



City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 10, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.
Franklin High School Cafeteria

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

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 Webb, followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of veteran Robert Britt, US Airforce, led by Councilor Desrochers.

Public Hearings:

Resolution 07-24 accepting and appropriating a federal Department of Transportation grant for a Central Street Action Plan.

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

There was no discussion on this hearing.

The public hearing on Resolution 07-24 closed at 6:03 p.m.

Resolution 08-24 accepting and appropriating a federal Department of Safety grant for Franklin PD Highway Safety.

The public hearing opened at 6:03 p.m.

There was no discussion on this hearing.

The public hearing on Resolution 08-24 closed at 6:03 p.m.

Before going onto the next public hearing, Milner stated that Councilor Dzujna was on the phone for this meeting and all votes will be via roll call.

Public Hearing on the Trestle Bridge Options.

The public hearing opened at 6:05 p.m.

P&Z Director Creighton did start off by explaining that the deed and plan were attached to the city council packet and it was also provided at the meeting for the public to view. This was to clear up rumors that have been going around that the bridge is not owned by the city. Trestle

City Council APPROVED Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2023

Page 2 of 19

Bridge is, in fact, owned by the city of Franklin, as the state passed ownership over to the city in the 1970's.

There were many comments from the public on this subject. The majority of the public was in favor of option 2, which was to replace the Trestle Bridge in kind.

There were letters from constituents that were unable to attend the meeting read by Councilor Dzujna, Councilor Zink, and Councilor Blake. These letters are attached to the end of the minutes.

The public hearing on trestle Bridge options closed at 7:31 p.m.

Legislative Update:

There was no update at this time.

Comments from the Public:

Mayor Brown reminded everyone that persons wishing to address the council may speak for a maximum of three minutes and no more than thirty minutes will be devoted to public commentary.

Public comments opened at 7:31 p.m.

Many residents approached the council with comments and they are outlined below:

- Resident Steve Rayno asked the council to look into hydroelectric power and focus on clean air in Franklin.
- There were a few residents that spoke about the customer service for KRT Appraisals when they called about their home assessments. The company was very rude when answering phone calls and not helpful to the residents that had questions for them.
- A question came up about the downtown lights that were still out. Mayor Brown let everyone know that the company is still waiting on a part to be available. It's not a common part that needs to be replaced and is on backorder.
- A concern for residents having no parking that live on Elkins Street was voiced. There was a suggestion made about having the city reserve some spaces for residents on this street so that they weren't being fined constantly.
- Ward II Moderator, Tammy Feener, stated that she would prefer to see the primary election location be at the Bessie Rowell gymnasium.

Public comments closed at 8:12 p.m.

Mayor Brown called a recess at 8:12 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:24 p.m.

Coalition Coordinator, Stephanie Wolff, had some updates for Franklin Partners in Prevention:

- On September 16-21, she attended the final week of CADCA's National Coalition Academy. During the course of this training, she authored six documents using data from this community that will be used to guide the coalition's efforts moving forward. Those six

documents include: A Community Needs Assessment, A Logic Model, a Communication Plan, an Evaluation Plan, a Strategic and Action Plan and a Sustainability Plan. These products will be submitted to CADCA for review before she attends the formal graduation in Washington D.C. on January 30th. She stated that if any of these documents are of interest, to please let her know and she will be happy to share them.

- October 21st is the Franklin Fall Festival! There are 5 Soup Teams registered so far and she is looking forward to a successful event. She is looking for volunteers for the Annual Soup Fest, so if anyone is interested, please reach out to her.
- Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated from October 22nd - 31st to promote drug-free living. Franklin High School and Middle School will be celebrated with Door Decorating competitions, spirit weeks and lunch room trivia. You can show your support of this Nationwide Campaign by wearing a red Ribbons during this week!
- Drug Take Back Day will be occurring on Saturday, October 28th from 10am-2pm at the Franklin CVS. Please bring any unneeded or expired prescription medications to be properly disposed of. Please note that they will not be accepting needles during this take back day. If you are unable to make the event, please know there is a 24 hour drop box located at the Franklin Police Department.
- As mentioned at the last city council meeting, Franklin Partners in Prevention has begun the process of exploring Fiscal agencies with neighboring organizations. They have approached three agencies who have all expressed interest. The coalition will be meeting in the next coming weeks to choose two agencies to have more in depth conversations with before choosing which agencies will provide the best fit.

City Council Acknowledgement:

Councilor Dzujna thanked City Clerk Stanyan and everyone in her office and all volunteers that helped out during the election.

Councilor Desrochers thanked Municipal Services for doing such a great job in the city with filling potholes.

