

MINUTES
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
April 5, 2012

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin, Georgia, met in regular session Thursday, April 5, 2012 at city hall at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Chapman began the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance. Councilman Hamil gave the invocation followed by Councilman Almond leading in the pledge to the flag.

County Commission Chair June Jackson and SPLOST Program Manager Kevin Hamby asked to address the council about the upcoming LOST negotiations. Mr. Hamby told the council LOST was last negotiated ten years ago. Revisions to the law require the county to send a letter to the Department of Revenue by July 1, stating formal negotiations have begun between the county and cities. An agreement must be in place not later than sixty days after negotiations have begun. If there is no agreement in place, the process goes to arbitration. If a decision can't be reached through arbitration, it is decided by the Superior Court. This must be done before December 31 or the LOST stops. The Board of Commissioners is making an offer not to change the percentage agreements.

Mayor Chapman said she would like the council to meet and discuss this before making a decision. Mr. Mecklin told the council there are eight criteria the state law requires them to take into account when negotiating the LOST distribution.

1. Service delivery to the population served by each local government
2. Service delivery to the resident population
3. Service delivery of each local government
4. Distribution changes and debt obligations of local governments
5. Point of sale and use
6. Intergovernmental agreements
7. Tax equity
8. Service delivery of city and county

The council needs to look at each of these factors on behalf of the city. Councilman Almond made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hamil, to have a special workshop to discuss this. The vote was unanimous.

MINUTES OF March 1st

Councilman Hamil made a motion, seconded by Councilman Manders, to accept the minutes as written. Councilmen Almond, Hamil, Manders and Rogers voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Adams abstained. The motion carried by a majority vote.

ORDER OF THE AGENDA

Councilman Rogers made a motion, seconded by Councilman Almond, to approve the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police Department - Chief Hannah presented a written report of monthly activities. He also spoke on the following:

1. He has submitted a reimbursement request for \$10,415.37 on the COPS Grant.
2. One of the cruisers, a 2007 model with about 63,000 miles on it, is having transmission problems. Tracy McCormick can put a reconditioned Ford transmission with a three year warranty in the car for a total cost of \$2444.33. Eagle Transmission can rebuild the transmission in the vehicle with a one year warranty for \$1250.00 to \$1500.00.
 - a. Councilman Hamil said he had used Eagle before. They are good and they also specialize in transmissions.
 - b. Councilman Adams asked if the department was still using the vehicle. Chief Hannah responded they were. He said the vehicle is in good condition and the officer takes good care of it. He did not want to get rid of it.

Councilman Almond made a motion to use Eagle Transmission. Councilman Rogers seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

1. He met with Carroll EMC about the property behind their building. Mr. Maxwell had asked if it could be converted to extra parking spaces. Mr. Mecklin said it would be legal for the city to assist if they were given an easement and it was dedicated as public parking.
 - a. Councilman Hamil stated he was in favor of it. It was good business. He suggested having Alan Holcomb look at the area and get estimates.
 - b. Councilman Manders said he had looked at the area. There might be room for two cars but it would be tight. There is also a grade change that could be expensive.
 - c. Mayor Chapman asked Chief Hannah to get with Alan Holcomb and bring it back to the council next month.

Street Department - Street Department Supervisor Alan Holcomb spoke on the following:

1. The tree on the rental property has been cut down and they will be removing it this week.
2. They have been busy with grass cutting all over town.
3. The department needs two new weed eaters. They are approximately \$300.00 apiece. Councilman Almond said if they were needed the street department should purchase them and made the motion. Councilman Hamil seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

City Attorney David Mecklin - Mr. Mecklin spoke on the following:

1. The existing personnel policy needs to be reviewed. He suggested rewriting it. He told the council parts of it had never been used and the grievance policy was too complicated. It also did not include family medical leave.
2. The alcohol ordinance needs to be voted on at the meeting in May or the council needs to extend the moratorium. He told the council he would like to have a public meeting this month to give members of the public the option to voice their opinion. He suggested a single issue meeting. The council decided on April 26.

Councilman Manders made the motion. It was seconded by Councilman Hamil. The vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Rental Property** – Mayor Chapman told the council there had not been any enquiries about renting the building for \$350.00.
 - a. Councilman Hamil suggested tearing the building down for more parking space. He said the building has asbestos in it and the city would need to furnish a letter about it to anyone who rented the building.
 - b. Councilman Almond said the city had the opportunity to have a small business in town. They should help. Money from the rent could be used to hire a student for a summer job.
 - c. Councilman Rogers suggested just leaving it empty. There were no additional comments. The ad will be taken out of the paper.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Kathy Knowles, Heard County Community Partnership – Ms. Knowles thanked the city for the financial support and the use of the community center to hold monthly meetings. She told the council they are a part of Georgia Family Connections Network that serves all counties in Georgia. Some of the services provided include:
 - a. A collaborative meeting each month for community and civic organizations to discuss issues in the county.
 - b. Help with teen issues, such as teen pregnancy, prescription drug abuse, alcoholism. They work to try and make them aware of the dangers.
 - c. They are working with Troup County to be a partner in the Teen Maze Program. This is the game of life brought to life to show teens the consequences of their behavior.
 - d. They work with mothers to help prevent low birth weight in infants.
 - e. They send home approximately 125 back packs of food each weekends to families in need.
 - f. They help with the food pantry.
 - g. Heroes Program – This is a literacy program. They receive grant funding and use it as an incentive to help induce children to improve their grades and attendance.
 - h. The Back to School Bash is one element of all they do. All of the partners come together to help the public become more aware of all of the many programs available. They also supply the children with backpacks and school supplies. They must be residents of heard County and provide proof of residency in order to receive the supplies.

Mayor Chapman said funding had been reduced and she did not know if the city could furnish \$2500.00 this year. She asked to reduce the amount to \$1250.00. Ms. Knowles said she would take what she could get. Councilman Rogers said he thought the city had left the amount at \$2500.00 when they worked on the budget for 2012. He made a motion to give Ms. Knowles at least \$1250.00 and have the clerk check to see if more was allocated. The motion was seconded by Councilman Adams. The vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

COUNCIL COMMENTS: All council members welcomed Councilman Adams back.

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

Teresa Chapman, Mayor

Members Present:

Shane Manders, Post #1
Willie Almond, Jr., Post #2
Joel Rogers, Post #3
Johnny Adams, Post #4
Jimmy Hamil, Post #5

Clerks Present:

Myra Braswell