



City Council Meeting Minutes Monday, May 1, 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 Vince Ribas, Councilor Paul Trudel 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 Ribas. This was followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of veteran Ronald Martin (US Army – Vietnam – service dates July 20, 1966 – August 19, 1968) who recently passed away, led by Councilor Desrochers.

Legislative Update:

The NH representative was not present for an update.

Comments from the Public:

Public comments opened at 6:03 p.m.

There were residents that spoke about the proposed \$20M bond by the Economic Development team and there was a lack of support with the White-Water Park being included as one of the projects that would be funded by this bond. Most spoke about the need for road repair, yet they were against any kind of increase in the tax rate. One resident discussed that all of these projects that need to happen, like road work and City Hall renovations, need to be funded somehow and a bond seems to be the only option given at this point.

One resident did ask that the council approve the new crosswalk art for this year, as they will need to be redone this spring. The request was to have solid colors painted over last year's art work.

Councilor Desrochers read a letter that he received asking about the Economic Development meeting being held at the Grevior's place of business. It was requested that these should be held at City Hall and the hours should be changed to accommodate more public attendance.

Councilor Desrochers also received an email from someone stating that the Franklin Fire Department ladder truck was seen on Tilton property with an employee cutting tree limbs. He

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asked the Fire Chief to address this.

Chief Foss let the council know that this did happen and was unacceptable. He stated that this had been dealt with internally.

Councilor Zink had an email and Councilor Ribas had a letter that they read to the council and public and these are attached to the end of the minutes.

Partners in Prevention Project Coordinator Wolff had a few updates for the council:

- Partners in Prevention teamed up with the Franklin PD and Fire for April's Prescription Take Back Day which occurred on April 22nd. They were joined by Archways, Healthfirst and One Peer to Another, who answered questions and handed out resources to Franklin residents. At this event they collected 169lbs of prescription medication and handed out about 30 lock boxes. The next Take Back Day will occur in October.
- On May 13th Partners in Prevention will be set up at Choose Franklin's Community Day, where they will be handing out Operation Parent Handbooks, resources, and swag along with administering a Community Survey.
- In addition to Community Day on May 13th, the Franklin High School Prom and Chem Free After Prom Event will take place. Chem Free will occur at Franklin High School from 10:30PM to 5:00AM. They are looking for volunteers for this event, so if you or anyone you know may be interested, please reach out to Stephanie Wolff.
- Partners in Prevention is in the early planning stages of the Step-by-Step 5k for Prevention occurring on June 17th to kick off start of the Winni River Days. Registration will be open by the end of this week! If you would like to volunteer or donate to this event, please reach out to Stephanie Wolff.

NH Representative, Jason Gerhard, arrived to the meeting for his Legislative update so he let the mayor and council know that Concord is very broken and he is not happy with how things are being handled. He also let everyone know that he can be contacted personally with any specific questions.

Parks & Recreation Director Alpers let the council know that Community Day will be on May 18th and they will be meeting at the High School at 10am and going until 2pm at Odell Park.

Public comments closed at 6:42 p.m.

City Council Acknowledgement:

Councilor Dzujna recognized the Franklin Business and Professional Women (BPW) group for hosting a 4-day camp the week of April 15th. This was provided for the young women in high school and he thanked everyone that was involved. Information on this camp is attached to the end of the minutes.

Councilor Webb thanked Councilor Dzujna, City Manager Milner and the mayor for donating their time to the Drug Take Back event this past weekend. He also reminded everyone that Parks & Rec Director Alpers is still taking volunteers for Community Day occurring on May 13th.

Mayor's Update:

- Mayor Brown gave a big thank you to Lilly Johnson and other members from the Franklin Honor Society. She joined them to start the Styrofoam recycling project at the transfer station this past Saturday. They had a full box of Styrofoam from residents.
- This past weekend there was a Jackson Kayaking event and the daughter from the Jackson family was giving free kayak lessons to the local folks and anyone else that came. There was a lot of good local support for that event.
- The Webster Place, out by the Historical Society, is also going to be developed into a veteran's center/campus. Easter Seals, who is making space for this, will hopefully be at Community Day to let everyone know what this will look like.

