



**City Council Special Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2019 – 6:00 PM
Franklin City Hall**

Mayor Giunta called the meeting to order in Council Chambers at 6:02 PM

City Council in attendance:

Mayor Tony Giunta, Councilor Jo Brown, Councilor Scott Clarenbach, Councilor Bob Desrochers, Councilor George Dzujna, Councilor Heather Moquin, Councilor Vince Ribas, Councilor Karen Testerman, Councilor Paul Trudel.

Others in attendance:

City Manager Judie Milner

Absent:

None

Mayor Giunta welcomed everyone to the candidate's interview/ choice for the ward 3 city council seat to replace Councilor Steve Barton.

Salute to the flag was led by City Manager Judie Milner

Mayor Giunta opened the Special Meeting with Agenda Item 1 at 6:02 PM

Mayor Giunta laid out the ground rules- each candidate will have 3 minutes to address the council and tell them why they want to be a councilor. Then we will open up the forum to have the council ask questions to the group or an individual candidate. Once done with questioning, each name will be called out and councilors will be asked to vote. The voting will be done by raising of hands. Applicants do not have to be nominated and seconded; applicants have already been nominated by submitting their profiles and nominating themselves. The council will be asked to decide on each one of the applicants individually. Then whoever gets the majority of votes will be the new councilor. Questions?

Councilor Clarenbach- Just clarifying, that when the mayor calls out each candidate name; each councilor is to raise their hand on who they want to vote for?

Mayor Giunta- Yes, I will call out each name individually and with a show of hands we will count the votes and move onto the next name.

Councilor Brown- If a candidate gets the majority of votes before going through all applicants does voting end?

Mayor Giunta- Yes

Mayor Giunta has a list of applicants in alphabetical order by last name created by the City Manager, this is the order of how we are going to begin introductions.

Agenda Item I

Review of applicants for the open Ward 3 City Council Seat

Applicant #1- April Bunker, 9 Lady Bug Lane

She has lived in Franklin for 14.5 yrs. She lives with family on Lady Bug Lane built in 2004. She has concerns with the school system but stayed in Franklin and her family has spoken out when they have felt it is necessary to try to make the school system better. Her family has assisted with school sports and volunteering in various groups and at church to help the community. She tries to make herself available to help with various problems with a group that she is interested in the city. She doesn't want to be someone who just sits at home and complains about something, she likes to try to help fix the problems. She has seen a lot of great things happen since the spring when we had the difficult budget hearings last budget season. She doesn't think that there is anyone on the council that thinks that everything should be funded in the city. She thinks that all critical services in our city should be funded. She feels that the city had challenges with revenue and was glad to see the city come together to find solutions. She was really glad to be here at this past January Council Meeting to approve the resolution to make the school system whole. She has seen some great things with scholarships and the trust fund be set up for donations to the school budget. She feels that was created by collaboration between many of our existing city councilors. She is also happy to see that our Fire Department and Police Department are funded. She thinks that we have great things going on with economic development. She was pleased to hear Tony's speech last week of all of the various businesses that are willing to come into Franklin and help us keep growing to become the city that we all want it to be. She is excited by the things that go on here on Central Street, she feels that it is the central hub of the city and it is what people see when they drive through Franklin. Franklin Studio, Central Sweets and Franklin Savings Bank are great pieces of Franklin and she is encouraged to see things keep growing. She wants to make herself available to help with that. Currently she works for the State as Program Manager for New Hampshire Liquor Commission. As Program Manager manages projects; she manages big projects and multiple projects at the same time. She is currently managing a large technology project for the commission; it is a 30-million-dollar project and is the largest project of its kind that the State has ever had. She has held this job for the last 2 ½ years. Prior to that she worked in the legal department for the Liquor Commission, she has a legal background. She feels that she is a resourceful person and when a need is made known she tries to help fill it. She is an excellent collaborator and she doesn't think that anyone in the room or on the Council could ever say that she has ever treated them unkindly. She tries not to attack people's personal views simply because they

have a different opinion than her. She feels that she is a collaborator and that there is always a middle ground to get to a solution and problems can be solved by working together. She is willing to serve and she understands that there are six of them that are willing to serve as councilor. She just wants what is best for the city and she will make herself available if the council decides that she is the person to fill that position.

Applicant #2- Robert R. Hubble, 61 Orchard Street

He likes to be called Roy, lived here since 1995. He has seen a lot of changes here, some good and some not so good. He has run his own business since he moved here in heating and air conditioning. He is well known in the community, and he is known for what he stands for. He perseveres through difficult situations because it is not always easy to do the hard things, he is dedicated and doesn't give up. He always thinks outside the box and he finds answers when he thinks outside the box. He is open to help in any way. He has never run for any position before or even thought about running for City Council or School Board but he felt a calling to help the city and he sees things that need to change in Franklin. He sees a lot of things that are good going on with economic development. He is very happy to see what is going on with the business development and he sees lots of good things coming. His wife owns a restaurant in downtown and he sees businesses moving into downtown which is very important for the health of our city to generate more tax revenue. He likes to work with others, and he isn't bent on anything in particular. If it's good for the people he is here for the people and here to serve. He wants to do what is good for the entire city because he sees a need here. He is open and willing and has a desire to help out.

