acknowledgement:

Councilor Dzujna thanked Officer Ainsley Bruno. He received a letter from Frank Jones, Assistant Professor at New England College, as he was so impressed with her. Ainsley participated in a program of his attending two of his classes on community policing. He sent a letter to the Chief to put in her personnel file and one was sent to him as well stating that he picked the right alumni to represent the police department.

Councilor Dzujna also read from a letter he wrote supporting Police Chief Goldstein. That letter is attached to the end of these minutes.

Councilor Starkweather gave a shoutout to the Franklin Robotics team. The did extremely well and represented the city very well.

Councilor Chandler wanted to second everything that Councilor Dzujna just said about the Police Chief. He stated that he has 100% confidence in him and the city manager.

Mayor's Update:

- Mayor Brown gave a heartfelt thank you to all of the city directors for their generous support of Police Chief Goldstein and City Manager Milner through flowers and some goodies that were put together.
- She gave a shoutout to resident, Desiree McLaughlin, for the event that she attended with Councilor Webb. She pulled together an impressive team of people to work with the homeless and appreciates everything that she does for the community.

Agenda Item I.

Approval of Minutes.

Council to consider the minutes of the January 30, 2023 City Council Workshop Meeting, the February 6, 2023 City Council Meeting and the Nonpublic minutes from the February 6th, 2023 City Council Meeting.

Motion - Councilor Dzujna moved that the Franklin City Council approve the minutes of the January 30, 2023 City Council Workshop Meeting, the February 6, 2023 City Council Meeting and the Nonpublic minutes from the February 6th, 2023 City Council Meeting per the corrections that were sent to the Executive Secretary. Seconded by Councilor Webb.

There were no comments on the minutes.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item II.

School Board Update.

Superintendent LeGallo gave the following updates:

- **State Funding Results:** The Franklin School Board passed a resolution at their February meeting calling upon the state to address the inadequacy and inequity in school funding. This resolution was shared with representatives and state senators, as well as with the city council.
- **Beyond Enrichment Grants:** LeGallo stated that he is pleased to report that they have received over \$130,000 in Beyond Enrichment grants for all three schools. This includes a summer art program, gardening program and snowshoeing club at the elementary school, a summer arts program, after school drama program at the middle school and an after-school drama program, multimedia club program and summer transition program at the high school.
- **23/24 Budget:** He stated that they will be presenting their budget to the School Board tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. This will be held at the Franklin High School cafeteria. They are hoping to present to the city council in early May.
- **Annual Report:** The School District Annual Report will be going out to the School Board for approval at the School Board meeting on March 20th. They will be sure to get it out to the city council once it is approved.
- **Strategic Planning:** Their 5-year Strategic Plan will be coming to an end at the end of this school year. They will be putting a team together and soliciting feedback from the community to develop their next strategic plan. He asked everyone to let him know if they have any interest in participating in the process.
- **2022 Audit:** This is completed and everything looks good.

Agenda Item III.

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

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council adopt Resolution 13-23 appropriating \$325,667.89 to the Franklin School District fiscal year 2023 budget. Seconded by Councilor Blake.

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

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).

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 Dzujna	<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 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.

Motion - Councilor Zink moved that the Franklin City Council adopt 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. Seconded by Councilor Ribas.

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

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)*

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 Dzujna	<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 10-23 authorizing a one-time retention bonus program for employees and appropriating \$100,266 in one-time revenues to support the program.

Motion - Councilor Dzujna moved that the Franklin City Council adopt 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 Blake.

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

Councilor Zink stated that she does not support this resolution, as she thinks that this fund should go towards the pay & class implementation, if approved for the FY24 budget.

Councilor Webb stated that this seemed to be a fair program.

No other discussion ensued.

RESOLUTION #10-23

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 challenges of the current labor market and the city department's challenges in hiring and retaining employees as a result, **and**;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire understands the recent pay & classification study completed by Municipal Resources, Inc. shows that the City's wages are significantly under the wages of comparable communities, **and**;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire wishes to show appreciation to city employees and facilitate the recruitment process for open positions prior to pay & class implementation decisions in upcoming budgets through a retention bonus program, **and**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire recognizes the funding totaling \$280,825, for this one-time retention bonus is coming from unspent appropriations from unfilled positions, remaining American Rescue Plan Act monies and from one-time unanticipated revenues from State of New Hampshire and PRIMEX received in FY2023, **Now**,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that at the scheduled meeting of the City Council on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 6pm the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire does hereby adopt resolution #10-23 authorizing a one-time retention bonus program for regularly scheduled city positions per the FY2023 position listing adopted with the FY2023 budget under the following guidelines:

Retention Bonus Rules:

One time retention bonus of \$2900 (1-9 years of service); \$3,150 (10-19 years of service); \$3,400 (20+ years of service) for FY2023 authorized position listing positions

Retention Bonus Earned after one year of employment; no proration of bonus for service under one year.