Agenda Item I.

Approval of Minutes.

Council to consider the minutes of the March 27th, 2023 City Council Workshop meeting, the April 3rd, 2023 City Council meeting and the nonpublic minutes from the April 3rd, 2023 City Council meeting.

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council approve the minutes of the March 27th, 2023 City Council Workshop meeting, the April 3rd, 2023 City Council meeting and the nonpublic minutes from the April 3rd, 2023 City Council. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

Councilor Dzujna read a couple of corrections that had already been sent to the Executive Secretary to amend.

8 in favor; 1 abstention. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item II.

School Board Update.

Superintendent LeGallo gave the following updates:

- **PPS Principal:** LeGallo stated that he was pleased to share that they have hired Jay Lewis as the next Principal of the elementary school. Jay will start on July 1, 2023. He is not new to Franklin, as he served in the past as the Franklin High School Assistant Principal. He has also served as Principal of the Jennie D. Blake School in Hill before working as the Newfound Middle School Principal for 6 years. Jay is currently the Assistant Principal of the Winnisquam High School.
- **Annual Report:** LeGallo shared with the council the 22-23 School District Annual Report. This was distributed electronically to all school and city contacts several weeks ago.

- **Budget Presentation:** They are all set to present their 23-24 budget to the City Council this Wednesday, May 3rd.
- **High School Schedule Public Meeting:** They will be hosting a public meeting on the new High School master schedule this Thursday at 6pm in the High School cafeteria. The schedule reflects their learning from their Graduate work, including the implementation of Tuesday/Thursday collaborative project blocks.
- **Important Dates:** Class Day Parade is on Thursday, June 15th at 12:30pm. High School Graduation is on Friday, June 16th at 6:00pm outside at the High School, weather permitting. 8th Grade Graduation is on Wednesday, June 21st at 6:00pm at the Middle School.

Agenda Item III.

Council to consider Building Permit Proposal for Property on a Private Road (I)

Motion - Councilor Zink moved that the Franklin City Council approve the issuance of a Building Permit for a residential accessory use structure (garage) at 3 Kenwood Ave, Map-Lot 128-404-01, in accordance with RSA 674:41. Seconded by Councilor Webb.

Mayor Brown asked if there was any discussion.

P&Z Director Creighton let the council know that this request is relevant to 3 Kenwood Ave, a private road. If this sounds familiar, it is because the same property came before the City Council in March 2023 for a request to build a house. The request in March was granted, the applicant recorded a "Release of Municipal Liability", and the house is under-construction.

As an afterthought, the applicant has decided they'd also like to build a detached garage. Per the advice of the City Attorney, and in conformance with NH RSA 674:41, the City Council is to vote on each request to build on a private/Class VI Road. As such, the applicant is seeking Council approval to build a garage.

The City's technical departments have reviewed the application and suggest approving the request.

No other discussion ensued.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item IV.

Council to consider Building Permit Proposal for Property on a Private Road (II)

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council approve the issuance of a Building Permit and year-round Certificate of Occupancy for 21 Kenrick Farm Rd, Map-Lot 99-404, 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. Approval is contingent upon any pending conditions set by the Fire Department and Municipal Services

Department, and the conditions set by the Planning Board. Said fully executed agreement is to be recorded at the *Merrimack County Registry of Deeds; the recording and recording fees are the responsibility of the applicant. Recording must be complete before permits can be issued.* Seconded by Councilor Blake.

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

All in favor. Motion PASSED

Agenda Item V.

Council to authorize the City Manager to apply for and accept InvestNH grants and act as the signatory on all related InvestNH matters.

Motion - Councilor Blake moved that the Franklin City Council allow City Manager, Judie Milner, or her designee, to apply for and accept InvestNH grants and act as the signatory on all related InvestNH matters. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

Mayor Brown asked if there was any discussion on this motion.
There was one question that clarified that this would be allowing City Manager Milner to apply for and accept any grant money from InvestNH.
No other discussion ensued.

All in favor. Motion PASSED

Agenda Item VI.

Other Business:

1. Mayor & Council Appointments

Mayor Brown appointed Jeremy Restucci to the Conservation Commission, seat CC5, term of service to September 2025.

