

The Franklin City Council held a work session on Monday, August 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 207 W. Second Avenue.

Council members in attendance: Vice Mayor Raystine Johnson, Barry Cheatham, Benny Burgess, Rosa Lawrence, Mary Hilliard and Mark Fetherolf. ABSENT: James P. Council, III, Mayor.

Staff in attendance: June D. Fleming, Interim City Manager, H. Taylor Williams, IV, City Attorney, Andy Rose, Director of Finance, Phil Hardison, Chief of Police, Carolyn Joyner, Personnel Manager, Sheryl Frazier, Director of FRHA, Russ Pace, Director of Public Works, Vince Holt, Director of Emergency Services, Beth Reavis, Director of Social Services, Donald Goodwin, Director of Community Development, Amanda Jarratt, City Planner, Dexter Trump, Director of Power & Light, Sandy Holloman, Voter Registrar and Crystal Ellis-Ward, HR Secretary.

Others in attendance: Dan Howe, Downtown Franklin Association Director and Brenda Rickman, Commissioner of the Revenue.

Invocation

Ellis Crum offered the invocation.

Vice Mayor Johnson announced that Wendy Walker would be leaving her position at The Tidewater News for a career with Paul D. Camp Community College. Mrs. Walker stated that she enjoyed working with the City during her tenure with The Tidewater News.

Citizens' Time

William Howell and Patricia Howell(wife). 409 N. High Street. The Howells stated that they would like for the Farmers Market to stay at the Armory. Several farmers have indicated to them that they are not willing to relocate to a downtown location. Mrs. Howell stated that there was a great decrease in income when the Farmer's Market was located across from Fred's. The Howells presented the City Manager with a petition of 125 signatures requesting the market not relocate.

Dr. Robert Edwards. Dr. Edwards stated that he was pleased to see Mrs. Fleming fill the position of Interim City Manager. Dr. Edwards also stated that the vendors would not be happy if the Farmer's Market were moved to the proposed downtown location. Dr. Edwards requested that Council speak with the vendors and reconsider moving the market.

Jack Norvell. Mr. Norvell stated that the Farmer's Market would be a tremendous asset to downtown Franklin. The vendors will not have to stand outside in bad weather and there will be activities for children and families, churches, antique auctions and many

more events. The Farmer’s Market will help other businesses downtown by attracting more people to that area.

Ellis Crum. 125 Queens Lane. Mr. Crum requested that Council reconsider the Procedures brochure, particularly with regard to #5 relating to Citizens’ Time. Mr. Crum stated that Council should have to address citizens during Citizens’ Time. He expects to receive a public answer when he asks a public question.

June Fleming, Interim City Manager, responded to Mr. Crum’s comments. She stated that Council may not be able to address citizens’ questions at that time, but that the answers will be provided in the following agenda packet. In that regard, everyone in the public will be able to review the response. The Mayor and Council have the authority to waive such if the question needs to be addressed at that time.

Approval of Minutes of the July 28, 2008 Council meeting

On motion made by Mrs. Hilliard and seconded by Mr. Fetherolf, it was RESOLVED that the minutes for the July 28, 2008 meeting were approved as presented. The vote on this motion was as follows: AYE: Mr. Cheatham, Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Fetherolf. ABSENT: Mr. Council.

Financial Matters

1. Budget Amendment 2008-50.

BUDGET AMENDMENT 2008-50

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, VIRGINIA that the 2007-2008 City Budget is hereby amended to recognize additional revenues and to appropriate such revenues for new uses.