Current employees with one year of service or greater will receive bonus in paycheck following approval by the council.

Current employees with less than one year of service will receive bonus in paycheck following one year of service as long as they remain an active employee.

Open positions (as of council approval date) hired between approval date and June 30, 2023 will receive bonus in paycheck following one year of service as long as they remain an active employee.

And appropriating one-time unanticipated FY2023 revenue by authorizing an increase in FY2023 revenues:

Miscellaneous Revenue Acct. No. 01-0-000-35090-000 – One Hundred Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Six dollars (\$100,266)

And an increase in FY2023 expenditure accounts,

Retention Bonus Acct No. 01-1-302-40131-000 - One Hundred Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Six dollars (\$100,266),

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

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

8 in favor; 1 opposed. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item VI.

Council to consider Ordinance 03-23 repealing and replacing current Chapter 257 “Solid Waste” of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire, Municipal Code.

Motion - Councilor Dzujna moved that the Franklin City Council adopt Ordinance 03-23 repealing and replacing current Chapter 257 “Solid Waste” of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire, Municipal Code. Seconded by Councilor Blake.

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

A discussion ensued about the trash ordinance revisions. There was confusion over how much this ordinance would save the city in funds and Milner explained that she put out a chart for the public on the website showing the current costs compared to costs after implementation. There would be a \$400,000 difference.

Councilor Webb stated that he would like to propose a single amendment to the ordinance.

Motion - Councilor Webb moved that the Franklin City Council amend Chapter 257-21 by adding the phrase “or more”, and Chapter 257-22, Section B: to add the entire sentence that states “Owner occupied multi-family residential buildings with three or more units, while being considered commercial, will be allowed up to 192 gallons of trash per week to be picked up from the unit occupied by the owner”, and Chapter 257-23, Section C: adding the phrase “or more” and strike out “per housing unit”, and Chapter 257-23, Section F: strike out “For single family” and begin with “For two-family units and three or more”, strike out “More than one” and starting the sentence with “Units may be required to share trash containers based on site specific conditions, circumstances” and adding “and barrel availability.” Seconded by Councilor Ribas.

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

Clarification was given explaining that this is referring to multifamily units only and is being added to encourage owner occupancy on multifamily units in the hope that they would be more properly maintained.

8 in favor; 1 opposed. Motion PASSED.

The council discussed ways to funnel the cost savings back into trash via the transfer station and/or vehicles needed at the transfer station, if this ordinance passes. Milner did explain that it can go into the general fund, a capital reserve fund or they could have an enterprise fund, which is more like a private business like their water and sewer.

Milner also reminded the council that the costs savings is going towards the increased tipping that they are seeing come down the road, which also goes towards the transfer station, unfortunately.

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council amend Chapter 257-12 to strike out reference 257-33, and revising it to reference 257-11. Seconded by Councilor Webb.

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

No discussion ensued.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Mayor Brown asked if there was any other discussion on the ordinance to be voted on.

The council did discuss more on this subject. Recycling was brought up and there were statements about finding ways to motivate more people to utilize that service. It was also brought up that single family homes produce less trash than multifamily homes, even if the appraised value is the same and they pay the same amount of taxes. Multifamily units and businesses also produce income to compensate for the extra costs, where a single-family home does not.

Councilor Zink asked about where the purple bags for trash overage would be purchased. The ordinance states that they would be available for purchase at City Hall and she thought that the council discussed having them available at the transfer station.

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council amend Chapter 257-44, by adding “,transfer station,” after the word City Hall. Seconded by Councilor Zink.

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

No discussion ensued.

8 in favor; 1 opposed. Motion PASSED.

The discussion on the ordinance continued. Milner did clarify the costs for the purple bags would be as follows: \$2.35/13-gallon bag and \$3.00/30-gallon bag. The bag costs were figured out based on tipping costs and the average weight of a 13-gallon kitchen bag or a heavy duty 30-gallon bag.

