

The Franklin City Council held a work session on Monday, September 22, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 207 W. Second Avenue.

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

Staff in attendance: June Fleming, Interim City Manager, H. Taylor Williams, IV, City Attorney, Carolyn Joyner, Personnel Manager, and Erin Turner, Executive Assistant.

Update from Franklin Southampton Economic Development, Inc.

John Smolak, Nancy Parrish and Tommy Miller were present to discuss the current status of economic development in the City of Franklin. FSEDI is currently marketing to a larger spectrum and participating in Economic Fairs in Detroit, Indianapolis, Atlanta, Orlando and Vancouver. Concerns with our area include the current economic issues and labor supplies. The Incubator currently has 24 tenants occupying 90% of the built-out space in the building.

Discussion on Process of Hiring a New City Manager

June Fleming, Interim City Manager, addressed Council with the details relating to the position of City Manager. Mrs. Fleming requested guidance from Council on how to proceed with the current applications. Council discussed various methods of continuing with the selection process.

Regular Meeting

The Franklin City Council held a regular meeting on Monday, September 22, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 207 W. Second Avenue.

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

Staff in attendance: June Fleming, Interim City Manager, H. Taylor Williams, IV, City Attorney, Frank Davis, Director of Parks and Recreation, Andy Rose, Director of Finance, Phil Hardison, Chief of Police, Carolyn Joyner, Personnel Manager, Russ Pace, Director of Public Works, Vince Holt, Director of Emergency Services, Beth Reavis, Director of Social Services, Amanda Jarratt, City Planner, Donald Goodwin, Director of Community Development, Dexter Trump, Director of Power & Light, Andy Ritter, IT Manager and Erin Turner, Executive Assistant.

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

Invocation

Councilwoman Hilliard offered the invocation.

On motion made by Mr. Burgess and seconded by Ms. Johnson, Council resolved to amend the current agenda to include the establishment of the real estate tax rate for advertisement of a public hearing. The vote on the motion was as follows: Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Council. ABSENT: Mr. Cheatham and Mr. Fetherolf.

Introduction of New Employees

Phil Hardison introduced Serena White, the newest Police Officer Trainee.

Citizens' Time

Greg McLemore. 204 Madison Street. Mr. McLemore stated that he was outraged that the Patriots Day Parade took place in the City with the current fuel crisis and economic recession. Mr. McLemore stated that the participants should have marched by foot. He was further upset that Council paid for the gas, but not for computers at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center.

Mrs. Fleming, Interim City Manager, addressed Mr. McLemore and stated that she worked with staff on the event and felt it was important to honor the fallen patriots from September 11th.

Ellis Crum. 125 Queens Lane. Mr. Crum was pleased to hear that General Turner was excited about including Franklin in the Fall Inter-Service Motorcycle Safety Ride on Friday, October 3rd. Several military groups will be present as part of a ride that will begin from Fort Monroe.

Approval of Minutes of the September 8, 2008

On motion made by Mrs. Hilliard and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, it was RESOLVED that the minutes for the September 8, 2008 meeting were approved with the correction that under the April 1, 2008 minutes section, it include that Mr. Cheatham and Mr. Burgess were unable to second the vote as well. The vote on the motion was as follows: Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Council. ABSTAIN: Ms. Johnson. ABSENT: Mr. Cheatham and Mr. Fetherolf.

Mayor Council recognized that tonight was Andy Rose's last City Council meeting before he moved to Georgia.

Financial Matters

1. Budget Amendments 2008-52, 2009-07, 2009-08, 2009-09 and 2009-10.

On motion made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, Budget Amendments 2008-52, 2009-07, 2009-08, 2009-09 and 2009-10 were unanimously approved by Council. The vote on the motion was as follows: Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Council. ABSENT: Mr. Cheatham and Mr. Fetherolf.