Councilor Ribas thanked the 20 citizens who participated in a strategic plan process on a Saturday morning

Councilor Blake thanked Fire Chief Foss for the invitation to attend the memorial service on Sunday. It was a great opportunity to thank those who take care of us, the firefighters, their families and the auxiliary.

Mayor's Update:

City Council APPROVED Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2023

Page 4 of 19

- On September 20th there were 300 of us at the groundbreaking for the Veterans Center Campus at Webster Place. There were a lot of speakers and Governor Sununu was there.
- On September 24th her and Councilor Blake participated in the Bridge Walk for Recovery, which had an excellent turnout.
- On September 28th she had the chance to participate in a civics class in Mr. DeLange's class. She stated that she had incredible questions from the young students. It was a very fun opportunity and she gave kudos to the teacher and his approach.
- On September 29th the police department held an award ceremony. A lot of it tied to the horrible homicide earlier in the year. Franklin's men and women in blue and the dispatchers did a first class, number one job. It was phenomenal.
- Maaz's Chicken opened on September 30th. The chicken is fantastic and they have a wonderful menu. The opening was a great event. Please check them out.

Agenda Item I.

Canvass of the Votes from the October 3, 2023 City Election.

Motion – Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council accept the return of votes and declare the following elected:

CITY OF FRANKLIN – WARD 1 CITY ELECTION RESULTS OCTOBER 3, 2023

Total Voters on the Checklist- 1675
Ballots Cast- 412
Voter Turnout- 25%

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Mayor- Two Years | |
| Jo Brown | 157 |
| Desiree McLaughlin | 236 |
| Samuel Peter McLaughlin | 14 |
| Over Votes | 0 |
| Under Votes | 4 |
| Write-In's | 1 |
| Council- Three Years | |
| James Chandler | 148 |
| Timothy Johnston | 237 |
| Over Votes | 0 |
| Under Votes | 21 |
| Write-In's | 6 |
| School Board-Three Years | |
| Myla Marie Danforth | 326 |
| Over Votes | 0 |
| Under Votes | 52 |
| Write-In's | C. Martin 29 Scatter 5 |
| Supervisor of Checklist-Six Years | |
| Christine Dzujna | 336 |
| Over Vote | 0 |
| Under Votes | 66 |
| Write-In's | Scatter 10 |

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:


Signature of City Clerk

City Council APPROVED Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2023

Page 5 of 19

CITY OF FRANKLIN – WARD IICITY ELECTION RESULTS
OCTOBER 3, 2023Total Voters on the Checklist- 1301
Ballots Cast- 347
Voter Turnout- 27%**Mayor- Two Years**

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Jo Brown | 102 |
| Desiree McLaughlin | 229 |
| Samuel Peter McLaughlin | 6 |
| Over Votes | 0 |
| Under Votes | 1 |
| Write-In's | Scatter 9 |

Council- Three Years

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Susan Hallett Cook | 187 |
| Over Votes | 0 |
| Under Votes | 44 |
| Write-In's | Tom Boyce 110 |
| Write-In's | Scatter 6 |

School Board-Three Years

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Elizabeth Cote | 264 |
| Over Votes | 0 |
| Under Votes | 62 |
| Write-In's | Scatter 21 |

Supervisor of Checklist-Six Years

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Laurie Cass | 269 |
| Over Vote | 0 |
| Under Votes | 71 |
| Write-In's | 7 |

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:


Signature of City Clerk**CITY OF FRANKLIN – WARD III**CITY ELECTION RESULTS
OCTOBER 3, 2023Total Voters on the Checklist-1675
Ballots Cast- 449
Voter Turnout- 27%**Mayor- Two Years**

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Jo Brown | 165 |
| Desiree McLaughlin | 265 |
| Samuel Peter McLaughlin | 12 |
| Over Votes | 7 |
| Under Votes | 0 |
| Write-In's | 0 |

Council- Three Years

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Gerald Bennett | 34 |
| Bradley J. Camley | 29 |
| Michael Lombardo | 166 |
| Edward R. Prive | 200 |
| Over Votes | 1 |
| Under Votes | 14 |
| Write-In's | Scatter 5 |

School Board-Three Years

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Jane H. Cote | 362 |
| Over Votes | 0 |
| Under Votes | 75 |
| Write-In's | Scatter 12 |

Supervisor of Checklist-Four Years

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Gerard Desrochers | 372 |
| Over Vote | 0 |
| Under Votes | 75 |
| Write-In's | Scatter 2 |

Supervisor of Checklist-Six Years

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Daniel Darling | 374 |
| Over Vote | 1 |
| Under Votes | 72 |
| Write-In's | Scatter 2 |

Ward Clerk-One Year

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Debbie Gibbs | 373 |
| Over Vote | 0 |
| Under Votes | 74 |
| Write-In's | Scatter 2 |

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:


Signature of City Clerk

Seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

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 II.