Motion – Councilor Dzujna moved that the Franklin City Council accept the resignation of Judith Ackerson from the Supervisors of the Checklist (Ward III), seat SCW31. Seconded by Councilor Zink.

All in favor. Motion PASSED

2. Committee Reports

Councilor Webb reminded the council that there would be a Legislative meeting on May 16th at 530pm at the library. They will be discussing the recount procedure, the code of conduct and charter change suggestions.

Councilor Ribas stated that there will be another Ad Hoc meeting about the City

Manager's evaluation and they looked at the survey questions and still need to decide on how to distribute and reducing the number of questions.

Councilor Starkweather gave a Fire Committee report. Some of the big issues discussed were lack of staffing and getting the pay scale where it needs to be to be competitive with other communities along with replacing equipment, which has lead times of up to 3-4 years.

Councilor Ribas mentioned that they had a Joint Finance Committee meeting looked at revenue streams for a ten-year plan and talked about what would be discussed at the Budget 101 forum that was presented last week.

3. City Manager's Update:

- On Drug take Back Day, which was April 22nd, they collected 169 lbs. of unused medication from people.
- On May 5th the Franklin Honor Society will be doing trash pickup around the city. Milner asked that everyone give a shout out and thank you to them when they see them out.
- Contingent Grant Line Activity – Received \$1,100 for kayak beatification, \$75 for rec scholarships, \$821 was raised at the annual event for Partners in Prevention and \$182.25 was raised from the barbeque at the Drug Take Back event for Partners in Prevention as well. \$1,861.23 was donated for Memorial bench at Legace Beach and \$518.92 is the sex offender compliance grant for the month.
- Trust fund for school funding – \$271.69
- Congratulations: Recently promoted, Captain Keith McNulty, in the fire department; Sean Breem and Tom Hegener in fire for passing the NH physical agility and CPAT exam; Sean Riberty at the transfer station received his CDL-B license; and the Planning & Zoning and Assessing departments that went to 'Right To Know' trainings recently.
- Welcome: Veida Parks, in the police department and also Franklin's newest officer, Jagger Bell.
- Committee meetings – May:
 - Legislative – May 16th at 5:30pm in the library
 - Municipal Services – May 24th at 10:00am at 43 W. Bow Street
- Random Acts of Community – shoutout to Damon and Megan Lewis and the volunteer group that cleaned up Marceau Park. They also purchased seed and reseeded the lawn there.

- Media contacts – Union Leader, Laconia Daily Sun, Concord Monitor and the Boston Globe
- Dog Forfeitures – Over 20% of the dogs in Franklin are currently unlicensed. All dogs need to be licensed by April 30th. In June there will be a late civil fee of \$25per dog license.
- Economic Development Team – Follow Up Dates for questions will be every Thursday for the next few weeks. From 12:00pm – 1:30pm in the leather gallery at Grevior’s Furniture. These dates are May 4th, May 11th, and May 18th. She plans to have some more public forums coming up and asked if everyone could keep the questions coming.
- Budget 101 – This was a very successful public forum. There was around 30 people who attended. She thanked Finance Director Gaudette and Business Administrator Braman for braving that night with her.
- FY2024 Budget Dates – 6pm, City Hall
 - May 3rd – School District FY2024 Budget Presentation
 - May 8th – Municipal Dept FY2024 Budget Presentation (Everything Municipal Services)
 - May 15th – Municipal Dept FY2024 Budget Presentation (Payroll & Benefits, Revenues & non-specific departments)
 - May 22nd – Municipal Dept FY2024 Budget Presentation (All other departments)
 - May 23rd – This is still set up for a cleanup, if the council needs another meeting
- Youth Government 2023 – This is confirmed for Tuesday, May 23rd – May 25th. Everyone can meet in Council Chambers at 9:00am on Tuesday to meet with the students and discuss the roles of each department. May 25th will be the mock city council meeting at the Elks. Please RSVP for that night to Lisa Jones before noon time on May 23rd so that the Elks has a good count for preparing the food.
- City Hall Update – 16 firms came to the mandatory walk through for the RFP. They did ask to have the RFP changed to an RFQ, which was done and is now due on May 12th. The number and finalist should be decided on shortly after that date.
- The Arts Integration weekend starts Friday, May 19th – May 21st. The art students will be downtown and painting a solid color for the crosswalks was discussed. This will be in compliance with DOT standards.
- FY2024 Manager’s Proposed Budget – Milner passed out the FY24 City Manager’s Proposed Budget to the council and will be posted on the website as well.

