



**City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 20, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall**

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

Absent: Councilor Ted Starkweather

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 6:02 p.m.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor Dzujna.

Mayor Brown stated that this is a workshop meeting and there would not be any public comments.

She also decided to move the second agenda item up before the charter change discussion, which is the consideration of the City Manager's contract revisions.

Milner stated that because Councilor Desrochers is attending via the telephone on speaker that all votes must be roll call votes.

Agenda Item II.

Council to consider City Manager's contract.

Mayor Brown stated that they went through the contract to make revisions on the language and the amount of pay. The only changes that her and Councilor Chandler made was to have the background investigation check not be mandatory on the second subsequent renewal and changing Milner's annual salary.

She asked if there were any discussions or comments from the council.

The council discussed Milner's pay along with her benefits and insurance.

Motion - Councilor Desrochers moved that the Franklin City Council accept the City Manager's contract revisions. Seconded by Councilor Chandler.

Mayor Brown asked if there was any discussion.

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There was more discussion on Milner's pay and what it is based on. The revision in the contract from her current annual salary of \$114,000 to an annual salary of \$131,040 is considered the base pay for her position according to the Pay & Class Study that has been done and will be presented in the upcoming budget meetings for FY24. Milner's renewed contract and pay raise would not be effective until July 1, 2023.

Motion - Councilor Desrochers moved that the Franklin City Council amend the previous motion and approve the City Manager's contract with her current annual salary of \$114,000 and wait until the Pay & Class Study is approved to change the annual salary to \$131,040. Seconded by Councilor Trudel.

Councilor Chandler stated that he supports the change in annual salary to \$131,040. They cannot afford to lose someone with her expertise and experience.

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

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

5 opposed: 3 in favor. Motion FAILED.

Mayor Brown stated that they will now revert back to the original motion accepting the City Manager's contract revisions as written.

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

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

Councilor Starkweather called in via telephone to vote on this motion as well and voted "yes".

6 in favor: 3 opposed. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item I.

Charter Review

Councilor Webb started the discussion on the charter review by mentioning that resident, Kathy Rago, suggested changing the budget default process.

There was also a discussion about looking at the October election date and revisiting this to change it to November like other communities.

After many comments and suggestions, it was decided by the council that the charter should be referred back to the Legislative Committee for a more comprehensive review.

Councilor Webb stated that he would schedule a Legislative Committee meeting to do this.

Agenda Item III.

Opioid Litigation Update.

Milner let the council know that they do not need to go into a nonpublic session on this topic if they are ready to vote in public after reviewing the information that she passed along to them via email.

Motion - Councilor Zink moved that the Franklin City Council accept the National Opioid Litigation settlement offers from CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Teva, and Allergan. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

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

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

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

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Agenda Item IV.

Other Business.

Mayor Brown stated that her, Councilor Chandler and Councilor Dzujna met with someone from transportation about a potential bus coming through Franklin. She stated that she would like to invite her to the next City Council meeting in April to talk about what is involved with having this bus company come through Tilton, Franklin and the Lakes Region. Watts is also very interested in this idea as well.

She asked if there was any objection to putting that on the April agenda. There was none.

Mayor Brown asked if there was any other business to discuss.

Councilor Webb asked Milner for an update on the RFP for the City Hall project and asked if the

final would need to be reviewed by the council.

Milner answered saying that they are wordsmithing that RFP early this week and will be having a couple of people wordsmith it for her as well. It will go up on the website and other entities and does not need to be reviewed by the council. Generally, it is put on the NHMA's (New Hampshire Municipal Association) website and some other professional sites as well.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa A. Jones
Executive Secretary