Applicant #3- Kathleen Lauer- Rago, 53 Maple Square

She moved here in December 1998 from Texas. She and her family followed their pastor here. She has an accounting degree and CPA license. She met Mayor Giunta in 2002 at a Christmas party. He had asked her to join the Zoning Board and she did in 2003. It was way out of her comfort zone but she actually really enjoyed it and was on the board for several years. During that time, she had also met Mayor Merrifield and he asked her to sit on the School Board to finish out a term and she sat on the School Board for 6-months. She described her experience on the board as tumultuous because we had a difficult superintendent. Those who are familiar with that time also know that it was a very challenging time. After that she got involved with the non-profit organizations in the city. She sat on The Tiny Twisters' Board and on the Board for the Franklin Opera House and became engaged in the community that way. She then ran for state office in 2010 and she was a legislator from 2011-2012. She served on the House Education Committee, which was very eye opening for her because she homeschooled her kids when they first moved here and continued to homeschool for about 10 years. She got the opportunity to learn about how education is financed at the state level. In 2012 she decided not to run for office and she went to work for the Children's Scholarship Fund and she had been

there 6 years up until this fall. She worked quite a bit with parents to try to find a good fit for their children. She is here today because she sees unique opportunity with the city and she wants to help. She has seen things, especially with Councilor Brown and she really wants to get an understanding of how education is funded in the city. She feels that Councilor Brown is really making an effort to make the school transparent and accountable and she thinks that that is huge. She knows that that has been an issue for 20 years. She thinks that the LEAN audit going on within the city is very exciting and feels it's the next step for the city. This is going to help make the City and the School as efficient as possible for the taxpayers. She is a strong proponent of the tax cap and is thankful for it. She thanked the council for their time and their consideration.

Applicant #4- Edward (Ed) Prive, 103 Terrace Road

He moved here 13 years ago, one of his sons graduated from Franklin High School and now he is in the Air National Guard as a staff sergeant. His other son Noah who was in the Army for 8 years, he was on his second tour to Afghanistan and was wounded. He is now on 90% disability. He moved here in 2006 because of affordability, city services and friendly people. He volunteers at the Merrimack County Juvenile Diversion Program, he volunteers on the Franklin Drug Task Force. When he is asked to serve, he will step up to serve to help the city even if it is for something other than the council seat. He was in the Marine Corps; that taught him a valuable lesson: you show up, you do your job, cut out the crap. We have a unique opportunity, we can all get together and do something for the City of Franklin or we can all sit in our corners and pout. He chooses the other. We need to get together, solve the problems and move on because there is always going to be problems in the City of Franklin. Every municipality has a problem or two. He believes in a strong Police Department, without it we're dead. He believes in a strong Fire Department because they come rescue us when things go wrong. But he also believes in a strong school. He said that we need the schools to be strong, we need the schools to be safe. We also need to keep what we have in our schools, don't throw it away. But it needs to be held accountable. We have to know where the dollars and cents are going, and he is strongly in favor of that. He wants to see where his pennies go, because the pennies add up into dollars and dollars add up into more things. His taxes went up and that is the price you pay if you want to build on it. If he is selected or not tonight, he wants the council to know that he will always be here, he is not going anywhere. His wife is the Grant Administrator for Dartmouth Medical School and she volunteered when they released new taxes up at the middle school, but then they did away with that. He and his wife love to volunteer. He doesn't want to be paid and if the council position is a paid position, he would give the money back to the city. He is retired, he has time on his hands and he wants to give back to his city, his county and his country he feels he owes it to them.

Applicant #5- Leigh A. Webb, 10 Orchard Street

Since everyone already knows who he is, he is going to keep this brief. He is interested in being on the city council to bring an open mind. He would make sure that on any issue we would look into all aspects of every issue. He can guarantee you that he will do his homework, come prepared and be ready to ask the appropriate questions. He and his wife moved here to Franklin because they wanted to, they found a house that they loved and now they love the community. He feels that this is a way of giving back some more. Those of you who know him, know that he has been actively involved since he moved here to live full time. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Applicant #6- James C. Wells, 99 Munroe Street

He moved here 7 or 8 years ago so it feels like a short time, but he has served on the city council for 3 of those years. He has also served on the Planning Board in Franklin and the Zoning Board of Appeals in Franklin. He has about 20 years experience serving in other communities. He has served on the Budget Committee, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment in other towns too. He is also Chairman of the Board of Directors at Health First. He thinks that there are only two people on the council that he hasn't worked with and he is anxious to do it again.