Presentation from KRT with updates on statistical appraisals.

Tax Assessor, Mark Stetson, stated that KRT Appraisals was not able to attend this meeting to give a presentation. He went over some key points about this company and how property assessments are done:

- The state requires ALL municipalities to be assessed every 5 years. The last one was done in 2018.
- KRT Appraisals was hired for this year.
- Sales on Webster Lake alone indicated that property values increased by 150%.
- Values are still going up and continuing to appreciate everywhere.
- KRT was the ONLY RFP response that the city received. This company was also approved by the state (DOR).
- Typically, the effect on property taxes on a revaluation are as follows: 1/3 will go up, 1/3 will stay the same, and 1/3 will go down.

Milner also reminded the public that the taxes will still all be under the tax cap.

Agenda Item III.

Approval of Minutes.

Council to consider the minutes of the September 5th, 2023 City Council meeting and the nonpublic minutes from the September 5th, 2023 City Council meeting.

Motion – Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council approve the minutes of September 5th, 2023 City Council meeting and the nonpublic minutes from the September 5th, 2023 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Blake.

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 Dzujna | <u>yes</u> | Councilor Trudel | <u>abstained</u> |
| Councilor Chandler | <u>yes</u> | Councilor Ribas | <u>yes</u> | Councilor Zink | <u>yes</u> |

8 in favor; 1 abstention. Motion PASSED

Agenda Item IV.

School Board Update

Superintendent LeGallo's updates are as follows:

- **Hiring Update:** They have hired 2 more teachers since his last report. A 5th grade math teacher and an 8th grade science teacher. They are also anticipating hiring a high school math teacher to start in November, so they are making good progress.
- **Teacher's Contract:** The FEA and School Board negotiations team have a tentative agreement on a contract. The School Board will be voting on the contract at their meeting next Monday. He expects that upon approval it would be sent to the council for their November City Council meeting.
- **Sportsmanship Award:** LeGallo was pleased to let everyone know that Franklin High school won the Division 4 Sportsmanship Banner for the second straight year. Kudos to their Athletic Director, Danny Sylvester, and his coaches, players and parents for their excellent sportsmanship and behavior during their athletic events.

Agenda Item V.

Council to consider Resolution 07-24 accepting and appropriating a federal Department of Transportation grant for a Central Street Action Plan.

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council adopt Resolution #07-24 accepting and appropriating a federal grant from Dept of Transportation Safe Streets for All program in the amount of \$80,000 for the purpose of creating an Action Plan for Central Street and authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents relating to the grant. Seconded by Councilor Blake.

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

Milner gave a refresher about this grant requiring a charette from the city. The first step for this

grant is to hire a contractor to walk the city through the plan.

RESOLUTION #07-24

A Resolution Relating to a Supplemental Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2024.

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 2024 which began July 1, 2023, **and**;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire understands the City received federal grant funds through the Department of Transportation Safe Streets for All program in the amount of \$80,000 for the development of an action plan for Central Street, **and**;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire recognizes the need to improve safety of the Central Street corridor for all users, **and**;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire wishes to accept and appropriate the Safe Street for All grant for the action plan, **Now**,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that at the scheduled meeting of the City Council on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 6pm the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire does hereby adopt resolution #07-24 accepting the Safe Streets for All grant through the federal Department of Transportation in the amount of \$80,000, authorizing the City Manager to execute all grant related documents and authorizing a non-lapsing appropriation through an increase in FY2024 revenues:

Federal Grant Acct. No. 01-0-000-33110-000 – Eighty Thousand dollars (\$80,000)

And an increase in FY2024 expenditure accounts,

Economic Development Other Professional Services Acct No. 01-6-511-40390-000 – Eighty Thousand dollars (\$80,000).

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 VI.

Council to consider Resolution 08-24 accepting and appropriating a federal Department of Safety grant for Franklin PD Highway Safety.

Motion - Councilor Zink moved that the Franklin City Council adopt Resolution #08-24, to accept and appropriate grant funds in the amount of \$6,600 from the Office of Highway Safety for the Franklin Police Department. Seconded by Councilor Ribas.

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

RESOLUTION #08-24

A Resolution Relating to a Supplemental Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2024.