She stated that it is very important that all councilors contact Senator Innis because the Winnepesauke River Basin program appropriation included a \$1M dollar increase, which affected a portion of this budget for \$400,000 and raised the rate over \$2. She asked the council to contact Senator Innis and ask him to back that appropriation down. This is super critical for the FY24 budget and it will be seen in the manager's proposal. She did under fund the sewer budget.

Mayor Brown asked if there were any questions for Milner.

Councilor Desrochers asked what happened to the \$190,000 that was appropriated for roads. Milner answered saying that there was more than \$190,000 appropriated and it is still sitting and waiting to be spent. They are waiting on quotes to come back so that road repair can begin.

Councilor Zink asked when the \$20M bond proposal would be coming before the council. Milner stated that there will be a few more public forums that she expects should bring this before the council in July for August.

4. Late Items - None

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Jones
Executive Secretary

Dear Mayor Brown and Ward Two Councilors Zink, Ribas, and Desrochers,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed \$20,000,000.00 Tax Cap Breaking Bond that is currently under consideration for approval by the council.

I have several major concerns regarding this bond, including:

1. The inclusion of the Water Park in the bond proposal is troubling, given that at previous City Council Meetings it was Stated that no taxpayer funds would be used for this privately held business. It is unclear why taxpayers should be responsible for paying for this business, especially since the City will not be receiving tax dollars from the organization to repay the bond.
2. Instead of using the bond to repair the old covered Railroad Bridge, I suggest that the City Manager apply for grants that are available for this purpose. As the last covered bridge in the country and a historical landmark, there are likely grants available to fund the necessary repairs. If the City does not have staff available to find these grants, they could work with the school district or an outside organization to locate them.
3. The bond proposal does not specify whether the road repair money is intended for skim coating repairs or for replacing roads down to their bases. Skim repairs are only a short-term solution, lasting one to five years, whereas repairs to the base can last for five to fifteen years. Given the 20-year lifespan of the bond, it is unclear how this item makes sense. Additionally, it is unclear which roads will be repaired under the bond.
4. The cost of the bond proposal would result in a 10% tax increase, or \$2.47 per \$1,000.00 of assessed property value, which would break the City's Tax Cap. It is unclear whether the City plans to cut its existing budget without removing any more of the City's existing services to remain within the tax cap or whether the City plans to increase everyone's taxes 15-20% this year after adding the funds needed to support the existing services. Once the tax cap is broken, there is no going back.

Approving this Bond would result in negative outcomes, including breaking the tax cap, hurting property values for both residential and business properties, and making it harder for those on fixed incomes, low income, and elderly residents to keep their homes. Additionally, it would increase the burden on those who can barely pay their rent for homes/apartments.

Furthermore, approving the Bond could have significant consequences for revitalizing the City of Franklin. It may make the City an undesirable and inconsiderable destination for new residents or businesses to relocate to or to keep those businesses that the City worked hard to attract.

I am concerned about the impact that this bond proposal will have on the City and its residents. As a constituent in Ward 2, I hope that you will consider my concerns and act in the best interest of the City and its residents.

I understand that it may be challenging for me to attend City Council meetings due to several serious illnesses that I am currently dealing with. Therefore, I have asked a citizen of Franklin to pass on my concerns during the public participation portion of the next City Council meeting. I would also like to officially request that you allow them to read this letter without penalizing them for their allotted time to speak their concerns. Alternatively, as my representatives on the council, one of you could read my email during the public participation time so that all councilors and attendees can hear my concerns.