Councilor questions-

Councilor Desrochers has 3 questions for each applicant-

- 1. what are your thoughts on school funding?**
- 2. What are your thoughts on the tax cap?**
- 3. How do you feel about a Claremont III law suit?**

Applicant #1- April Bunker

April stated that she thinks that everyone here knows how she feels about school funding. It is very important to have a vibrant school, and to have a vibrant community. However, at the same time she thinks that there needs to be absolute transparency in all budgets, the school budget, and the municipal budget. She knows that there is a history with school funding in Franklin and that transparency hasn't always been there. That is vital to give people confidence that we aren't overfunding anything. She attended the education forum that Attorney Volinsky held in Pittsfield. She said that she had the opportunity to speak with Attorney Volinsky and she told us that the conversation that they had was that he said that a Claremont III wouldn't work out very well for Franklin because of the tax cap. She supports the tax cap. She thinks that it is a good idea because it keeps things under control. During the spring budget hearings, she was in support of having a temporary one time break of the tax cap in order to make the schools whole. She thought that it was a good idea that would have gotten us to a point where we were

forced to come to the table and come up with a solution. She felt that year after year we are kicking the can down the road and that is not sustainable. She thinks that everyone here on the council knows that we need to get to the same place and we keep finding these one-time sources of funding and it doesn't work out well for us in the end. We just keep having to come back and have all of this conflict and it's just a bad idea. She thought that that would have been a way to force us all to the table to really find a solution. She thinks that LEAN initiative is a great initiative. She has actually been involved in the LEAN process at the state level and she took a certified public manager course and they all became certified in LEAN in order to do that.

Applicant #5- Leigh A. Webb

As far as school funding is concerned with the restraints in the city, they have done a remarkable job finding the money that went towards the school that wasn't originally intended to go to the school but we found ways to bolster the portion that the city gives to the schools. The problem is really with the state for the adequacy formula. He doesn't know how anyone at the state level can determine reducing the educational funding when all costs go up, he will never understand that. He thinks that we need to put pressure on the elected officials for the adequacy formula and for the short term to try to stop the bleeding from the stabilization money. He feels that the tax cap works. As far as Claremont III, he is not sure of the expense involved to get that underway and if the results are going to be what we expect for what we need. He can't say if he's for or against it but doesn't like prolonged legal wranglings. Claremont, I didn't seem to solve the problem so he's not sure if Claremont III will.

Applicant #3- Kathleen Lauer- Rago

As far as school funding goes, she has concerns with transparency and accountability. In 2010 the school district budget was 14.5 million and in 2018 it was 18.5 million and we have 400 less students, that is a real concern to her. She supports the tax cap, she thinks it's crucial that we keep it in place, just for the very example that her taxes have gone up \$75.00 per month and we are becoming a retirement community. A lot of retirees rely on that steady number for their taxes. As far as Claremont III she agrees with Attorney Volinsky that we would have to break the tax cap and she doesn't think that we need to have a Claremont III. If you look at the spending in education since Claremont I, it has skyrocketed. Since that time our results of all stats have stayed the same. The State Legislature had a committee that worked on it last year for the state funding and they were trying to find some solutions, she knows that the committee presented it and she thinks that every council member should have gotten a copy of it. She doesn't know where that report is but she thinks that it is definitely worth looking at. She does not think that the state should fund empty seats, but at the same time; she thinks that we need to look into how we can do this. She knows that Bedford gets a ton, Windham gets a ton. We have issues with ours because of our property tax, she thinks that we need to stay open minded and do what we can do.

Applicant #4- Edward (Ed) Prive

If we don't have a strong school, we aren't going to have anything. And if we want to have the young families come here and bring their kids with them and have them grow in the system, there is no easy answer for that. You don't want to raise taxes and you want a nice school at the end of the street here, so there has to be a give and take and he knows that that is going to step on people's toes but, instead of buying a new \$80,000 dump truck for the city department, he thinks that the old one could have been rebuilt and used over again. It is cheaper to rebuild a vehicle than it is to buy a brand new one, but that's his own personal opinion. He had a truck that had 300,000 miles on it before he hit a moose up in Grafton, he didn't want a new pickup, so he kept it alive. But that is his own opinion. He doesn't know much about Claremont III. He lived in Claremont, went to high school there and graduated from Claremont. He thinks it's a nice town over there now, but their taxes are through the roof. They have a nice center over there and they have a nice high school and a field, but he feels that they paid the price for it. You can't have both there has to be a compromise. He agrees with what Kathy Rago said about accountability. The superintendent, this is one thing that will probably shoot him in the foot, but when he said that he had to cut teachers, you didn't hear him saying that he was going to cut his salary or his working staff. Those 8 people who are in his staff, you never heard any of them saying that they were going to lose money; they stayed when the teachers went bye-bye. What you see in front of you is what you get, he is not a politician he just brings the facts.