Consent Agenda

1. Proclamation Recognizing October 2008 as Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month –

**PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2008 AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS
AND PREVENTION MONTH**

WHEREAS, domestic violence is the single major cause of injury to women, exceeding injuries caused by rape, automobile accidents and muggings combined; and

WHEREAS, the problems of domestic violence are not confined to any group or groups of people but cross all economic, racial and societal barriers; and supported by societal indifference; and

WHEREAS, the crime of domestic violence violates an individual’s privacy, dignity, security and humanity, due to systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological and economic control and/or abuse. The impact of domestic violence is wide-ranging, directly affecting, women, men and children and society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, each year in this nation, an estimated 3.3 million children are exposed to violence by family members. Though most children are not physically assaulted themselves, many suffer deep and lasting emotional effects and are more likely to continue the cycle of abuse from one generation to the next; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that James P. Council, III, Mayor of the City of Franklin, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2008 as Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month and urge all citizens to work toward eradicating domestic and family violence in our communities.

2. Resolution Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Hunterdale Ruritan Club –

**RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE 60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
HUNTERDALE RURITAN CLUB**

WHEREAS, the Hunterdale Ruritan Club has served Franklin and its environs since its founding on October 5, 1948; and

WHEREAS, Ruritan National had its beginning on May 21, 1928 by community leaders in nearby Holland, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, during the past 80 years, Ruritan has grown to an organization of 37,346 members and 1379 Clubs in 25 states; and

WHEREAS, 2008 marks 60 years of exemplary service by the Hunterdale Ruritans to our community; and

WHEREAS, Ruritan is the largest community service organization in the Commonwealth of Virginia with 473 clubs and 13,983 members; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, James P. Councill, III, Mayor of the City of Franklin, do hereby recognize the

HUNTERDALE RURITAN CLUB

for 60 years of dedicated service, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

On motion made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, the Proclamation Recognizing October 2008 as Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month and the Resolution honoring the Hunterdale Ruritan Club on their 60th Anniversary were approved by Council. The vote on the motion was as follows: Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Councill. ABSENT: Mr. Cheatham and Mr. Fetherolf.

Poplar Springs Cemetery Expansion

Vice Mayor Johnson stated that she has a conflict of interest in the discussion of cemetery lots due to her occupation, but that since she stated her conflict, she was then able to participate in discussion.

Discussion was held among staff and Council regarding the size of the lots, price, perpetual care costs and debt service.

On motion made by Mr. Burgess and seconded by Mrs. Hilliard, Council resolved to amend Section 7-5(f) of the City Code as follows: The price for the purchase of a burial space or lot shall be \$330.00 per burial space except that the price for the purchase of a burial space in Poplar Springs Cemetery, Annex IV, shall be \$1,500.00 per burial space. The price for a record transfer of a burial lot or space by a person other than a devisee or heir at law of the owner(s) shall be \$25.00. The vote on the motion was as follows: Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Councill. ABSENT: Mr. Cheatham and Mr. Fetherolf.

On motion made by Mr. Burgess and seconded by Mrs. Hilliard, Council resolved to sell burial lots in the new expansion to Poplar Springs Cemetery for the sum of \$1,500.00 per burial space and that the purchase price for the burial space be allotted as follows: debt service \$1,200.00 per space; perpetual care \$300.00 per space. The vote on the motion

was as follows: Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Council. ABSENT: Mr. Cheatham and Mr. Fetherolf.

On motion made by Mr. Burgess and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, Council resolved to amend Section 7-2 of the City Code to read as follows: There have been established and there shall continue to be two cemeteries owned and managed by the City as follows: Poplar Springs Cemetery, consisting of five sections: Section 1 and 2, the New Annex, Annex No. 3, Section 3 and Annex IV, and Southview Cemetery consisting of five sections: the Old Section, Section A, Section B, Section C and Section D. The regulations set forth in this chapter shall apply equally to both of these cemeteries. The vote on the motion was as follows: Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Council. ABSENT: Mr. Cheatham and Mr. Fetherolf.

