

# Franklin City Council Agenda August 23, 2021 Council Chambers 207 West Second Avenue Franklin, Virginia 23851

# 7:00 P.M. Regular Meeting

## 1. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of August 9, 2021 minutes
- B. Introduction of New Employees- Franklin Police Department
- C. Constitution Week Proclamation 2021-18
- D. June and July Departmental Reports

## 2. OLD/ NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Blackwater Regional Library Update
- B. Southampton County Courthouse Update
- C. City Manager's Report

## 3. COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS ON BOARDS/COMMISSIONS

## 4. CLOSED SESSION

I move that the City of Franklin, Virginia City Council adjourn into a closed meeting pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711-A-1, 1. discussion of appointments to boards and commissions, and discussion of performance of employees of the public body to discuss the following subject or subjects: Franklin Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, contract of the Franklin City Manager, and

- 2.2-3711-A-3, Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body specifically regarding property in Downtown Franklin, on Langston Court, and on Banks Street.
- 2.2-3711-A-5, Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest

in locating or expanding its facilities in the community specifically along Pretlow Industrial Park, Armory Drive, and Franklin Regional Airport.

2.2-3711-A-7, Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body specifically regarding Sanford vs. City of Franklin.

Motion Upon Returning to Open Session- I move that the City of Franklin, Virginia City Council certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting held on August 23, 2021; (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the City of Franklin, Virginia City Council; and (iii) no action was taken in closed meeting regarding the items discussed.

## 5. ADJOURNMENT

The Franklin City Council held a Work Session City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. with regular City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. on August 9, 2021 in the City Council Chambers located at 207 West Second Avenue, Franklin, Virginia 23851.

**Council Members in Attendance:** Frank Rabil, Mayor; Robert (Bobby) Cutchins, Vice-Mayor; Councilwoman Wynndolyn Copeland; Councilman Ray Smith; and Councilman Mark R. Kitchen;

Council Members not in Attendance: Councilman Linwood Johnson and Councilman Gregory McLemore

Staff in Attendance: Amanda Jarratt, City Manager and Leesa Barnes, Executive Assistant, recording minutes

#### **Closed Session**

Mayor Frank Rabil called the August 9, 2021 work session to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Frank Rabil entertained a motion to go into Closed Session.

Councilman Mark R. Kitchen moved to go into a closed work session pursuant to Code Section 2.2-3711-A-1, for discussion, consideration, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, salaries, of any public body employee and specifically discussion of the City Manager's contract.

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynndolyn Copeland.

The motion carried the vote by 5-0.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Frank Rabil AYE

Vice-Mayor Robert (Bobby) Cutchins AYE

Councilman Linwood Johnson ABSENT

Councilman Mark R. Kitchen AYE

Councilwoman Wynndolyn Copeland AYE

Councilman Ray Smith AYE

Councilman Gregory McLemore ABSENT

Mayor Frank Rabil stated that the motion passed unanimously.

Late Arrival

Councilman Linwood Johnson arrived at 6:10 p.m. to the August 9, 2021 work session.

Motion Upon Returning to Open Session

Councilman Mark R. Kitchen moved that the City of Franklin Virginia City Council certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i.) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting held on August 9, 2021; (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were, discussed or considered by the City of Franklin, Virginia City Council; and (iii) no action was taken in closed meeting regarding the items discussed.

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynndolyn Copeland.

The motion carried the vote by 6-0.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Frank Rabil AYE

Vice-Mayor Robert (Bobby) Cutchins AYE

Councilman Linwood Johnson AYE

Councilman Mark R. Kitchen AYE

Councilwoman Wynndolyn Copeland AYE

Councilman Ray Smith AYE

Councilman Gregory McLemore ABSENT

Mayor Frank Rabil stated that the motion passed unanimously.

