**MINUTES**

**PUBLIC HEARING, MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING, 6:30 PM**

**CITY HALL COURTROOM**

**March 7, 2019**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing to receive public comments on the recommendations from the February 28th Zoning Board Meeting. There were no public comments and no public in attendance. The public hearing closed at 6:32pm.

**MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING**

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin, Georgia, met in regular session Thursday, March 7, 2019 at City Hall at 6:32 p.m. All Councilmembers were in attendance except for Councilmember Jiles.

Mayor Rogers began the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance. Attorney Newsome gave the invocation and Councilmember Almond lead the pledge to the flag.

**MINUTES OF Council Meeting February 7, 2019**

Councilmember Hayes made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilmember Bradfield. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

**AMEND THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA**

Councilmember Hayes requested to add “Taser Purchase” under New Business. Councilmember Bradfield made a motion to amend the order of the agenda as Councilmember Hayes requested, seconded by Councilmember Hayes. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Finance –** Finance Officer, Karen Boyd, spoke on the following report:

1. All accounts have been reconciled to the bank. General fund revenues exceeded expenses by $98,512 and $107,087 for the year. This increased revenue was due to the Georgia Power franchise check that the City receives each February.
2. Sales tax decreased $8,711 from last month and $20,284 from last year. SPLOST increased $3,365 last month and $13,660 from last year, making it the highest January to date.

**Police Department** – Chief Hannah spoke on the following:

1. **Alternative-Nicotine Device Ordinances** – Chief Hannah stated the need to update City ordinances to address the growing popularity of alternative nicotine devices. Attorney Newsome provided copies of a sample “Clean Air Act” for the Council to review. Mayor Rogers requested Council to email himself or Clerk Boyd with items from the Act that they wish to include in an updated City ordinance. Chief Hannah will then work with Attorney Newsome to have an ordinance ready for the next Council meeting.

**Street Department –** Street Supervisor, Alan Holcomb, was not in attendance and there was nothing to report.

**City Attorney –** Attorney Newsome had information to share during the Blight Ordinance agenda item.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. **Fire Department Maintenance** – Mayor Rogers updated Council on progress of the Fire Department Maintenance. The garage door tracks will be installed Monday, the painter will arrive at the end of the week, outside lights at the flagpole have been replaced, the lighting is complete, heating will be installed once the garage doors are done, and the asphalt repaired when the weather permits. The generator is ready once the gas company gets the meter installed in the correct place.
2. **Square Paving** – Councilmember Hayes had worked with two paving companies to get bids on exactly what the City Square needed and emailed their bids to the Council for review. Mayor Rogers recommended RP Paving Solutions, LLC at $120,471 since Blount Construction Company Inc. quoted $230,800 for the same job. Councilmember Putzek made a motion to accept RP Paving Solutions bid, seconded by Councilmember Bradfield. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous. Councilmember Hayes followed up that the pavers require a week of at least 80 degree weather to begin so it would be important to get on their schedule quickly in order to complete the project soon.
3. **Trail Maintenance** – Council agreed that the trail has been maintained well, and due to the inclement weather, bids for the look-out deck will be followed up on at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Rezoning Request –** The Franklin Zoning Board recommended the Heard County Board of Education’s request to rezone from Residential to Commercial lots intended for the expansion of the High School and a new Central Office. Councilmember Almond made a motion to rezone 350 College Drive, 360 College Drive, 370 College Drive, 401 Main Street, 439 Main Street, 459 Main Street, 481 Main Street, 1459 Franklin Parkway, 1467 Franklin Parkway, and 32 Skyview Drive from Residential to Commercial on the conditions that the Board of Education is responsible for building a fence or wall that physically prevents traffic into the City cemetery and if they don’t build on Skyview the zoning will go back to Residential, seconded by Councilmember Bradfield. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.The Franklin Zoning Board also recommended Thomas Miller’s variance request on the relocation of a house that is less than the minimum square foot requirement but previously grandfathered into the City. The house is to be moved from 32 Skyview Drive to 127A Steve Lipford Drive. Councilmember Hayes made a motion to approve the Zoning Board’s recommendation on the variance request, seconded by Councilmember Almond. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.
2. **Blight Ordinance –** Attorney Newsome provided a proposed draft ordinance for blighted properties within the City; as well as, a violator notification letter to be mailed to property owners in offense. Council will review the ordinance and follow up on this agenda item at the next meeting.
3. **Taser Purchase –** Chief Hannah spoke on the email he sent to Council regarding the need for replacing tasers since they can no longer be repaired due to age. He gave different purchase options for the Council to consider. Councilmember Almond made a motion to approve Option 1 for 8 tasers paid in full for $27,670, seconded by Councilmember Bradfield. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS: NONE**

**MAYOR COMMENTS: NONE**

**ADJOURN:** There was no further business to conduct and Councilmember Bradfield made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Almond, to adjourn. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

The meeting closed at 7:06pm.

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Joel Rogers, Mayor

**Members Present: Clerks Present:**

Cynthia Putzek, Post #1 Karen Boyd

Willie Almond, Jr., Post #2

Kevin Hayes, Post #3

Sara Alane Bradfield #4