	2007-2008 BUDGET	AMENDED BUDGET	INCREASE (DECREASE)
100 GENERAL FUND			
<u>REVENUE</u>			
100 16130 0008			
Recreational Youth Club	\$0.00	\$4,515.00	\$4,515.00
100 16130 0004			
Recreational Fees Tickets	\$0.00	\$2,250.00	<u>\$2,250.00</u>
TOTAL			\$6,765.00

EXPENDITURES

100 71300 8188 Youth Club	\$0.00	\$4,515.00	\$4,515.00
100 71300 3334 Day Care Scholarships	\$5,000.00	\$7,250.00	<u>\$2,250.00</u>
TOTAL			\$6,765.00

***Recreational Youth Club and ticket fees.**

On motion made by Mr. Cheatham and seconded by Mr. Burgess, Budget Amendment 2008-50 was approved by Council. The vote on this motion was as follows: AYE: Mr. Cheatham, Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Fetherolf. ABSENT: Mr. Council.

Consent Agenda

1. Procedure Brochure for Public Meetings

Discussion was held by Council regarding the appropriate way to address citizen's questions. Council wants to allow citizens to provide input, but to also maintain control of outbursts.

Mrs. Hilliard suggested that #4 under Public Hearings should be addressed. She stated that the time limit mentioned should be a consensus of Council, not just the Mayor.

It was the consensus of Council to allow Mrs. Fleming to review the document and make the suggested changes so that the language was clear. The matter would be addressed again at the next Council meeting.

Justifications for Waiver of Hiring Freeze for Power & Light

Dexter Trump presented Council with explanations as to why he needed to fill the Right of Way Maintenance Technician vacancy in his department. He further gave Council a Labor Rate Comparison Sheet which included what it would cost to have Lewis Tree Service take on the responsibility of the City's tree trimming needs versus what the cost would be if Franklin Power and Light continued these services.

On a motion made by Mr. Cheatham and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, it was unanimously resolved to waive the hiring freeze for the position of Right of Way Maintenance Technician for Power and Light. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYE: Mr. Cheatham, Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Fetherolf. ABSENT: Mr. Council.

Introduction of New Employee

Beth Reavis, Director of Social Services, introduced Altreese Holland. Ms. Holland began working with the department on July 28, 2008.

Information Session with Real Estate Tax Assessor

Steve Wampler, President of Wampler-Eanes Appraisal Group, addressed Council to answer their questions regarding the latest real estate assessment performed on the City of Franklin. Mr. Wampler informed Council that 40-50% of the properties changed in value, but more showed a decrease rather than an increase. He also stated that not all of his employees are certified, but all have experience. The state law does not currently require that his employees be certified, but Mr. Wampler serves as their supervisor. Most properties are checked on site 2-3 times before a final value is assessed. Appraisers evaluate property based upon the tax records provided by the locality and if any improvements were made to the dwelling. Mr. Wampler also stated that he works for several other localities including Franklin County, Virginia, Warrenton, North Carolina, Patrick County and Giles.

Farmer's Market Pavilion Bids

Vice Mayor Johnson recused herself due to a conflict of interest with this matter and instructed Councilman Cheatham to preside.

Donald Goodwin, Director of Community Development, requested that Council consider the lower bid for the 32'x67' pavilion and 23'x67' concrete slab. The project would be subcontracted to Restorations by Goodrich.

Discussion was held by Council regarding the actual relocation of the Farmer's Market to the downtown area.

Dan Howe, Director of Downtown Franklin Association, stated that the Farmer's Market will bring people downtown and will promote other businesses. He further stated that 95% of Farmer's Markets are located on a Main Street setting.

Further discussion was held regarding the marketing of the project and the plan that would be put into place for guidelines on how the market would operate.

Dr. Robert Edwards stated that he would like to see the \$75,000 for the project go towards education and requested that the project be delayed.

Sybil Beale was concerned about the parking for the market and how it would impact W.M. Johnson Funeral Home.

Staff indicated that parking would not be a problem based on the current ordinance.

Greg McLemore stated that he was concerned about how the farmers would be affected by the relocation. He recommended that merchants and citizens be taken into consideration first.

Councilman Burgess suggested that the matter be tabled and to hear a report from the DFA in two weeks regarding the operation plan.

Councilwoman Hilliard requested information on how the market would operate and how it would be staffed. She would also like to know the proposed costs from the DFA.