The council did continue to discuss the subject, some not supporting the ordinance revisions and others stating that they understand why something needs to be done. Costs are rising and this was the solution brought to the council.

Councilor Ribas did thank his fellow councilors for all of the work that has been done on the revisions and thanked the public for all of their comments as well.

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

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

6 in favor; 3 opposed. Motion PASSED.

Mayor Brown called for a 10-minute break at 7:41 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:51 p.m.

Agenda Item VII.

Council to consider setting a public hearing for Resolution 16-23 appropriating \$66,220 to the Franklin School District fiscal year 2023 budget.

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council set a public hearing for April 3rd, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers for Resolution 16-23 appropriating \$66,220 to the Franklin School District fiscal year 2023 budget. Seconded by Councilor Webb.

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

No discussion ensued.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Mayor Brown read resolution 16-23 to the public:

RESOLUTION # 16-23

A Resolution Granting Authority to Accept and Appropriate \$66,220.00 from The New Hampshire Education Department (NHED) for funding 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 \$20,000 for the Franklin Middle School from NHED for a Summer Arts program and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire recognizes that the school district will receive \$20,000 for the Paul Smith Elementary School from NHED for a Summer Arts program and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire recognizes that the school district will receive \$6,200.00 for the Paul Smith Elementary School from NHED for a Gardening Club program and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire recognizes that the school district will receive \$10,520.00 for the Paul Smith Elementary School from NHED for a Snowshoe Club and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire recognizes that the school district will receive \$9,500.00 for the Franklin High School from NHED for a Multi-Media Club.;
Now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *that at a regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council on April 3, 2023, the City Council of Franklin New Hampshire does hereby vote to adopt resolution #16-23 to formally accept and appropriate \$66,220 of additional revenues for the Franklin School District as follows:*

An Increase in Revenues:

New Hampshire Education Department of Sixty-Six Thousand, Two Hundred Twenty Dollars (66,220.00).

An Increase in Expenditures:

School District Expenditures – Sixty-Six Thousand, Two Hundred Twenty Dollars (66,220.00).

Agenda Item VIII.

Council to consider setting a public hearing for Resolution 14-23 accepting grant funds in the amount of \$9,000 from the NH Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. These funds will be used for upgrades to the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council set a public hearing date for 6:00 pm, at the April 3rd, 2023 meeting of the City Council for Resolution 14-23. Adoption of Resolution 14-23 will result in acceptance of grant funds, in the amount of \$9,000 from the NH Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The \$9,000 will be utilized to improve and update the City of Franklin's Hazard Mitigation Plan. It is understood that there is a 25% (up to \$3,000) soft match by the city, which will bring the total cost of the project to \$12,000. 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 14-23 to the public:

RESOLUTION #14-23

A Resolution Granting Authority to Accept Grant Funds from the NH Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

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 understands that the City Manager and Fire Chief have identified that the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan needs to be updated, **and**;

WHEREAS, the City has been awarded a grant of \$9,000 from the NH Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, to help offset the costs of the plan, **and**;

WHEREAS, matching funds, in the form of soft match for services, in the amount of \$3,000, will be directed towards this project for total project funding of \$12,000, **now**;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that at a regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council on Monday, April 3, 2023, the City Council of Franklin, New Hampshire does hereby vote to adopt resolution #14-23 to accept \$9,000, in grant funds from the NH Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, to update the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan and to authorize City Manager, Judie Milner, to sign all relevant documents pertaining to the acceptance and administration of this grant award and hereby authorizes the following non-lapsing appropriations,

An Increase in Revenues:

State Grants Revenue Acct. No. 01-0-000-33591-000 – Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000),

An Increase in Expenditures:

Emergency Management Mach & Equipment Expense Acct. No. 01-2-208-40740-000 – Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000).

Agenda Item IX.

Council to consider Building Permit Proposal for Property on a Private Road.

Motion - Councilor Dzujna moved that the Franklin City Council approve the issuance of a Building Permit and year-round Certificate of Occupancy for 3 Kenwood Ave, Map-Lot 128-404-01, and authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement and Notice of Release from Municipal Responsibility and Liability between the City of Franklin and the owners. Said fully executed agreement is to be recorded at the Merrimack County Registry of Deed; the

recording and recording fees are the responsibility of the applicant. Recording must be complete before permits can be issued. Seconded by Councilor Ribas.