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 2024 which began July 1, 2023, **and;**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire understands the City received federal grant funds through the New Hampshire Department of Safety, Office of Highway Safety in the amount of \$6,600 for highway safety directed patrols, **and;**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire wishes to conduct these directed patrols which included speed, DUI, seatbelt and distracted driving enforcement for the safety of Franklin residents, **and;**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire recognizes the required match of \$1,650 is appropriated in the FY2024 police department budget, **and;**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire wishes to accept and appropriate the Highway Safety grant for directed patrols, **Now,**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that at the scheduled meeting of the City Council on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 6pm the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire does hereby adopt resolution #08-24 accepting the Office of Highway Safety grant through the New Hampshire Department of Safety in the amount of \$6,600, authorizing the City Manager to execute all grant related documents and authorizing a non-lapsing appropriation through an increase in FY2024 revenues:

Federal Grant - Police Acct. No. 01-2-103-33111-000 – Six Thousand Six Hundred dollars (\$6,600)

And an increase in FY2024 expenditure account,

Patrol Overtime Acct No. 01-2-103-40140-000 – Six Thousand Six Hundred dollars (\$6,600)

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Councilor Blake yes Councilor Desrochers yes Councilor Starkweather yes

Councilor Webb yes Councilor Dzujna yes Councilor Trudel yes

Councilor Chandler yes Councilor Ribas yes Councilor Zink yes

All in favor. Motion PASSED

Agenda Item VII.

Council to consider Trestle Bridge options.

Milner stated that they are a year out from breaking ground on this. They would then see how far out from funding the state would be. The city is allowed to back out, if needed.

There was a long discussion by the council on this decision and recognized that the majority of constituents were in favor of option 2.

Motion - Councilor Zink moved that the Franklin City Council adopt option 2, to replace the Trestle Bridge in kind. Seconded by Councilor Chandler.

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Councilor Blake yes Councilor Desrochers yes Councilor Starkweather yes

Councilor Webb no Councilor Dzujna yes Councilor Trudel yes

Councilor Chandler yes Councilor Ribas yes Councilor Zink yes

8 in favor; 1 opposed. Motion PASSED

Agenda Item VIII.

Council to consider setting a public hearing on Resolution 09-24 appropriating \$374,129 to the Franklin School District fiscal year 2024 budget and appropriating \$150,000 to the Franklin School District for the Portrait of a Graduate grant from the Barr.

Motion - Councilor Trudel moved that the Franklin City Council set a public hearing at 6pm on November 6, 2023 for Resolution 09-24 appropriating \$374,129 to the Franklin School District

fiscal year 2024 budget and appropriating \$150,000 to the Franklin School District for the Portrait of a Graduate grant from the Barr Foundation. Seconded by Councilor Webb.

Mayor Brown read the resolution to the public:

RESOLUTION # 09-24

A Resolution Granting Authority to Accept and Appropriate \$374,129 of Additional Adequacy Aid and Fund Balance Funding and \$150,000 in Grant Funding for the Franklin School District for Fiscal Year 2024.

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 additional adequacy aid of \$201,809 from the final updated calculation of ADM; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire recognizes that the school district has identified additional year end fund balance of \$172,320; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire recognizes that the school district will receive a grant award of \$150,000 entitled Portrait of a Graduate from the Barr Foundation; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin would like to appropriate an additional \$374,129 to preserve potential fund balance from the 2024 year to be carried over to the 2025 fiscal year. Due to the challenges and uncertainties regarding the adequacy funding formula and the expiration of the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) grants, these funds could help support the next budget cycle. And City Council of the City of Franklin would like to appropriate \$150,000 of the Portrait of a Graduate grant funding from the Barr Foundation; **Now,**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *that at a regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council on November 6, 2023, the City Council of Franklin New Hampshire does hereby vote to adopt resolution #09-24 to formally accept and appropriate \$524,129 of additional revenues for the Franklin School District as follows:*

An Increase in Revenues:

Adequacy Education Aid – Two Hundred One Thousand, Eight Hundred Nine Dollars (\$201,809)

Use of Fund Balance – One Hundred Seventy-Two Thousand, Three Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$172,320)

Grant Revenue – Portrait of a Graduate – One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000),

An Increase in Expenditures:

School District Expenditures – Three Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand, One Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars (\$374,129)

Grant Expenditure – Portrait of a Graduate - One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000)

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 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 IX.

Council to consider setting a public hearing on Resolution 10-24 accepting and appropriating a federal grant in the amount of \$1,923,850 for the environmental clean-up of the Stanley Mill site.

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council set a public hearing date for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 6, 2023, regarding Resolution #10-24, accepting and appropriating the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Cleanup Grant for the Stanley Mill site in the amount of \$1,923,850 and authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents relating to the grant. Seconded by Councilor Blake.

Mayor Brown read the resolution to the public:

RESOLUTION #10-24

A Resolution Relating to a Supplemental Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2024.

