City Council Special Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 6:00 p.m.  
Bessie Rowell Community Center

In attendance:
Councilor Jo Brown, Councilor Kathy Rago, Councilor Karen Testerman, Councilor George Dzujna, Councilor Ted Starkweather, Councilor Trudel

Others in attendance:
City Manager Milner

Absent:
Councilor Scott Clarenbach, Councilor Ribas, Councilor Desrochers

Councilor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. at the Bessie Rowell Community Center.

Education – Council Champion Jo Brown

Brown stated that the City should request some direction from Richard Ellert due to the decision that the school made regarding consolidation with the City. Milner stated that other managers in other cities are talking about these very same issues. They are discussing why there is a duplication of services. This is not just happening in Franklin and is being talked about more and more among this group of city and town managers.

Recreation/Calendar – Council Champion Dzujna

Dzujna stated that monitoring the calendar and asking businesses if they see a positive impact is really all that he needs to do. He has already begun asking them and they all seem to like using our calendar as a tool.

Councilor Rago stated that she interviewed Director Krystal Alpers for the Parks and Rec Podcast and was amazed at all the things she is involved in. The Councilors in attendance tonight praised her for all her hard work.

City Manager Milner stated that there is a $50K commitment on the tax credits which may turn into $100K. The company is reviewing numbers with their accountant first. This can be carried over for 4 years after the initial year. Milner added that Eversource is not able to participate
but there are other options so we will continue to push forward. All commitments are supposed to be confirmed by 3/31/2020 and paid by 6/30/2020. We are focusing on having $500K in commitments by 12/31/19 so we can apply for next year’s round which has a deadline of March 8, 2020.

Brown updated the Council on Manufacturing Night and how the evening is expected to unfold. Several different manufacturers will be there for a meet and greet and then each will explain what they do and how they can help the schools and students. This was mentioned directly to the school Board but Brown was still unsure how many of the school board, administration office, or students would be attending. It was understood that Superintendent LeGallo would be sending letters home with the students and sending emails out as well.

Brown informed the Council that Marty Parichand has been working with NH Rocks radio station, who will be interviewing each of the businesses in our downtown.

Trudel stated that there were many people walking around downtown the weekend when Vulgar opened and wondered if that was due to their grand opening or if something else was going on that he may have missed. Brown replied that all that activity was due to the Vulgar Brewery Grand Opening. She stated that it was so busy there that they had to request extra help to come in and help them.

Milner stated that this weekend is the Fall Fest weekend. The Soup Fest Contest, Get Out and Play activities, Halloween Extravaganza, and Trunk or Treat are all happening this weekend. The voting of the best scarecrow will take place as well.

Councilor Rago mentioned that there is interest for a “noodle bar” restaurant and Milner confirmed this but mentioned the City is trying to help make this happen.

**Police – safety Council Champion Karen Testerman**

Testerman stated that only one out of three new applicants will be employed with our PD. Chief Goldstein will advertise again. The SAU called the Chief and asked if they could have the SRO back at the school but unfortunately, they can’t due to the PD still being short three officers.

Milner stated that the COPS Grant is not open yet but once it is open, we will apply for two officers. Milner explained how this grant works. For the first three years, the grant is fully funded. After three years, the City picks up the cost or could layoff but the City is not planning to lay anyone off.
Brown reviewed some possible new tasks that involve Code Enforcement for November and December. Dzujna stated that Choose Franklin will hold a meeting where our Code Enforcer Steve Reale will be presenting information on what he does.

**Franklin for a lifetime**

Milner stated that she did a press release for Kratom and for Tobacco 21. The majority of the business owners were in favor of the change.

Milner also stated that a press release was already done for the upcoming manufacturing night and it would be good to do another one just afterward.

The Council agreed that a “Curb your Dog” sign needs to be made for Marceau Park.

Milner stated that Todd Workman is doing some different things now which do not include working on the Ozone effort. He will be more focused on selling. The current Ozone group is: Niel Cannon, Jim Aberg, City Manager Judie Milner, and Director Dick Lewis. They will be meeting tomorrow night to discuss the next steps and if Franklin should have an overall investment group, if there should be one for each building, or if the City should use the State’s Investment group. A professional legal group will be hired to make sure decisions are made properly.

Dzujna asked if there would be certain perimeters set when someone buys the building. He gave an example if someone purchased the building, could they just sit on it for years. Milner stated that no, that wouldn’t be allowed and there would be certain things that need to happen. One example would be that the new owner would need to re-invest as much money as the value of the building, back into the building.