Regular Council Meeting

**Council Members in Attendance:** Frank Rabil, Mayor; Robert (Bobby) Cutchins, Vice-Mayor; Councilwoman Wynndolyn Copeland; Councilman Ray Smith; Councilman Mark R. Kitchen; Councilman Linwood Johnson and Councilman Gregory McLemore

Staff in Attendance: Amanda Jarratt, City Manager and Leesa Barnes, Executive Assistant, recording minutes

**Other Staff in Attendance:** Robert Porti, Deputy Chief of Franklin City Police Department; Sarah Rexrode, Director of Social Services; Vernie Francis, III, Chief of Emergency Services; Tracy Spence, Director of Finance; Chad Edwards, Interim Director of Public Works and Sammara Green-Bailey, Director of Parks & Recreations

#### Call to Order

Mayor Frank Rabil called the August 9, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### Citizen's Time

There were no speakers for Citizen's Time.

#### Amendments to Agenda

Mayor Frank Rabil asked if there were any amendments to the agenda.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Approval of July 12, 2021 and July 26, 2021 minutes

Mayor Frank Rabil asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the July 12, 2021 and July 26, 2021 regular City Council meetings.

There being no additions or corrections Mayor Frank Rabil entertained a motion of approval.

Councilman Linwood Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 12, 2021 and July 26, 2021 regular City Council meetings as presented.

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynndolyn Copeland.

The motion carried the vote by 5-0.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Frank Rabil AYE

Vice-Mayor Robert (Bobby) Cutchins ABSTAINED

Councilman Linwood Johnson AYE

Councilman Mark R. Kitchen AYE

Councilwoman Wynndolyn Copeland AYE

Councilman Ray Smith AYE

Councilman Gregory McLemore ABSTAINED

Mayor Frank Rabil stated that the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #2021 –17 In Honor of the Life of Mary Bettie Bowers Grant

Mayor Frank Rabil asked Councilwoman Wynndolyn Copeland to read Resolution #2021–17 In Honor of the Life of Mary Bettie Bowers Grant.

After the reading of Resolution #2021-17, Mayor Frank Rabil entertained a motion to approve Resolution 2021-17.

Councilman Ray Smith made a motion to approve Resolution #2021 - 17 In Honor of the Life of Mary Bettie Bowers Grant.

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynndolyn Copeland.

The motion carried the vote by 7-0.

Mayor Frank Rabil stated that the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Matters

American Rescue Plan Public Hearing Budget Amendment #2022-2

City Manager Amanda Jarratt stated the Code of Virginia requires that when a locality receives an influx of funds in excess of 1% of their total budget including capital spending an additional public hearing must be conducted. The City of Franklin will receive a total of \$9.8M from the American Rescue Plan Act of which \$4.7M will be spent in this fiscal year. City Council voted and approved the projects at the July 26, 2021 regular City Council meeting but a public hearing is required.

Mayor Frank Rabil opened the public hearing for Budget Amendment #2022-2 (American Rescue Plan Public Hearing)

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Speaker

Aiesha Durrell of 104 Morton Street, Franklin, Virginia 23851; Ms. Durrell stated she does not think that the City of Franklin taxpayer's money should be spent on relocating the Confederate monument. She added she thinks it should be sent to a museum or auctioned off.

Being there were no more speakers Mayor Frank Rabil closed the public hearing.

City Manager Amanda Jarratt stated the City of Franklin received the first deposit of \$4.7M on June 30, 2021 and will not receive the remaining amount until June 30, 2022. City Manager Jarratt gave the following list of projects that would be done this year:

2021-2022 Amended Increase Budget Budget (Decrease)