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

Planning & Zoning Director Creighton explained that their vote allows the city to issue an occupancy permit.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item X.

Council to consider disposition of tax deeded property.

Motion - Councilor Dzujna moved that the Franklin City Council authorize the City Manager to dispose of the following properties:

Map/Lot#	Location	Disposition Method	Recommended Minimum Bid	Notes
117-005-000	26 Pleasant Street	Direct Sale		Must be merged with successful abutter property within 60 days of acquisition; further conditions may be imposed
128-066-000	373 New Hampton Road	Bid	\$23,000	
096-412-018	18 Vine Street	Direct Sale		to park owner

Seconded by Councilor Ribas.

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

There was a small discussion confirming the locations of the above listed properties for clarification.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item XI.

Other Business:

1. Mayor & Council Appointments

Mayor Brown nominated Ted Nemetz to the Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee.

Mayor Brown nominated Gregory Thompson to the Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee.

Mayor Brown appointed Ernesto Gonzalez to the Planning Board, seat PB9, term of service to January 2025.

2. Committee Reports

Councilor Webb stated that the Legislative Committee met on March 1st. They talked about the charter changes that had been suggested and the decision was that it should be considered at a workshop for the entire council, since there could be more charter changes made.

As far as the election recount procedure, it was determined that they'd like to have more input from the people working the polling locations. He stated that the city clerk has been approached to elicit some of those responses to see if they are in sync with what is being proposed before bringing it to the council.

The code of conduct was also discussed, with the question being to codify or not. The consensus was to not codify and bring to the next city council meeting in April, as is, with no changes.

Councilor Dzujna stated that the MSD Committee met on February 22nd and they had Eliza Styczynski and Margaret Blank from NH DES to do a kickoff for a wastewater assessment program. They discussed having another meeting on it and getting the information out to the stakeholders. They also discussed the loader that went down, along with a 2002 and 2003 truck that all need repairs. MSD Director Hanscom is going to look into what the life of the vehicles will be if the repairs are done since it is about \$30,000 to repair one truck compared to a quarter of a million to replace one. This will also be brought up during the budget season.

Councilor Ribas reminded the council that they discussed putting together an ad hoc committee to discuss the city manager evaluations. He stated that they have tentatively scheduled the first meeting for that committee for March 21st at 6 p.m. in the Blue Conference Room.

3. City Manager's Update:

- Contingent Grant Line Activity – Received \$424.57 as part of the sex offender compliance grant, \$75 from grant monies for Recreation Scholarships, \$50 for flower beatification, and \$70 to the fire department.
- Trust fund for school funding – \$273.21
- City Council Workshop Meetings in March/April:
 - March 20th - Councilor Webb discussed the charter review at the Legislative Committee meeting and would like to bring it forward to the council in one or two workshops for March and April, to give time for the changes to be put on the October ballot. Milner passed out the current charter for each councilor to have for review.
 - March 27th - This workshop will be discussing the implementation of the Pay & Class study and other FY24 budget items.
 - April 10th – Milner asked to leave this night open, starting at 6:30 p.m., for the April secondary workshop meeting to discuss City Hall, as time is of the essence on that discussion. She is also requesting this evening instead of the regularly scheduled meeting, since it falls within a school vacation week. She asked the council to let her know whether this will work for them or not.