Finally, I hope that you will keep an open mind and consider all viewpoints before making a decision regarding the Bond. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Raymond Yonaitis

59 Freedom Dr

Paul Doucette <pauldoucette@metrocast.net>

To: Olivia Zink <OZink@franklinnh.org>

Sent from for Windows
 Honorable Councilor Olivia Zink,
 Can this please be read into the public comment period. At this evenings meeting.
 Thank You
 Paul Doucette

It intended for the public comment period. Where are the rules saying that it needs to be verified. ?

Sent from for Windows

From:
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 1:35 PM
To:
Subject: Re: OBTAINING GRANTS.

Paul. Thank you for your document. Before I read this into the minutes it will need to be verified. I have forwarded it the appropriate people but may not get it back in time for tonight's meeting. Just wanted you to know.

Jo Brown, Mayor
 City of Franklin

From: Paul Doucette <pauldoucette@metrocast.net>
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 12:36:17 PM
To: Mayor <Mayor@franklinnh.org>
Subject: OBTAINING GRANTS.

Honorable Mayor Brown,
 Please enter into the minutes and read the following into the public participation portions of this evening City Council Meeting. Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email.
 Thank You

Paul Doucette Ward II

The City of Franklin cannot prove ownership of the land and railroads above the Sanborn Bridge. The title has numerous clouds and defects, whereby others can claim interest. The City does have deeds. However those deeds have defects, were improperly executed and/or without records of authorization. There are a series of cooperate transfers whereby there are no references or records of the board of directors granting the rights to transfer title. Therefore anyone or any entity that had previous ownership rights can claim those rights. The Town of Northfield used the rights of eminent domain to obtain and clear title of the railroad right of way. The State of NH did the same with the with the Boston and Maine Railroad ownership and rights of way. Franklin needs to do the same utilizing the right of

eminent domain to obtain clear title of the railroad land and the lands formerly owned by the Public Service Company of NH. . Why is this important? To obtain grants most will require proof of 100% ownership and clear title rights.

Christopher Shaheen, ward 2
mill City Park - If they do end up moving to
the next phases and more infrastructure is
built, concert venue, campground, climbing wall
and it's paid by through a bond would
those be city property or owed by mill city park
if it's owned by mill city park is the city
taxpayers leasing it to them. I think if
more than 10% of municipal bond goes to
a private organization than it has to
be a "private activity bond" which has
special rules.

Camp BPW

April 15, 2023

Franklin's Business Professional Women

Franklin Business and Professional Women (BPW) welcomes women from all walks of life to explore their potential. We help connect women of all ages and skill levels to programs to enhance leadership and professional abilities. BPW recognizes that true strength lies in our ability to empower one another.

One program that the BPW hosts is:

Camp BPW

Kristine Boland, Christine Dzujna and Terri Lemire, Co-Chairs
Teamed up with Zonta of Concord

The 4-day camp for our high school young women provided the following:

Day 1: Learning how to write a resume, ace the interview and dress for an interview – Provided by Zonta from Concord

Day 2: Learning about Financials by envisioning their life, evaluating what they enjoy doing, and learning how to use a checkbook. - Provided by BPW, Franklin

Day 3: Finding what they value, applying value categories, and discussing what is most important.

Day 4: Making lifestyle choices by going through Life Unplugged where students assume the age of 25 and visit 16 different reality booths, learning self-defense with Chief Goldstein, hearing about becoming a police officer with Patrol Officer Tracy and performing community service.

Camp BPW
April 15, 2023

Franklin's Business Professional Women
Kristine Boland, Christine Dzujna and Terri Lemire, Co-Chairs

Zonta from Concord

Franklin High School

Superintendent – Dan LeGallo
Board Chair – Tim Down
Principal – David Levesque
School Councilor – Lynn Anderson
Melissa Fraley – Guidance Staff
Jamie Walters – Climate Specialist
Pam McDonald and Traci Tucker – Front Office Staff
Students - 22 signed up.

Community Support

Rob Sargent – Library
Valerie Blake – City Councilor
George Dzujna – City Councilor
Nancy Marceau – Trip Center
Krystal Alpers – Bessie Rowell
Brenda Petelle – Food Service
Chief Goldstein – Franklin Police Department
Officer Tracy and Miller – Franklin Police Department
Donna and Rob Cohen
Peabody Place Auxiliary
Partners in Prevention
Lori Seog -Concord Hospital