

**UNSEALED Minutes per January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**City Council Meeting**



City Council Meeting  
**NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**  
December 14, 2023  
Franklin Lodge of Elks

**In Attendance**

Mayor Jo Brown, Councilor Valerie Blake, Councilor Bob Desrochers, Councilor George Dzujna, Councilor Ted Starkweather, Councilor Paul Trudel, Councilor Olivia Zink, Councilor Jay Chandler, Councilor Leigh Webb, and Councilor Vince Ribas

**Absent** – None

**Motion:** *Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council enter into Non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Motion seconded by Councilor Zink.*

**Roll Call:**

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

All in favor; motion PASSED.

Entered nonpublic session at 6:43 p.m.

**Others present:** City Manager Judie Milner, Mayor-elect Desiree McLaughlin and Councilor-elect Ed Prive.

Milner started the meeting stating that she had a couple things to go over with the council, which are both employee related.

Firstly, there have been some emails going around that have false information about her office. She let the council know that she would like the communication to be better between her and the

council. She feels as though she is not being supported when the council does not ask her directly about issues that come up from others.

Secondly, the employees have been working in hostile environments and some do not feel safe at their offices. Employees are getting yelled at and sworn at because of the politics going on. As a public body, it is the council's responsibility to put something in place to keep city employees feeling safe at their place of work. A policy in code would go a long way.

Police Chief Goldstein is very familiar with training employees on this issue and something can be scheduled.

She also stated that this is not just one department. Their hostility is coming from people angry about tax bills, water bills, tax assessments, municipal service issues, etc. so it is affecting the City Clerks' office, the Planning & Zoning office and the MSD office. There has also been a discussion about making the door to the City Manager's office a half door that prevents people from walking all the way in. This is the one office that has no security whatsoever, so this would be one of the priorities.

Milner stated that she will be providing another de-escalation training session for employees and active shooter training by Chief Goldstein will need to be renewed.

NHMA probably has a draft policy that she can present to the council at the next meeting.

Milner's other idea was to put up signage in all of the city buildings, if the council is ok with that. The council agreed and would make a motion to allow signage and a draft policy for review once back in public session.

***Motion: Councilor Zink moved that the Franklin City Council leave nonpublic session and return to public session. Motion seconded by Ribas.***

**All in favor; motion PASSED.**

***Public session reconvened at 7:15 p.m.***

***Motion: Councilor Ribas moved that the Franklin City Council seal the minutes. Motion seconded by Councilor Trudel.***

**Roll Call:**

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

**All in favor; motion PASSED.**

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Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa A Jones  
Executive Secretary