Applicant #6- James C. Wells

Starting with the tax cap as he has said before the tax cap can be good thing and it can be a bad thing. When we have expenses that escalate way beyond the cost of living, there needs to be some method to make up for it. However, that doesn't mean that we need to throw out the tax cap. It means that we just need to figure out a better way of doing things. As far as the school system goes, it definitely needs help and he's not sure what help it needs. It is not just something that we should throw money at, it needs to work internally. All school systems do, he's not just throwing rocks at Franklin. As far as funding goes, he is not an attorney but he has asked a couple of people if there is a supreme court decision on how the school funding is supposed to be done for schools. He doesn't understand why someone hasn't raised their hand yet and said "enforce it". He doesn't understand why we need to go through another lawsuit. He feels that it is definitely an issue and it is not going to be solved here tonight, next week or next month. He feels that it's going to take a lot of work.

Applicant #2- Robert (Roy) R. Hubble

He is definitely a proponent of the tax cap, like he said he is an out of the box thinker, practical and logical thinker. He doesn't like to see high in the sky. He likes to see the situation and see where things can be changed, because in just education itself, we shortfall our children by not teaching them basic things like what do you do with the money that you earn and how do you

make yourself self-sufficient. Teaching that kind of stuff, he knows can be an added benefit that doesn't cost anything if you have volunteers, people like himself who would be willing to do that and help in that way. He doesn't know anything about Claremont lawsuit, but he does know that he has run a successful business and he knows how to budget his money. He knows when he can spend it and when he can't. We all need to live within our means, but we have to look for creative ways to fund things for our children. Our children are the future of this City and if we don't believe that, then we are really taking a narrow look at it and he thinks that that is a mistake.

Councilor questions-

Councilor Brown had a direct question to April Bunker, as we know it was a contentious budget this last time, city council went through a lot with the debates but also with all of the marches.

What would you have done differently?

Applicant #1- April Bunker

She thinks that one thing that would have helped would have been the resolution that was brought up on a one-time basis to break the tax cap. She said that it would have amounted to a cup of coffee to the tax payers to try to fund the school. She thought that would be something that would cause the people as I am who are in support of the tax cap to say "ok, this is very serious now, we need to come to the table and we need to find some real solutions for this". That is what she thought would have been good for that one time. She thinks that the LEAN initiative is probably where it's at to get to a real solution, where we are going to find where there is real duplicity in our budgets, where things can be consolidated. There absolutely has to be places where the school and the municipality have duplicity in their budgets and there has to be a way to combine those things. She thinks that the council does a great job creative with the one-time fixes. She thinks that this LEAN initiative is a way to help us get to a final solution where we know that we will have funding year after year. She thinks that the state needs to be held accountable. She agrees with Roy in what he said about state funding that it is important and the state needs to takes responsibility. She stated that there have been 4 or 5 governors since the Claremont decision and not one of them has been held in contempt because they are not funding education. She spoke with Councilor Volinsky about that and he said that a Claremont III isn't going to be the solution for that because the same thing will happen, the Supreme Court will say yes that the state is responsible to fund education and it will continue to be ignored. To her the cost benefit is not there, she was encouraged by the Governor's state of the union speech where he talked about education funding being important. The letter that Tim Dow/ the School Board and the Mayor wrote to the Governor hit all of the points that she thinks is important. When looking for a place to live, one of the first things you look at is how good the school system is. Schools are important and even retirees come up and say that

schools are important, they are a vital part of the community. She thinks that the LEAN initiative is where we are going to find our solution.

Councilor Dzujna wanted to personally thank all of the applicants for putting their names in to be a councilor. He feels the council has a tough decision here, we have 6 people here and we have a tough decision. He thinks that everyone has some great ideas. Another thing he wanted to mention was that even if you don't get picked you can still run for office in October, the same position will be open again. The two questions that he'd like to ask to everyone is:

- 1. If you were a city councilor what would you like to accomplish? There are a lot of great things going on in Franklin, all you have to do is go downtown and just look around.**
- 2. What would you do or how would you change the branding of Franklin? We're in the process of changing our branding because of the White-Water Park. What would you do or what do you think is important to change that brand?**

Applicant #3- Kathleen Lauer- Rago

As far as what she would like to accomplish as a city councilor, she doesn't think one city councilor can do anything. But she thinks as a group we can do quite a bit. She thinks that this LEAN audit is the first step. She would like to really see the city explode, and what she means by that is for 20 years we've been talking about the Franklin renaissance and it is only now coming into fruition. She thinks that that is quite a wonderful thing. She thinks as a city councilor she would be in tuned to just keep moving forward with that. We have to grow the tax base, that is a huge piece of it. As far as branding, she has had two friends move here and part of it was because of the tax cap. She thinks that that is just a fact and it's important to people. As far as rebranding what she has been telling people is not just the tax cap, but it's also the lake that we have, we've got the trails and we're going to have the White-Water Park. It's a huge recreational piece and for her branding that piece and the tax cap, there are two pieces.