- **Congratulations:**
 - Sean Riberdy from the Municipal Services Department, and David Sabo from the Fire Department, for being the first two graduates of the CDL Pilot program done in Franklin.
 - Keith McNulty, from the Fire Department, for passing the advanced EMT exam.
- **Committee meetings – March:**
 - Police – TBD – This is being rescheduled.
 - Parks & Rec– Thursday, 3/23, 10 a.m. at the Bessie Rowell
 - Joint Finance – Thursday, 3/23, 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall “Blue Conference Room”
- **Welcome:** Sean Breen (Fire Department), Tom Hegener (Fire Department) and Chris Davis (Water Department).
- **Random Acts of Community –** Shoutout to Desiree McLaughlin for hosting an event to connect folks to services last Friday, and Judith Ackerson for helping out with the city’s community calendar updates on the Franklin website.
- **Media contacts –** Shoutout to the Union Leader for putting the City Hall project on the front page, which did get the attention of Senator Shaheen, who came out and asked us to put in a congregational delegated spend request for this project.
- **Economic Development Forum –** March 8th at 6 p.m. is being held at the Bessie Rowell in the gym.
- **Mayor’s Drug Task Force Annual Event –** March 24th at 6 p.m. Tickets are on sale and this will be held at Mojolaki. There will be a silent auction, awards and some educational pieces.
- **Shout Out to Mill City Park and the Parks & Rec Director Alpers** for a very well-done Boat Bash Snow Crash event, along with the Municipal Services Department for making sure people could get out to the event in the snow.
- **Milner** stated that she had spoken with the council before about the land that the two solar projects were on and both solar projects have been cancelled on city land and land that the city used to lease to Mr. Fife. Without objection, she stated that she would like to offer the land to Mr. Fife for the next growing season for now and put the lease on the next agenda. There was no objection.
- **Broadband Update –** the council may remember that there was some ARPA money that went towards a Broadband study in the city to make sure that all houses are getting the appropriate speed for broadband. It is now at the step of sending out an RFP to hopefully get everyone served in the city of Franklin.

- Milner gave a shoutout to all city employees who have supported her and Police Chief Goldstein via flowers, a munchie basket and all of the supportive comments given at this time.
- Daylight Savings is next week. Remember to change your clocks and change your smoke detector batteries.
- St. Patrick's Day is coming soon. She let everyone know that NH Chronicle did a piece including the new Waterhorse Pub in Franklin and she was invited to that private event for the filming there. That will be airing on March 13th.
- Milner gave the council a heads up that her vacation to Scotland is scheduled for June 22nd – July 6th of this year.
- City Hall Update – The RFP should be going out by the end of this week or early next week. The Economic Development team has been talking a lot about different funding sources for this project as well.
- (3) Non-Public Meetings are needed, with some late items first.

4. Late Items:

Milner stated that there are 2 late items for tonight.

1st Late Item:

Council to consider setting a public hearing for resolution 17-23 to accept a \$200,000 grant from New Hampshire Department of Environmental Service Brownsfield Revolving Loan Fund – Clean Up Grant for cleanup of Map/Lot 117-142, Stanley / Ferrari Mill and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents relating to the grant.

Motion – Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council set a public hearing on Monday, April 3rd, 2023, at 6pm regarding Resolution 17-23 to accept a \$200,000 grant from New Hampshire Department of Environmental Service Brownsfield Revolving Loan Fund – Clean Up Grant for cleanup of Map/Lot 117-142, Stanley / Ferrari Mill and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents relating to the grant. Seconded by Councilor Trudel.

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

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Mayor Brown read resolution 17-23 to the public:

RESOLUTION 17-23

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 City applied for grant funds under New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Brownfield Clean Up grant program for the Stanley/Ferrari Mill (map/lot 117-142-00), and;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire understands the city was awarded \$200,000 from the NHDES Brownfield Clean Up Program for the Stanley/Ferrari project, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire wishes to accept and appropriate the non-matching grant award, Now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that at the scheduled meeting of the City Council on Monday, April 3, 2023 at 6pm the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire does hereby adopt resolution #17-23 accepting the grant award of \$200,000 under the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Brownfield grant program, authorizing the City Manager to sign all documentation pertaining to the grant and authorizing an increase in FY2023 revenues:

Federal Grant - Brownfield Acct. No. 01-0-000-33110-413 – Two Hundred Thousand dollars (\$200,000)

And an increase in FY2023 expenditure accounts,

Nuisance Abatement Acct No. 01-1-302-40491-413 – Two Hundred Thousand dollars (\$200,000).

2nd Late Item:

Request for complete discontinuance of a portion of Punch Brook Road (a Class VI Road).

Motion – Councilor Webb moved that the Franklin City Council set a public hearing for 6pm on March 27th, 2023 regarding discontinuance of a portion of Punch Brook Road, a Class VI highway. Seconded by Councilor Trudel.

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

Milner stated that this hearing would be scheduled during a city council workshop meeting.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Milner stated that they were ready to enter into a nonpublic session.

Motion – Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council enter into nonpublic 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 AND according to RSA 91-A:3 II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant AND according to RSA 91-A:3 II(d) 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. Seconded by Councilor Trudel.

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.

Entered into nonpublic at 8:43 p.m.

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

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Public Session reconvened at 10:15 p.m.