## 230 COVID FUND REVENUE

230-3-41050-0150	Use of Restricted Fund Balance \$183,802	\$4	\$4,966,498		\$4,783,196 \$4,783,196	
	Expenditures					
230-4-81300-8102	College & Bruce St. Park Upgrades MLK Renovations	\$	90,000	\$	90,000	
230-4-81300-8103		\$	64,500	\$	64,500	
230-4-81300-8104	Riverwalk Park Project	\$	500,000	\$ \$	500,000	
230-4-81300-8105	City Pool Upgrade Project	\$	75,000		75,000	
230-4-81300-8106	Hayden Park Project – Yr 1	\$ \$	50,000	\$ ¢	50,000	
230-4-81300-8107	Armory Field Upgrade Project Salaries & Benefits 2 Police Officers Yr.1	> \$	100,000	\$ c	100,000	
230-4-81300-8108 230-4-81300-8109	Salaries & Benefits One Dispatcher		140,000 45,000	\$ \$	140,000 45,000	
230-4-81300-8110	Police Vehicles	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	180,000	۶ \$	180,000	
230-4-81300-8111	Surveillance Cameras	ې خ	150,000	۶ \$	150,000	
230-4-81300-8111	Body Cameras	ې خ	53,500	۶ \$	53,500	
230-4-81300-8112	Police Truck	ب خ	75,000	۶ \$	75,000	
230-4-81300-8114	Police Helmets	ب خ	15,000	۶ \$	15,000	
230-4-81300-8115	Premium Pay	ب خ	200,000	۶ \$	200,000	
230-4-81300-8116	Tourism Interpretive Panels	ب خ	25,000	\$	25,000	
230-4-81300-8117	Train Depot Painting		10,000	\$	10,000	
230-4-81300-8117	Salaries & Benefits DSS OT		35,000	\$	35,000	
230-4-81300-8119	Demolition of Blighted Properties Yr-1		250,000	\$	250,000	
230-4-81300-8120	Bullet Proof Vests		8,000	\$	8,000	
230-4-81300-8121	EMS Helmets		4,000	\$	4,000	
230-4-81300-8122	Emergency Operations Software		50,000	\$	50,000	
230-4-81300-8123	Automated Gates	\$ \$ \$ \$	25,000	\$	25,000	
230-4-81300-8124	WWTP Sludge Removal	ς ς	300,000	\$	300,000	
230-4-81300-8125	Dewatering Equipment	ς ς	250,000	\$	250,000	
230-4-81300-8126	Sewer CIPP Yr 1	\$	305,000	\$	305,000	
230-4-81300-8127	Stormwater Projects Yr 1	\$	250,000	\$	250,000	
230-4-81300-8128	Paving Projects QCT Yr 1	\$	1,000,000	\$	1,000,000	
230-4-81300-8129	City-Wide Wireless / Broadband Improvements	\$	333,196		333,196	
200 101000 0125	ore, that whereas, broadband improvements	Y	333,130	<del>ب</del>	333,130	

\$ 4,783,196

Mayor Frank Rabil entertained a motion of adoption.

Councilman Linwood Johnson made a motion to adopt Budget Amendment #2022-22 – American Rescue Plan.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Mark R. Kitchen.

Councilman Gregory McLemore expressed his concern regarding the \$500,000.00 for the Riverwalk project and the \$200,000.00 for the premium pay.

Councilwoman Wynndolyn Copeland stated on a good note regarding the Premium Pay, full-time employees will receive \$2,000.00 and part-time employees will receive \$1,000.00. Also the parks will be renovated.

City Manager Jarratt answered yes, College and Bruce Street Park and the City pool will be upgraded as well as the Hayden Park Project are all a part of Budget Amendment #2022-22. City Manager Jarratt added regarding the paving \$1,000,000.00 will be allocated this year and a \$1,000,000.00 will be allocated next year. The other projects that will be divided this year and next are the stormwater and sewer projects.

Councilman McLemore asked what was the difference between the \$180,000.00 for the police vehicles versus the \$75,000.00 for the police truck.

City Manager Jarratt answered the City of Franklin purchased a mobile dispatch unit with Cares Act funds and the truck is to haul that unit as well as it is needed to haul the power and shower trailers that are being purchased with Cares Act funds.

Councilman McLemore expressed his concerns regarding the list.