June Fleming, Interim City Manager, thanked Russ Pace for being creative and discovering ways to design more lots.

City Council Retreat

Erin Turner, Executive Assistant, addressed Council with the facilitator, Tyler St. Clair's, available dates for the fall retreat. Council came to the consensus that either October 31st and November 1st or December 12th and 13th worked best for them. With two Council members being absent, Ms. Turner advised Council that she would check with them and then confirm the retreat dates by email.

International Paper Safety Award

Larry Shaffer recently received the OSHA Special Government Employee of the Year award. Mr. Shaffer was recognized by Council and he explained the program and his travels throughout the world in an effort to make facilities safer for their employees. International Paper used to have a fatality every three years at the Franklin mill, but there hasn't been a fatality in 13 years now that new, strict OSHA standards have been implemented. Overall, Mr. Shaffer and his team have saved OSHA over \$3 million. International Paper was also named one of the safest plants in the United States.

Real Estate Tax Rate

June Fleming, Interim City Manager, stated that City Council needs to agree on a rate for advertising purposes. Once that rate has been decided, Council may then go back and change the rate after the public hearing; however, the rate can be reduced, but not increased.

On motion made by Mrs. Hilliard and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, the real estate tax rate was set at \$0.85 for advertising purposes. The vote on the motion was as follows: Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Council. ABSENT: Mr. Cheatham and Mr. Fetherolf.

Old/New Business

Brenda Rickman, Commissioner of the Revenue, stated that she was waiting to hear from Council with regard to the Tax Relief for the Elderly.

On motion made by Mrs. Hilliard and seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Tax Relief for the Elderly was amended to the following: Combined Gross Income of \$30,000 and a Net Financial Worth of up to \$60,000. The vote on the motion was as follows: Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Council. ABSENT: Mr. Cheatham and Mr. Fetherolf.

Miscellaneous

Councilman Burgess questioned the City's Parks and Recreation Department's involvement with the Mustang Football League. Mr. Davis advised that his department was only responsible for the scheduling of the field.

Vice Mayor Johnson stated that she was unable to attend the African American Festival, but that she enjoyed the music from her office.

Closed Session

On motion made by Mr. Burgess and seconded by Mrs. Hilliard it was unanimously RESOLVED that Council meet in closed session to consider prospective applicants for employment and the discussion of the expansion of a business as permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) and (5). The vote on the motion was as follows: Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Council. ABSENT: Mr. Cheatham and Mr. Fetherolf.

Certification

On motion made by Mr. Burgess and seconded by Mrs. Hilliard, 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 the motion was as follows: Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Council. ABSENT: Mr. Cheatham and Mr. Fetherolf.

City Manager Applicants

On motion made by Mr. Burgess and seconded by Mrs. Hilliard, Council unanimously agreed to advise the 35 applicants for the City Manager's job that did not meet all the qualifications established in the advertisement be advised that we appreciate their interest in the position but each is not going to be considered further for the job. The vote on the motion was as follows: Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Council. ABSENT: Mr. Cheatham and Mr. Fetherolf.

On motion made by Mr. Burgess and seconded by Mrs. Lawrence, Council unanimously agreed to advise the six applicants that applied for the City Manager's job that did meet all the qualifications established in the advertisement that we will hold their applications and add them to a pool of future applicants to be interviewed in the future. The vote on the motion was as follows: Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Council. ABSENT: Mr. Cheatham and Mr. Fetherolf.

On motion made by Mr. Burgess and seconded by Ms. Johnson, Council unanimously agreed to create an RFP to hire a firm to assist the Council in hiring a City Manager. The vote on the motion was as follows: Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Council. ABSENT: Mr. Cheatham and Mr. Fetherolf.

Adjournment

There being no further business, on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously adopted the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M. The vote on the motion was as follows: Mr. Burgess, Mrs. Lawrence, Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Hilliard and Mr. Council. ABSENT: Mr. Cheatham and Mr. Fetherolf.

Mayor

Clerk to City Council