Brown stated that she spoke with Todd Workman and she explained a suggestion they came up with for new businesses who are attracted by the Opportunity Zones in Franklin. She provided an example of a new business who hypothetically purchases property in an opportunity zone and then receives $100K in grant money. She suggested that there be quarterly reporting by the business and so if things aren’t moving in the right direction after a few years, a percentage of the grant money is owed back.

Milner added that she hopes the Ozone program will be extended. The current deadline is December 31st to get the full amount. After this date, the awarded tax amounts may be less and less as time goes on. She’s hopeful that this deadline gets extended because this program took so long to get off the ground causing the window of this opportunity to be very small.
Milner stated that she and Jim Aberg are also holding two open “community forums”, where residents can share their thoughts on what they would and wouldn’t like to see in our downtown. One of the forums will be held on December 5th at 4:00 p.m. and the other one will be on December 6th at 8:00 a.m. Both will be held in the Library.

Rago asked Milner if there was a way that the working residents could submit their ideas if they couldn’t come to the meetings. Milner replied that they can do that from the City Website or stop by (or call) and talk to Audrey. She stated that people love talking to Audrey and sharing their ideas.

Dzujna shared that there were statements going around from other local businesses that in order to provide input and be part of the downtown revitalization group, you had to pay money to the City and that some group from Concord was hired to manage the revitalization of Franklin. Milner responded that both are not true statements. No-one has to pay money to be heard as part of this revitalization process and no-one was hired to manage this work.

The Arts Strategy Focus Group met but a couple key members unfortunately couldn’t make it at the last minute. This group will be split in two. One group (Milner, Aberg, Cannon, Gaudette) will focus on the finance piece and the acquisition of a location. The other group will focus on programming and sustaining the program. Milner explained that Dan Darling would oversee the second group which has good mix of all ages being represented.

Milner also explained that some venues would still happen at the Opera House but that some of the larger musical groups don’t really like coming to Franklin because there is no loading dock or easy way in and out of the Opera House while transporting equipment and other items. That is where the Regal Theatre comes in and some work needs to start in there because once the Water Park is up and running, Franklin should have another entertainment venue available.

November and December tasks were updated in the roadmap.

Brown asked for an update on DES and Stanley Mill. Milner replied that the lawyer gave language to DES to send to Stanley Mill as a follow up. That has been sent to Stanley Mill. Milner stated that she will follow-up with DES to then follow-up with Stanley. The City won’t see a contingency contract until DES receives a response from Stanley Mill.

The Social Media Buster is not on the website yet. Milner will discuss this with her secretary Audrey. A link for the Granite State Divide will be added at the same time.

Milner is planning to meet with Kandyce on the Social Media piece in December. A survey was sent out and just under 100 responses were received. Most people stated that Facebook was
the platform of choice. Milner suggested creating a type of “Hot” button or something similar to Snopes might be a good idea in order to quickly respond to topics.

Milner stated that the remaining 5s audits were scheduled and suggestions will be provided on how to reach a grading level of 4. She continued to explain that the department heads like the 5s process so it would be a good idea to have them come to a meeting and talk about how it is benefitting them. December would be a good time to have a LEAN reboot with Richard and the department heads will be invited to that meeting. The recurring date for this meeting is changing to a new schedule with the next meeting on December 9th.

Milner stated that Richard hasn’t been able to meet with the department heads to discuss the scorecard roadmap. He will be away for the month of November therefore we will regroup in December.

The Council agreed on November 19th for a City Council Special Meeting with Municipal Services. Director Brian Sullivan will give a presentation on Trash. Milner informed the group that someone is coming in tomorrow to discuss privatization. Both City garbage trucks need repairs therefore direction from the City Council is needed so Milner can figure out the next steps.

Starkweather asked Milner for clarification on the date of the next LEAN meeting. Milner replied that the November 19th LEAN Roadmap meeting can be replaced with the MDS SWOT Workshop Presentation and postpone the November LEAN meeting to December 9th. The new LEAN Roadmap recurring meeting schedule will be the second Monday of each month, starting in December. This will allow Richard Ellert more availability to attend our LEAN Roadmap meetings. The Fire Department can hold their SWOT presentation in January. The smaller departments would like to present to the City Council as well. They can double up since they won’t need as much time as Fire, Police, or MSD.

Dzujna asked if there is any chance of bringing back recycling. Milner replied that there is still some recycling if it is brought directly to the Transfer Station and yes there are some ideas floating around to address this. Milner stated that we still do make money off recycling if it is brought to the Transfer Station. Curbside costs the City too much money and that is the problem.

Brown believes that the Schools are going to back out of the LEAN Process. It seems that their plan is really based on their union contracts. Their Strategic Plan is a shell that does not address the issues. There is no real plan to address the shortfalls or measures of success.
Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Brown. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Lanzillo