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 2024 which began July 1, 2023, **and;**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire understands the Stanley Mill property (Map/Lot 117-142) is an extensive environmental clean-up project, **and;**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire understands the City received federal grant funds through the Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Program in the amount of \$1,923,850 for the purposes of hazard mitigation and environmental clean-up of the Stanley Mill Property, **and**;

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that at the scheduled meeting of the City Council on Monday, November 6, 2023 at 6pm the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire does hereby adopt resolution #10-24 accepting the Brownfield Program grant through the federal Environmental Protection Agency in the amount of \$1,923,850 grant, authorizing the City Manager to execute all grant related documents and authorizing a non-lapsing appropriation through an increase in FY2024 revenues:

Federal Grant Brownfield Acct. No. 01-0-000-33110-413 – One Million Nine Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty dollars (\$1,923,850)

And an increase in FY2024 expenditure accounts,

Nuisance Abatement Brownfield Acct No. 01-1-302-40491-413 – One Million Nine Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty dollars (\$1,923,850)

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 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 X.

Council to consider changing polling location for Ward II.

Milner stated that as the council is aware, Soldier's Memorial Hall (City Hall) currently does not have an assembly permit and should not be used for elections going forward until such permit is obtained. While not likely to occur for city elections, state and federal elections will likely exceed 99 persons (requiring an assembly permit) in the building at one time, especially, during busy

times during the voting day. Therefore, the elections starting in 2024 will need to be relocated to a new location until City Hall is running at full capacity. Due to all the schools in Franklin being closed on election days and Ward 3 currently voting at the Franklin Middle School, the High School Cafeteria, located in Ward 2, will have availability with no students present for security reasons. Superintendent LeGallo is onboard with this solution.

The Proulx Center has several code issues and was also issued a notice of hazard prior to City Hall. Also, Bessie Rowell is not a great option because of the childcare that will be needed there.

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council change the Ward 2 polling location to the Franklin High School Cafeteria. Seconded by Councilor Blake.

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

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|--------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
| Councilor Blake | <u>yes</u> | Councilor Desrochers | <u>no</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>no</u> |

7 in favor; 2 opposed. Motion PASSED

Agenda Item XI.

Council to consider the lease agreement for parking at the Lofts at Shepards Block.

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council rescinds the parking easement dated May 21, 2020 with PermaCityLife for 361 Central Street parking in the municipally owned Franklin Street parking lot and approves the parking lease with the Lofts at Shepard Block Condominium 12 municipal parking spaces in the Franklin Street Parking Lot located at tax map 117-161-00, and to authorize City Manager Milner to duly execute the lease on behalf of the city. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

Milner stated that there is a handout of a hand drawn plan at each councilors seat, which is exhibit A. This was missing in the packets. This has also been attached to the end of the minutes.

This lease is consistent with two other leases done for parking spaces. This will incur no extra charges for the city.

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------------|-----------|------------------------|------------|
| Councilor Blake | <u>yes</u> | Councilor Desrochers | <u>no</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>abstained</u> |

7 in favor; 1 opposed; 1 abstention. Motion PASSED

Agenda Item XII.

Council to consider deeding back property taken by tax deed.

Motion - Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council deed 9 Trail Street Map/Lot #078-006-009 back to John C. Jones Jr. Seconded by Councilor Blake.

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 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 XIII.

Council to consider specific land to be put into conservation, led by Councilor Desrochers.

Councilor Desrochers stated that he would like to put the following parcels into conservation so that it is not buildable:

Map-Lot = Acres

121-402 = 39 acres – Riverfront property

121-404 = 22 acres – Riverfront property

103-010 = 3.4 acres – Land for Targeteers

123-403.1 = 16.64 acres – Currently leased by Mr. Fife for growing corn

123-403 = 52.38 acres - Currently leased by Mr. Fife for growing corn

Milner stated that she would like to look into the next steps for this process. It will need a public hearing and may need to go through the Conservation Commission first. She would also like to have the Planning Board review this as well.

Agenda Item XIV.

Other Business:

1. Mayor & Council Appointments

Motion – Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council reappoint Kathy Fuller to the Capital Improvements Plan Committee, seat CI8, term of service to October, accept the resignation of Marsha Palazzolo from the Library Board of Trustees, seat LT3, effective immediately, and appoint Pam Desrochers to the Library Board of Trustees, seat LT3, to fulfill the remaining term of service to January 2025. Seconded by Councilor Zink.

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

2. Committee Reports

Mayor Brown mentioned that there will be a business fair and provided a flyer for information and registration to the councilors and public. This flyer is attached to the end of the minutes. This will be held on October 18th at the Lodge of elks at 6 p.m. She also mentioned that she will be bringing back the City Spirit Program on October 16th at Peabody Place at 5:30 p.m.

Councilor Blake stated the Parks & Rec Committee met on September 21st and they reviewed the programs for fall and winter. All of the programs are full. The building has finally been updated with sensor lights throughout as well, which will be a huge cost savings. Recreation is also working with St. Mary's Church to use their gymnasium going forward.