Applicant #1- April Bunker

She thinks that we're off to a great start as to rebranding the city. She thinks that rebranding as an outdoor recreation destination is the most exciting part since she's lived here. She loves the idea of Mill City Park, the camping possibilities. She thinks that we have great things already here, she's always said since they have lived here "She can't believe that more people don't know that Franklin Falls Dam is there and the trails that surround that". The Veterans Ski Area and the Winnepesaukee River Trail, there is a lot available for people to do. She thinks that what the city council is doing with the Mill City Park is exciting. As a councilor she is excited about being involved in the LEAN initiative and as she has said she has experience with the LEAN and she is excited to get involved in that. She knows that there are solutions to be found. She is excited to add collaboration to the council, because she is good at that and you could ask

anyone at the liquor commission that she is in the position that she is in there because she's really good at collaborating with people and finding solutions.

Applicant #4- Edward (Ed) Prive

The one thing is to make it whole, make it great. His pet peeve is when you get up to the flower shop up here, that little red light the speed limit is 20 mph and it doesn't change until you get over here to main street. He said that you want people to slow down as they are coming into the city so they can see the business, they can see the revitalization, and they feel safe to cross the street downtown. People are trying to cross the street. Just tonight he was trying to cross the street and he almost nearly got run over. Safety, without that we don't have a community; which means a strong Police Department, and a strong Fire Department. He said that the city council are intelligent people, they know what is good and what isn't good and they know what is going to work. Without it we are nothing. We need the school, it's never going away and we all need to work together on that. He said that it falls on everyone in the audience and every single one of us in this city; not just the councilors. He said that we have to want to come together and work together. He said we all know what's going on in Washington, DC isn't working. Here is where the buck stops right here in Franklin, Merrimack County and the State of NH. He thinks honestly if he had the power from 3pm in the afternoon to 9pm at night on a Friday night that EZ Pass toll house, Franklin should get all of the receipts for that one day. He said he may sound nuts but he thinks its an idea that should force the governor to his seat. He thinks that if we all march down there to protest about something, that would be a legitimate protest. He thinks that we should go down to Concord, people could take one day out of their lives to go down and make Franklin great. He said that he would like to give it a whirl. He thinks that we need to stick together and let them know that we're not going away. We're going to be here, but we have to want to do it. He said that if that isn't a civics lesson, then he doesn't know what is.

Applicant #5- Leigh A. Webb

What he would want to accomplish as a city councilor is simply continuing the momentum that has already been established by prior councils in the past, in terms of our economic revitalization, in terms of altering the negative image that Franklin acquired and has been suffering from for years. As far as branding, he said we all know if you are students of Franklin's history and people know who he is, he said that when the last mill closed in 1984 this city like so many others in New England and the eastern seaboard lost its identity as a mill town and it has been struggling ever since. He thinks that Kathy touched on this and it's all been at the forefront of our minds with the creation of Mill City Park, he'd like to believe that he had a tiny part in the naming of Mill City Park instead of just Winnepesaukee Park because of the heritage of this city. That's the caveat right there. He said whether we rebrand or whether we continue our economic revitalization, he doesn't ever want to lose the cite of the heritage of what

brought us to this point. We were a mill city and we should be proud of the fact that we were a mill city. We never would have existed as Franklin without the mills and he doesn't want us to forget that. He is very happy that they named the White-Water Park the Mill City Park, that the caveat that we remember is our heritage. He thinks that it is wonderful that we are beginning to get an identity now that revolves around recreation, so that we aren't thought of as just a bedroom community, we're a bedroom community that offers opportunities.

Applicant #6- James C. Wells

He said back in his previous life he traveled a lot, he has been almost to every state in the country, several times. One thing that he can say for this area it is the place that he's always wanted to come home to. There is no other place in this world that he'd rather live than the Lakes region of New Hampshire. He doesn't see anything wrong with Franklin becoming an aging community, he said that this is an aging state. He said that if we do it properly he thinks that it will work well. There was a charette a few years ago about aging in Franklin and he hasn't seen much come of that unfortunately. He thinks that it is something that should be looked at on a regular basis. Recreation in the Lakes region is beyond imagination and there isn't much left in the area that needs to be done recreation wise. He thinks that it's a great place to live and there is no reason why his people shouldn't live in Franklin, it's in the Lakes Region. It's a wonderful place to live.

