

**MINUTES**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 7, 2010**

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin, Georgia, met in regular session Thursday, January 7, 2010 at city hall at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Chapman began the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance. Councilman Hamil read from Psalms 23. Reverend Reuben Simpson gave the invocation followed by Councilman Almond leading in the pledge to the flag.

**MINUTES OF December 3, 2009**

Councilman Rogers made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hamil to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmen Almond, Hamil and Rogers voted in favor of the motion. Councilmen Adams and Manders abstained stating neither was on the council in December.

**APPROVAL OF ORDER OF THE AGENDA**

Councilman Adams asked to amend the agenda to discuss the process of hiring an assistant chief. Councilman Hamil asked to amend the agenda to discuss city attorney appointment. He also asked that Kathy Knowles be allowed to address the council since public comments were omitted. Councilman Rogers asked to amend the agenda to include burn permits. Councilman Hamil made a motion, seconded by Councilman Manders, to accept the agenda as amended. The vote was unanimous.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

1. Kathy Knowles told the council she has used the community center for Community Partnership meetings and has stored many of the items she uses for Family Day in the storage building. She asked for permission to continue using the facilities. Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Almond, to allow Ms. Knowles to continue using the building. The vote was unanimous.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Department Heads submitted written reports to the council.

**City Attorney Jeff Todd**

- A. Bradfield Case - Mr. Todd told the council he has been in contact with the District Attorney and the city's insurance carrier. The District Attorney said they are continuing their investigation. The insurance company has apparently received a copy of the audit and is ready to settle with the city in the amount of approximately \$182,000.00.
- B. City Attorney Appointment - Mr. Todd told the council the city attorney position was not an annual appointment. He said if they planned to replace him he wanted to know.

He would prefer to resign. Councilman Adams stated the council was planning to replace him. Mr. Todd told the council, in that case, he resigned. Mr. Todd left the meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**None**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Mayor Pro Tempore** - Mayor Chapman recommended Councilman Adams because of his prior experience. Councilman Almond made the motion. It was seconded by Councilman Hamil. Councilmen Almond, Hamil, Manders, and Rogers voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Adams abstained due to a conflict of interest. The motion carried by a majority vote.
2. **Zoning Board Appointment** - Councilman Hamil suggested the city place an advertisement in the paper and save the appointment for a called meeting.
3. **Municipal Court Judge Appointment** - Councilman Hamil made a motion, seconded by Councilman Almond, to retain Emmett Harrod as the judge. The vote was unanimous.
4. **Court Solicitor Appointment** - Mayor Chapman said she would like to recommend Michael Arrington as solicitor. Councilman Hamil suggested the city advertise this position and wait for a called meeting.
5. **Cell Phone Allowance** - Councilman Hamil said he would like the city to reinstate the cell phone allowance of \$50.00 a month for council members who needed it. Councilman Almond agreed with him. Councilman Manders said he did not need it. Councilman Hamil made a motion to give the mayor a \$100.00 a month cell phone allowance and council members a \$50.00 a month allowance. He further added that anyone who voted against the motion would not be eligible for the allowance until 2011. Councilman Rogers said he did not need it and the law stated that reimbursements required a person to show a statement of actual expenses. Councilman Hamil countered it was an allowance not a reimbursement. Councilman Adams asked Councilman Hamil to amend the motion and wait on an opinion from the attorney. Councilman Hamil withdrew the motion.
6. **Employee Insurance** - Mayor Chapman told the council the city currently pays \$200.00 a month toward family insurance coverage. She asked the council to raise the amount to \$300.00. Councilman Hamil asked that this include the mayor and council. Councilman Rogers asked where the extra money was going to come from. Councilman Manders asked how much more this would cost. The city clerk said it would cost the city an additional \$1000.00 a month. Councilman Hamil made a motion, seconded by Councilman Almond, to increase the family coverage allowance to \$300.00 a month. Councilman Adams said he was in favor of this because it would not be taxable but he was concerned about the employees who did not have

family coverage. He recommended these employees receive a \$.25 an hour raise. The motion was amended to include the raise. Councilmen Adams, Almond, Hamil, and Manders voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Rogers voted against the motion. The motion carried by a majority vote.