A motion was made by Mr. Burgess and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence that this matter would be tabled until the August 25, 2008 Council meeting. The vote on this motion was as follows: AYE: Mr. Cheatham, Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Fetherolf. ABSENT: Mr. Council.

Reduction in Aid to Localities

Andy Rose addressed Council with the state's reduction in aid. The General Assembly chose to respond to shrinking revenue growth by shifting to local governments the responsibility for reducing \$100 million of core services. The state offers the localities three different ways to cut their budgets. The localities can reduce one or more of the programs listed by the Department of Planning and Budget, or send a check to the state by January 9, 2009, or a combination of reductions and sending a check. Mr. Rose recommended the first option, which was to reduce one or more programs listed by the state as we have already prepared for this shortcoming in our recently adopted budget for 2008-2009. June Fleming, Interim City Manager, agreed with Mr. Rose's recommendation.

On a motion made by Mr. Cheatham and seconded by Mrs. Hilliard, it was resolved to reduce aid to the programs listed by the Department of Planning and Budget. The vote on this motion was as follows: The vote on this motion was as follows: AYE: Mr. Cheatham, Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Fetherolf. ABSENT: Mr. Council.

Old/New Business

Taylor Williams, City Attorney, address Ellis Crum's concerns as stated at the July 14, 2008 City Council meeting with regard to the school board representative interview process. Mr. Crum had stated that no notice was given on the public hearing where David Benton was appointed to the At-Large seat on the School Board and that this was a violation of FOIA. Mr. Crum further suggested that the appointment be rescinded. Mr. Williams stated that he was in the process of getting an opinion from the Attorney General and as soon as the information is received it was be passed on to Mr. Crum, the

public and City Council. Mr. Williams went further to thank Mr. Crum for bringing the matter to Council's attention. There has been a policy put into place to prevent this situation from occurring again.

Mr. Cheatham wanted to know the status of the Tax Relief for the Elderly and called Brenda Rickman, Commissioner of the Revenue, to speak on that matter. Mrs. Rickman stated that she was waiting to hear from Council on what the tax rate will be.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Burgess requested recommendations from staff as to what should be the required attendance of the members of boards and commissions.

Closed Session

On motion made by Mr. Fetherolf and seconded by Mr. Cheatham it was unanimously RESOLVED that Council meet in closed session to discuss (1) the possible sale of the Hayden School property, (2) employment contract for Interim City Manager, (3) appointments to boards and commissions and (4) consideration of perspective candidates for employment and (5) personnel matters as permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) and (1). The vote on this motion was as follows: AYE: Mr. Cheatham, Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Fetherolf. ABSENT: Mr. Council.

Certification

On motion made by Mr. Fetherolf and seconded by Mr. Cheatham, it was unanimously RESOLVED that City Council hereby certifies that to the best of the knowledge of each member only public business matters identified in the motion which the closed meeting was convened were discussed, heard or considered. The vote on this motion was as follows: AYE: Mr. Cheatham, Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Fetherolf. ABSENT: Mr. Council.

Appointment to the School Health and Safety Committee

On motion made by Mr. Cheatham and seconded by Mr. Burgess, Mary Hilliard was appointed to fill an unexpired term on the School Health and Safety Committee. The vote on the motion was as follows: AYE: Mr. Cheatham, Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson and Mr. Fetherolf. ABSTAIN: Mrs. Hilliard. ABSENT: Mr. Council.

Contract for Interim City Manager

On motion made by Mrs. Hilliard and seconded by Mr. Cheatham, the contract for June Fleming's employment as Interim City Manager was approved by Council. The vote on this motion was as follows: AYE: Mr. Cheatham, Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Fetherolf. ABSENT: Mr. Council.

Adjournment

There being no further business, on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously adopted the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 P.M. The vote on this motion was as follows: AYE: Mr. Cheatham, Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Fetherolf. ABSENT: Mr. Council.

Mayor

Clerk to City Council