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

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>absent</u>
Councilor Desrochers	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Chandler	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Zink	<u>yes</u>

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Motion — Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council add the review and approval of the City Manager's revised/new contract to the March City Council workshop meeting.
Seconded by Councilor Blake.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

ADJOURNMENT:

**Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Ribas and seconded by Councilor Webb.
All in favor. Motion PASSED.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa A. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" being more prominent.

Lisa A. Jones
Executive Secretary

My name is Christine Dzujna of Ward I. I am a member of the Planning Board, a Superintendent of the Check List, a Director of the Drug Force, and a Trustee of our public library. I am also a member of Franklin's Business and Professional Women and have worked in our school system for nearly 17 years.

I mention these commitments because they are relevant to my total confidence in our Police Chief, David Goldstein, and in his department.

I have been on the Drug Task Board for 3 years and have worked with Chief Goldstein on many projects to educate both our children and the citizens of Franklin on the consequences of substance abuse. Part of our job is to be out in the community to support the city's events such as community day, national night out, drug take back day, Fall festival and the holiday stroll. There has never been a time when Chief Goldstein and his staff were not in complete support of these events.

I have been a library trustee for several years. One of our meeting's discussions included how to make our library friendlier and safer inside and out. We asked Chief Goldstein if one of his staff might join our meeting to discuss children jumping in the river and people hanging out around the library. The Chief sent Lieutenant Poirier. He was accommodating and gave us good solid information and reminded us that he and his co-workers are always willing to come and help.

As Superintendent of the Checklist, I have never known the police officers to complain about being at the elections. This assignment cannot be as stimulating as others, but they do it and they do it well -- keeping in mind the safety of all who enter the various election sites.

One of the many projects that the BPW conducts is a camp for high school girls. This camp is about teaching them real life experiences by conducting a reality store in which they travel from event to event to see what it takes to live for a month. In addition to the reality store, we start the day with a keynote speaker. This year our speaker is Police Officer Tracy. She has agreed to speak on what made her become a police officer and what her daily duties consist of. In addition, we asked Chief Goldstein if he would share with our high school students his course on self-defense and without hesitation he said yes.

Finally, for the time I spent in the school system, I have never felt unsafe. Our police department has always been there for the children and they always come with a smile. When times are tough, and the children are having a hard time, they help. When times are tough and the staff are having a hard time, they help. When times are tough and there's a threat, they show up – completely.

For these reasons, I am without hesitation confident in police chief, David Goldstein, and his department. I thank them for all they do for the city of Franklin.

Christine P. Dzujna

As a current member of the Franklin City Council, I write this letter to the citizens of our city to calm any concerns about the Franklin Police Department and its leader, Chief David Goldstein. He and I both share the importance of transparency and keeping in touch with the residents of Franklin.

As an elected official, it is also my job to listen to my constituents—the residents that reside in Franklin are important to me. I talk to many people each week, throughout the year. I respect that opinions will be formed and spoken. But opinions without a factual basis, or without merit, are nothing more than the products of inuendo, rumor and unsubstantiated information. Those types of opinions do nothing to foster good community relations. They become unhealthy for the well-being of our community. When those negative opinions implicate suspicion of unprofessional work or someone not doing their job, they warrant my attention as a city leader.

Chief David Goldstein of the Franklin Police Department is the epitome of an outstanding leader. His more than 4 decades of experience with the NH State Police and the City of Franklin as OUR Chief, along with his advanced degrees of higher education (including a Ph.D. in Psychology) and thousands of hours of all types of training speak for itself. Chief Goldstein has proven time and time again that he is totally committed to transparency, accountability, fairness, and to providing professional law enforcement services to the residents of the City of Franklin at the lowest possible cost and without compromise.

As a member of the City Council, I am proud to support him. I know that with any task that is necessary of the Franklin Police Department, under Chief Goldstein's command and that of his very capable and highly competent supervisory staff, the job is going to be done the way it should be. We all know he is a superior leader, and cares a great deal about the health, welfare, and safety of his personnel as well as the citizens of Franklin. We all need to support Chief Goldstein and the

members of the Franklin Police, especially during a time when certain parts of our great nation don't do that, and it results in an increase in social turmoil.

I am a proud member of the City Council and dedicated to public service. I welcome anyone that has concerns about matters of public safety in Franklin to reach out to me. We will talk.

Respectfully submitted.

George J. Dzujna
Franklin City Council