7. **Cuttin Crew Lease** - Councilman Rogers made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hamil, to renew the lease. The vote was unanimous.
8. **David Barker's Lease** - Mayor Chapman told the council she would like for the city not to renew the lease. This would be an excellent site for a city hall annex. Councilman Hamil made the motion. It was seconded by Councilman Almond. The vote was unanimous.
9. **Auditor Appointment** - Mayor Chapman told the council she would like to receive bids for this position. Councilman Adams made the motion. It was seconded by Councilman Almond. The vote was unanimous.
10. **City of Franklin Web Page** - Councilman Adams made a motion the city create a City of Franklin web page for city information. He also asked Kevin Hayes to have a proposal available for presentation to the council in February. Councilman Manders asked what kind of content would the web page have. He also stated the city would need to consider the cost. Councilman Adams said it would be strictly for city business. Councilman Almond agreed the city needed to consider the cost before making a decision. Councilman Manders seconded the motion to ask Kevin Hayes to have a proposal available for council consideration in February. The vote was unanimous.
11. **Hiring of an Assistant Chief** - Mayor Chapman asked the council to table this for another meeting. Councilman Adams said the city needed to consider the current policies of advertising for a position and obtaining background checks.
12. **City Attorney** - This position will also be advertised.
13. **Burn Permits** - Chief Kevin Hannah told the council he had recently learned the Forestry Department does not issue burn permits in the city and the city does not have any policies or procedures in place. His main concern was that a citizen could be billed for damages if a fire got out of control and there was not a permit issued. The Forestry Department recommended the city either adopt its own policy and issue permits or request, in writing, the Forestry Department issue burn permits. The council discussed this and agreed the city needed to have something in place and have permits issued. Councilman Adams suggested having the Forestry Department issue the permits. Mayor Chapman asked to put this on hold until February.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

1. Councilman Almond said he looked forward to the coming year and hoped the council could work together for the betterment of the city.
2. Councilman Adams asked why the new city limit signs had not been erected. Councilman Hamil said he thought they were to go on the north and southbound lanes of Highway 27 near Highway 34. Councilman Rogers said the city needed to check on the best location for the signs. Councilman Hamil said he would meet with Street Supervisor Alan Holcomb and try to

determine the best location for the signs that ensured maximum visibility.

Councilman Adams also asked about the campaign claim the city was debt free. He asked how was this possible when the city had issued a bond for a million dollars. The clerk explained the money to repay to bond issue came from monthly SPLOST receipts in predetermined amounts.

He asked if anything was being done on Newnan Street. Councilman Hamil explained the city had Newnan Street milled with the understanding it would be paved right away. The city is still waiting.

4. Councilman Manders told the council the Zoning Board had been working on Habitat for Humanity and he would like to see the city make this a priority. Councilman Hamil agreed and spoke of a recent incident at a local mobile home park where the city helped to clean up piles of accumulated garbage and the Baptist Church had paid the water bill for the residents.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Almond, to go into an executive session to discuss personnel. The vote was unanimous.

Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hamil, to re-enter the regular session. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Chapman told the public the city had discussed personnel. They discussed the following:

1. The city will no longer have a probation department but will contract with an outside firm. Councilman Hamil made the motion. It was seconded by Councilman Adams. Councilmen Adams, Almond, and Hamil voted in favor of the motion. Councilmen Manders and Rogers voted against the motion. The motion carried by a majority vote.
2. The city clerk's pay will be raised, effective immediately, to \$20.00 an hour. Councilman Hamil made the motion. It was seconded by Councilman Adams. Councilmen Adams, Almond, Hamil, and Manders voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Rogers opposed the motion. The motion carried by a majority vote.

There was no further business to conduct and Councilman Hamil made a motion, seconded by Councilman Adams, to adjourn. The vote was unanimous.

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Teresa Chapman, Mayor

### **Members Present:**

Shane Manders, Post #1  
Willie Almond, Jr., Post #2  
Joel Rogers, Post #3

### **Clerks Present:**

Myra Braswell

Johnny Adams, Post #4  
Jimmy Hamil, Post #5

**Employees Present:**

Alan Holcomb, Public Works Supervisor  
Kevin Hannah, Chief of Police  
Sandi Allen, Probation Officer  
Marian Boyd, Deputy Clerk