Councilor Chandler stated that the Police Committee met on September 21st. Chief Goldstein is using a head hunter to find officers. There will also be an e-bike used around

the city. The PD is still waiting for funds from Senator Shaheen on the body cams.

Councilor Dzujna let the council know that there will be an MSD Committee meeting on October 16th at 10 a.m. at the library.

Councilor Ribas stated that at the Finance Committee meeting they discussed audits coming through and they found a new software to make the process easier.

Councilor Webb let everyone know that the Legislative Committee meeting will be on October 11th at 4 p.m. at the library. They will be discussing welfare guidelines, short-term rentals in the city, solar exemptions, follow-up on the charter review and a follow-up on 91A changes.

3. City Manager's Update

- Contingent Grant Line Activity – Received \$377.40 sex offender compliance grant, \$100 in donations from Genevieve Smith to the fire station, and \$4,326 in donations from the Pemmi Youth Center to the Parks & Rec department.
- Trust fund for school funding – \$272.55
- Shout Out: McCaffrey family for donating a metal bench and two picnic tables at the Lagasse Beach in memory of Mike McCaffrey.
- Welcome: Eric Tucker, the newest firefighter AEMT, who is coming from Loudon.
- Youth Government: Shout out to Mr. DeLange for youth government and the civics class program that is now a quarter long class in the school district. There is a good group of students for this and it is now required to do the mock city council meeting in order to get their credit for that class. She reminded the council that the mock council meeting is scheduled at the Franklin Lodge of Elks on November 2nd at 6:00 PM. Lisa will be looking for an RSVP to see how many people will be attending.
- Budget Reports for this month are for FY24 and will be available online tomorrow.
- Myth Buster/Social Media Busters: Someone did us a favor of putting up the Holiday Stroll online, which is appreciated. However, the Festival of Trees will not be in City Hall this year. It will be at the UU. Also, yes, our cruisers were delivered for BOTH 2023's budget and 2024's budget last Friday.
- Congratulations: Sean Breen from the fire department for receiving his AEMT license.
- Shout out: For the police awards ceremony that she attended. She thanked the Lodge of Elks for hosting that ceremony. The Meritorious Service Medal was given to Sergeant Daniel Ball, Detective Sergeant Kent Matthews, Officer Brendan Merchant, Officer Spencer Marvin, Officer Ainsley Bruno, and Alexander PD Chief David Suckling. The Medal of Valor

was given to Sergeant Joseph Guerrero, Sergeant Forrest Walker, Sergeant John Francis and Bristol PD Officer Nick Kelly. The Franklin Police Accommodation Medal was given to Aubrianna Kelly.

- Committee Meetings – October:
 - MSD – 10/16 @ 10am in the library
 - Joint Finance – 10/12 @ 5:30pm at the SAU
 - Legislative – 10/11 @ 4pm in the library
- Media contacts – Every media outlet has been in contact about the Veterans Campus opening.
- City letter to Representatives and Senator regarding the State mandated voting machines was sent out last week.
- Stanley Mill update – We have received and appropriated two of the three grants thus far. (\$200,000 from DES and \$418,000 from InvestNH) Tonight a public hearing was set for the big grant from EPA in the amount of \$1,923,850. We are waiting for some work that EPA required and then we are going to ask if we can start the procurement process for the demo.
- City Hall Update – Continue to have contractors in doing their piece of the scope for the work. Last week the structural engineers were in.
- Cumberland Farms – They are fully permitted by the city of Franklin. They are permitted as a go from the Department of Environmental Services. They have not broken ground and we have not heard from them on why they have not. The city will continue to try and get that answer and move that along to the public as well.
- Solar at Mojalaki Update – This case was heard at the Supreme Court level in February of 2023, but Milner has not been given a decision as of yet.
- Workshop – Monday, 10/23 @ 6pm at the Lodge of Elks. Moving forward, all of the city council meetings will be held at the Lodge of Elks location.
- Grant Submissions – The city did submit through the NH Department of Info Technology for a cybersecurity grant for MFA tokens, which is a multifactor authentication. It would move us to a .gov domain and provide two security courses for the city of Franklin.
- Broadband Study Update – The city did not receive any RFP's; however, she did receive some notification from their consultant that Comcast is interested in coming to the city of Franklin. This will provide a bit of needed competition.
- Soup/Fall Fest is October 21st. The soup fest is from 2pm – 5pm.
- Drug Take Back Day – October 28th from 10am – 2pm at CVS.

- First Responders Day is also on October 28th. Please say thank you to our first responders on that day.
- City Spirit program – This will kickoff on 10/16 @ 5:30pm at Peabody Place.
- Business Fair – is 10/18 from 6pm – 8pm at the Lodge of Elks.
- Halloween – Scheduled for 10/31 from 4pm – 7pm.