Applicant #2- Robert (Roy) R. Hubble

He likes to think about where he grew up in upper state NY- it is a very similar place as here with lots of lakes and lots of fun things to do. He grew up in a family and that is one of the things that he is challenged by here in this community because there is a lot of out of wedlock children who are suffering in the way that that ends up not being a strong unit. He said that the family unit is something that he is bound and determined to help people to understand that if you have a good strong family unit you will have a good strong community and you will have a good strong country. If we do not invest time and energy into teaching people how he grew up with no alcoholism in his house, no drugs. He feels very unique and that there are a lot of other people who have suffered from a lack of that. He wants to do that for the community as a whole and he wants to give them outlets like theater and arts that are an outlet for children if they don't do sports. He wants them to experience creative things because as you create, you are thinking outside of your normal view of what you see in the five senses. He said that a lot of people think that if they can't feel it, see it, hear it, touch it, or taste it then it doesn't exist. He doesn't think that that is a good view to have in his mind, he thinks that we should be looking at finding solutions to lots of situations and that is where he would want to be to help in that area. He would like to spearhead a campaign to do outreach to help people who maybe looking for help in those areas. He thinks that that would change the reflection by what we have by other communities. Another thing that he thinks we should do is the people who are successful in this

city, people that you enjoy being around, we need to make a list of these great people in Franklin. Have them write the positive things that Franklin has to offer, why they enjoy living here and what they are doing to help change the minds of other people. He looks around the community and he doesn't see all of that negativity all of the time, he sees lots of good people, that have lived here for a long time. If we want it to change, then we need to change the minds of the people by doing that. He thinks that is what he would want to commit to.

Councilor Trudell - As a quick snapshot, he's sure that a lot of people are aware of all of the time and effort that has been put forth so far into the LEAN project. He knows that a few of the applicants have touched on it and some of them haven't. But he wanted everyone to know that the council has put a lot of time into this and he would like to thank Richard Ellert for his time that he has donated to the city to kick this project off. He has 3 questions for all of the candidates and it has to do with that is going on in the city and what our focus has been for probably the last 3 or 4 months.

1. Are you in favor or do you agree with the vision and mission statement as it is currently written?

2. Are you in favor of or against the Water Park/ Mill City Park?

3. Are you in favor or against the LEAN project and would you continue to support it?

The continued support isn't quite as important as the in favor of or against the 3 questions he has just mentioned. You can say yes or no or you can expand on it however you wish.

Applicant #3- Kathleen Lauer- Rago

She said that she has read the mission and vision statement and she supports them both. She's lived here for 20 years and doesn't plan on leaving, so yes Franklin for a lifetime would be our motto as well. As far as the vision she's already kind of touched upon recreation and supporting businesses and doing it in an efficient way, she supports that as well. She wants to see the city continue on with the LEAN audit and she strongly suggests that the council gets the School district to do the LEAN audit as well, she thinks that would be huge. She is also absolutely in favor of the Water Park.

Applicant #4- Edward (Ed) Prive

He supports the Water Park. He thinks that you can have recreation but without building industrial up at the Industrial Park to keep people here, have them spend money here and grow the tax base, it's great to have a water park he thinks it's the perfect idea for that piece of property beside the river but you need the strong industry, people who are going to stay here, buy here and not want to leave. He thinks that the water park people will come in spend a few dollars and race up and down the streets and then leave. He thinks that we need people who are going to buy property here and stay here and they will invest in us for the long term. He is in favor of the LEAN process, being in the marine corps he has learned to go with nothing and

make it work. He feels that there is a point when that doesn't work where you can only get so far down the road to LEAN and mean and you have to be thoughtful in that area. We have to be cautious and we have to hold accountability to the school board and superintendent's office, part of it- it all wraps into one. He thinks that it's not just one single thing, we point to this and that but it's got to be more than that, it's got to be all together and everyone has to come together. We have to all get along for things to work.

Applicant #1- April Bunker

She is in support of the mission and vision statement. She thinks that they represent what we want to reflect of Franklin, she thinks that they are great. She thinks that the Mill City Park is one of the most exciting things she's heard since she's moved to Franklin and she disagrees a little with Ed on the people who come here for Mill City Park will see how beautiful it is here and it will make them want to move to this area. She thinks that it is a draw for people to move here as well as a draw for revenue, she thinks it's great. Regarding the LEAN process she has already spoken to the fact that it is very important. She does think that it needs to be both the school system and the municipality. She doesn't think it can be one, she doesn't think that that is going to help us at all if it is not both, she thinks it has to be. She knows that it has gotten started and she thinks that is great and she is excited to keep that going. She also would like to say that it is less about being LEAN in our budgets and more about finding efficiencies. She said that is the important part, that you are finding ways to run things efficiently, on the school side, on the municipal side; there are always ways to make things more efficient.