Councilor Blake stated that she finds the City Manager's update to be very informative and would like to know if it could be added as an earlier agenda item regularly so that the majority of people can hear it. This was agreed upon.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Starkweather and seconded by Councilor Ribas.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Jones
Executive Secretary

George Dzujna

From: linda holstein <lhstronge@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 7, 2023 8:12 PM
To: George Dzujna
Subject: Trestle

Hi George,

Just wanted to weigh in about the bridge. I don't believe it should be taken down which may not even be on the table now. I'm in favor of whichever option will last/hold up the longest. The financial difference doesn't seem to be significant, so let's fix it so the city can move on to the next thing that needs to be fixed/done.

Please let other ward one reps know my opinion. Thank you,

Linda Holstein Stronge

George Dzujna

From: Wanda Bourgeois <wgb5322@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 30, 2023 10:08 PM
To: George Dzujna
Subject: Trestle

As a citizen of Franklin & registered voter I am letting you know I would like it known. I would like the Trestle restored or at least reinforced. Please do not destroy any part of this historic piece of history.

Wanda Bourgeois

George Dzujna

From: Zarne Whiting <wzarne@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 1, 2023 7:21 PM
To: George Dzujna
Subject: Re: No build and stabilize. This is the option I support

The subject line is my message!

Sent from my iPad

> On Oct 1, 2023, at 6:35 PM, George Dzujna <Gdzujna@franklinnh.org> wrote:
>
> Hello Zarne, I was away for a wedding in CT and just got back. Your email is empty. Can you resend?
>
> Thanks, George
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Zarne Whiting <wzarne@yahoo.com>
> Sent: Saturday, September 30, 2023 9:59 AM
> To: George Dzujna <Gdzujna@franklinnh.org>
> Subject: No build and stabilize
>
>
>
> Sent from my iPad

George Dzujna

From: Raymond Turgeon <rayturgeon@metrocast.net>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 1:04 PM
To: George Dzujna
Subject: Trestle Bridge

Hi George,

I know that there will be a public meeting at the High School to discuss the Trestle Bridge on October tenth. I do not like to attend these types of meetings. I do want to share my opinion regarding the Trestle Bridge. I believe that the primary reason the city is in this situation is because the bridge was not maintained. Why would the city want to refurbish this bridge and add a pedestrian walkway across the Winnepesaukee River? I may be wrong but I do not see it as a longstanding "tourist attraction." Funds would have to be available to maintain the bridge so that the same situation does not repeat itself in ten, fifteen, twenty years after the restoration is completed. There will always be something more important than to maintain the bridge. Funds have not been available to even maintain the roads. I say take it down and provide a clear view of the river and not have to worry about maintaining it. Let's not burden future generations with the same issue.

Thanks George.

Raymond

From: Donna Tully <donna@tullyre.com>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 9:53 AM
To: cmsmailer@civicplus.com; Ted Starkweather; George Dzujna; Jay Chandler
Subject: Re: Trestle Bridge Options

I am in support of preserving the Trestle Bridge with the Rehabilitate Trestle option at a cost of \$1,073,663.71.

Thank you,

Donna M. Tully
Resident, Ward 1

On Mon, Oct 2, 2023 at 9:33 AM Franklin NH <cmsmailer@civicplus.com> wrote:

Trestle Bridge Options

There will be a public hearing on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 6pm in the High School to make a decision on the Trestle Bridge.

Please take a look at the options/numbers below ([or click here](#)) and let the council know your thoughts/questions/comments on this topic at the meeting.

Thank you!



[Read more](#)

This is an automatic message from Franklin NH. Please do not reply to this message.
[You can unsubscribe here.](#)

Honorable Mayor & Councilors,

As we will not be able to attend tonight's meeting regarding the final disposition of the Trestle Bridge, we would like to offer our opinion. While preservation of historic structures is a commendable endeavor, the Council now finds itself needing to make decisions to better the quality of life in this great City. Despite the lure of grant funding, the project costs to rebuild or rehabilitate are staggering figures for this community to absorb. As such, we request that you vote to allocate funding to remove the bridge. We feel that the limited funds available for Capital Projects will be better spent on the roadway infrastructure and the restoration of the Opera House ensuring a better Franklin for the next generation.

Respectfully,
Greg & Erin Meagher
91 Elkins St, Franklin, NH 03235

I have a question which maybe you can get an answer at meeting about Trestle. How long is stabilization expected to last and how long is restoration expected to last.

My selection for Trestle would be restoration but reality is stabilization
I would still like an answer to my question if possible.
Thanks
Wanda Jackson

Hi Oliva, Vince & Bob,

I will not be able to attend the meeting next week on the Trestle bridge and want to give you my opinion on this. I would like to see the council move forward with making this a new pedestrian bridge and stabilize trestle. Accept the grant and create something beautiful for the city.

After getting a very informative email from Bob, I realize I misunderstood the chart that was sent out. Is the Rehabilitate Trestle making it into a pedestrian bridge? This is what I would like. To see the Trestle Bridge stay and utilize it as a pedestrian bridge. I know this is probably the most expensive option but I feel in the long run it will pay for itself.

Thanks again and sorry for the confusion. Thanks Bob for making my this a little clearer to me.

Thank you,
LeAnne Fifield

Hi Olivia,

I'm emailing you today to voice my concerns about the Trestle by Trestle View Park. It is my view that this trestle isn't vital to the interests of our residents. It serves no practical purpose and provides no value to our town or the residents.

It seems to me that the only practical reason a trestle would need to be built or restored is if we intended on having trains cross it. And if in that case, it should be a railroad company paying for it. In my opinion, this is not a role our city government should be filling.

For those reasons I think it would be a huge mistake to spend any taxpayer money on this. This money would be better spent on our roads, school, municipal services, or just saved in order to lower our taxes.

I understand much of the costs could be covered by state grants. This is still taxpayer money though, and I wouldn't feel good about our city spending this money, even if it was coming (mostly) out of someone else's pocket.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Brent Sandstrom, Ward 2

Read by George

As a citizen of Franklin & registered voter I am letting you know I would like it known. I would like the Trestle restored or at least reinforced. Please do not destroy any part of this historic piece of history.

Wanda Bourgeois

Emails but they spoke at the public hearing

Hello councilor Zink,

My wife and I live in ward 2 on Evans Ct, we are both leaning towards the 2nd option but we do have a few question.

1. How would the city be funding our respsible portion of the project?
2. Does our resposible portion for the project have to be payed upfront all at once, or can it be made in payments over time durring the life span of the project?
3. If option #2 is chosen for the project will any of the existing stone work be incorporated into the final design of the project?

Thank for your time.

Scott and Samantha Godbois.

Good evening,

I wanted to make my thoughts known regarding the decision on how to proceed with the Trestle. Hopefully, many others will avail themselves of this opportunity.

The council packet from September had a chart on page 45 (attached) that showed five options. I believe that each of the first three options makes sense and could be funded over the period of

time that the work is in progress from a combination of rainy day funds, general funds and potential grants if you can ensure clear title (free from potential claims).

Thank you,

Regards,
Al

Al Warner
Franklin, NH
Ward 3

To me it only makes sense to maximize the grant money available by choosing the 5.3 million option and bonding the 1.07 million.
Jim Jones

Hello, my name is Stu Smith, first time writing a council member. I live in ward 3 on mark rd. I'm hoping that ownership of the trestle can be cleared up prior to a vote. I support fixing the bridge.

Thank you.

Existing Location

Dumpster Grease bin

proposed
LASB
U2

proposed
LASB
U1

LASB
U4
Existing

LASB
U4
Existing

Exhibit A

Trash Bin Area

REAR

LASB
U3
Existing

LASB
U3
Existing

LASB
U5
Existing

LASB
U5
Existing

LASB
U6
Existing

LASB
U6
Existing

Auerback Building

Shepard Building

Franklin Street

CITY OF FRANKLIN BUSINESS FAIR

Wednesday October 18

Franklin Lodge of Elks

6:00pm --8:30pm.



The City of Franklin and Franklin Falls Business

Group are hosting a Business Fair. We are inviting all businesses to complete this form providing information that can be shared with other businesses and our attendees. We hope that this will be providing the opportunity for all business owners to network with each other in a way that can build an engaged business community. *The Lakes Region Community College* and staff

will be presenting information about their programs. Joseph Doiron, the State Director of Workforce Development, will be on hand to provide information about assistance programs helping students move forward with careers as well as information for local citizens looking to return to the workforce, especially those who may be facing barriers to employment.

Please complete the form. Return it **no later than October 10th.**

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me:

mayor@franklinnh.org or (210) 872-1925

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact: _____

Telephone/Mobile Phone: _____

Please give a brief description of your business: _____

Do you plan on attending the Business Fair (*Please circle one*): Yes No
(*If no, please complete the form so your information is available to attendees*)

Are you able to offer an internship? Yes No

Are you able to offer a job shadow? Yes No

Logistics: Do you need a table? Yes No

Electricity? Yes No

PLEASE RETURN (OR SCAN TO EMAIL) TO:

Jo Brown, Mayor

316 Central St, Franklin NH. 03235

mayor@franklinnh.org