Applicant #5- Leigh A. Webb

He thinks that the mission statement is fluid and constantly evolving. Once you put a mission statement down on paper and commit to it, you think about other things that could have been added to it. He thinks that it should always be fluid. As far as the LEAN process he thinks that anything that advances us forward and is continually building on positive aspects of Franklin is all to the good. He thinks we need to do more than talk about things and act on them is a positive thing. He thinks that the Mill City Park is a wonderful idea to bring more interest to Franklin and hopes it incorporates a little bit of its history, so that people understand where we once came so as we move forward, they can appreciate the history.

Applicant #2- Robert (Roy) R. Hubble

He has a personal mission statement that is that we were put on this earth to be a benefit to one another, not to be a pain in the rear end of each other. As he looks at our mission statement and all of that he thinks that anything that is going to bring people here to see what this community has to offer is all for the good. He speaks very positively about this city and he has fallen in love with this city, he doesn't have any desire to move or to change where he is living. He's been to a lot of places over the country and he always comes back here and says

“this is a great place to live, you have the babbling brooks and the mountains.” The more that we can do to bring people here, to have them see what we have to offer, he thinks that would be wonderful. He applauds all of the effort that is going into revitalizing the community and the history as Leigh spoke about is also very important to him. He wants to make sure that we don’t lose the mill buildings, that they don’t go away. He saw in Texas where they just plowed down the Rice Hotel and they got rid of it. It was a beautiful building, but they wanted to build a skyscraper. He thinks that they could have done other things instead of what they did. He thinks that the history is absolutely important in this community.

Applicant #6- James C. Wells

He echoes Leigh’s comment on the mission statement being fluid. He said that none of that stuff should be permanent, it needs to get better every day. He has an issue with Mill City Park, that’s no secret he doesn’t understand how it could possibly be sustainable and knows the city cannot afford to take it over. He would like to see some facts about the sustainability of the water park. He would hate to think that the city would have to go in there to pick up trash and police it. He’d like to see that all come together before any serious decisions are made. Other than that, he wants to see the city move forward.

Councilor Brown had a direct question for Applicant #3- Kathy Rago: Just a clarification, and she’s been a great support to her on her committee. During the legislative session prior to the election, they were talking about funding and Jo was not there but she had heard that Kathy supported fully funding the schools, but now she’s saying in favor of tax cap. Jo sees that that is kind of a contradiction and she’s hoping that Kathy can clarify that.

Applicant #3- Kathleen Lauer- Rago

She would be glad to; she said that she never actually said to fully fund the schools. What she said was that she could understand where Tim Dow was coming from because when she sat in Jo’s committee meeting when Tony Schinella with the Department of Education, he compared Franklin to comparable sized towns and school districts and what she saw was that yes, the school district in Franklin was completely opposite from what it was in a lot of other communities as far as city versus school. So, she got where Tim was coming from. She also said later in that evening that she had concerns that we have lost 400 students in an 8-year window and our budget was the same. She later found out this past summer that the budget is now 18.5 million, she thought that it was still 14.5 million at the time of the forum. In 2010 we were at 14.5 million and at 2017 or 2018 we were at 18.5 million and almost 400 students down; that was a real concern of hers. She couldn’t see throwing more money when there is no accountability or transparency at the school district at this time. She trusts that this LEAN audit is going to happen and we are going to be able to see that. She doesn’t mean to be harsh about it, but she sent her youngest to a charter school about 7 years ago and when they started looking at moving him to a charter school, she went to the Special Education Director at the

School District and she asked them to tell her how much it costs the school district to educate her son who has special needs. A week went by and it was just crickets, so those of you who know her, know that she tends to press in when she wants information and she's not getting it. She went back to them and she asked them again and they told her that they talked to their attorney and their attorney told them that they didn't have to give her that number. To her there is a problem with transparency and accountability at the school district. She hopes that that clears up her position.

Councilor Moquin- she wanted to echo what Councilor Dzujna had stated; she appreciates all the people for applying for this position. As people know we are coming out of an election where we had some uncontested races and she thought that was a little disappointing so she is so grateful to see so much interest in this position. She thinks that we really have 6 qualified candidates which is amazing. She has a question to ask the group:

In one word if you could state a skill or a trait that you have that makes you the best compliment to the council?

It was brought up that just one person cannot accomplish much and it really needs to be a team effort and she thinks that that is what they are working on the council so, what skill or trait is it that you have that you think is most important to mention to become part of the council.

Applicant #5- Leigh A. Webb

Diligent or diligence

Applicant #1- April Bunker

Collaboration

Applicant #3- Kathleen Lauer- Rago

Experience

Applicant #4- Edward (Ed) Prive

Team- can't save lives in the marine corps

Applicant #2- Robert (Roy) R. Hubble

Integrity

Applicant #6- James C. Wells

Experience

Councilor Dzujna- During our last budget cycle with the school there were things that came up about us reverting back to a town from a city.

As a question to the group: What are your thoughts about this?

Applicant #5- Leigh A. Webb

He was always told you're not supposed to answer a question with a question but wonders why that was raised, what is behind the question?

Councilor Dzujna- He said that there really isn't anything behind it but it seemed like people think that they can give more money to the school if we were a town. They think that they could give better services if we were a town rather than a city.

Applicant #5- Leigh A. Webb

He said that he's not sure he believes that. We've been a city for over 100 years and it's worked fairly well. So, he doesn't think that reverting back to a town form of government would accomplish whoever stated that would want to have accomplished. He thinks that we can work together very efficiently and very effectively as a City with a City Council and Mayor.

Applicant #6- James C. Wells

City and towns are 2 very different forms of government. There are pros and cons to both of them. He doesn't see the need to change. There are problems that are going to exist whether it's a city or a town and nothing is going to change in that matter. People think that if we were a town, they would have more say in the school budget. For what he's seen many people do not participate in the school budget meetings, so basically the school budget gets what they want. Not that he thinks that is wrong but he doesn't see much difference in either or one being much better than the other.

Applicant #1- April Bunker

She thinks what was behind that discussion back during budget hearings was the thought that we offer a lot of services and possibly if we were a town maybe services could be changed and we wouldn't have to fund things. If there were revenue problems that may be one way to solve it. She thinks that we have this great little saying that Franklin is the smallest city in New Hampshire and she thinks that that is kind of a tag line, she likes it and she thinks that people think that as a town people may be able to vote on things like a budget and to make sure it's what everyone wants rather than what is presented by the City Council. By her being involved in that this past spring with the school, those are the things that she heard. Whether that is fact or not she would need to research that further. She doesn't know the big difference between being a town versus a city, she thinks that we should stay as a city.

Applicant #5- Leigh A. Webb

He would also like to add that if people want a greater voice by becoming a town again, he would say why then do we only have a 12-14 % voter turnout for our city elections? If they want a greater voice, they need to come to the polls in greater numbers.

Applicant #3- Kathleen Lauer- Rago

She doesn't have enough knowledge of what the difference is between a city and town and what benefit it would be from one or the other. We've been a city for over 100 years, so it doesn't seem to be an issue. She doesn't want to give an uneducated guess.

Applicant #4- Edward (Ed) Prive

Economics of it, if you change to a town you have more money for your School, your Police Department, your Fire Department, your roads. If you stay a city from what he just heard you have less money because you have to have more services. So, this is a civics lesson, young people need to be here. Economically if we changed to a town and we ended up with more money, common sense would say you'd want to change it. But it would mean that we would change our structure of our government. If he is told right, it wouldn't be the way it is now with a council. He doesn't know all of the facts.

Applicant #2- Robert (Roy) R. Hubble

Everyone who is on the city council with the exception of appointments is voted on by the people. If we are represented by the people for the city, he doesn't see a benefit to go away from that style of government to go to a town. Councilors are voted in to make decisions on behalf of the voters for the city. So, he doesn't see any advantage, there may be a financial advantage but he thinks that if we have good people developing businesses and bringing in tax revenue into the city then that is the way he sees more money coming into the community.

Mayor Giunta asked the Council if they had any further questions? No, they did not.

Mayor Giunta stated again that he will mention the candidates name, he will look around and count votes, he will write them down and then we will move on to the next candidate. If we reach one candidate who gets a plurality of the votes then we can stop right there because we will know who the winner is.

Councilor Ribas asked the Mayor for clarification because earlier he stated a majority; a candidate who got a majority of votes would be the candidate and he thought if we only got a plurality then we would have to proceed to remove the candidates who didn't get any votes and then vote again.

Mayor Giunta: No, whoever gets the most votes. If somebody gets eight votes then we would stop.

Councilor Ribas stated he knows a majority, he knows that even five votes would constitute a majority.

Mayor Giunta: Correct

Councilor Ribas: So, if we had two candidates that got four votes each then the Mayor would be the deciding vote. Vince feels that if the highest vote is three, he doesn't think that that is sufficient and he's not sure about what the RSA says about that but he thinks that we should have a majority.

Mayor Giunta: No, a majority when it comes to votes and we go through, but he doesn't think that we are going to have a situation like that but whoever gets the majority of the council votes, each councilor gets one vote for one candidate.

Voting is as follows:

City of Franklin, New Hampshire		
Ward 3 Councilor Appointment		
January 14, 2019		
Last Name	First Name	# of Votes
Bunker	April	3
Hubble	Robert	0
Lauer- Rago	Kathleen	4
Prive	Edward	0
Webb	Leigh	1
Wells	James	0

Agenda Item II

Other Business.

City Clerk Gargano swore City Councilor Kathy Lauer-Rago as Ward 3 City Councilor.

Councilor Rago joined the council table.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Rago, seconded by Councilor Clarenbach.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Gargano, City Clerk