The motion carried the vote by 6-0.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Frank Rabil AYE

Vice-Mayor Robert (Bobby) Cutchins AYE

Councilman Linwood Johnson AYE

Councilman Mark R. Kitchen AYE

Councilwoman Wynndolyn Copeland AYE

Councilman Ray Smith AYE

Councilman Gregory McLemore Left the Dais

Mayor Frank Rabil stated that the motion passed unanimously.

## Time Capsule Request

City Manager Amanda Jarratt stated a time capsule was placed in Memorial Park in 1976 during the Centennial Celebration in the City of Franklin. The time capsule is not scheduled to be opened until 2076. Ms. Gaynelle Riddick requested to have the time capsule opened on its fiftieth anniversary which will be in

2026. The time capsule would then be refilled with items that will tell the story of our city and its citizens. City Manager Jarratt requested guidance from City Council.

Mayor Frank Rabil opened the floor for discussion.

Vice-Mayor Robert (Bobby) asked if it was possible to poll some of the citizens who were around at the time the time capsule was buried to see what their thoughts were regarding opening the time capsule early.

Mayor Rabil stated he would take it a step further and advised asking some of the people that participated in putting items in the time capsule to see what their thoughts were concerning the opening of the time capsule.

Councilman Linwood Johnson stated his concern was that there was only one committee member living and thought that it would be great to have it opened while she was still living.

Mayor Rabil stated he thought it would be a good idea to contact some of the citizens that contributed to the time capsule to see what their thoughts were regarding opening the time capsule early.

City Manager Jarratt stated she would ask some of the staff that would have been around at the time the time capsule was buried and also put the request on the City's social media to see what the response would be.

#### City Manager's Report

City Manager Amanda Jarratt gave the following updates:

#### **General Updates**

- City Manager Amanda Jarratt introduced Karl Heek which is the new President and CEO of the Franklin Business Center and thanked him for attending the August 9, 2021 regular City Council meeting.
- The COVID-19 cases in the City of Franklin are now increasing and the City of Franklin has been moved to a high risk of spread locality by the Center of Disease control. Vaccinations continue to be administered through various avenues within the Western Tidewater District and other venues.
- COVID-19 Municipal Relief Fund payments are available for accounts that are thirty days past due. These payments are for water, sewer and electric usage only. It will not pay for garbage usage, late fees, penalties, nor taxes. An application is needed for each payment. Payments are NOT guaranteed. They will be made on a first come, first serve basis until the fund is depleted. As of now, there is \$27,244.25 remaining in the above referenced fund. By the end of this week, 181 customers will have received \$115,329.25 in aid in the last thirty days. Cut offs for nonpayment will resume on August 30, 2021.
- The Southampton County Courthouse bid opening is scheduled for August 10, 2021 and City Manager Jarratt will be attending.
- National Night Out was a success despite the inclement weather. The City of Franklin is looking forward to an in person event in 2022.
- City Manager Jarratt informed City Council that there was a pre-contract meeting held today regarding the Laurel Street grant. She added City Council will see assurances that need to adopted at future City Council meetings.

#### **Community Events**

- Spring and Summer athletic leagues and community wide events are posted on the City of Franklin website.
- The Franklin Cruise In is held every Wednesday evening in Downtown Franklin.
- We Be Jamming is ongoing through the fall.
- The Franklin Farmers Market is open on Wednesday's and Sunday's into the fall season.

#### Council / Staff Reports on Boards / Commissions

Mayor Frank Rabil asked City Council if they had anything to report on Council /Staff Reports on Boards / Commissions.

Councilman Linwood Johnson asked to updated on the Eviction Assistance program.

City Manager Amanda Jarratt stated there is some information on the City of Franklin's Facebook page regarding the Eviction Assistance program. This program is administered from a state level. City Manager Jarratt added there also will be another pandemic EBT deposit issued in the amount of \$375.00 at the end of August.

Councilman Linwood Johnson reported that former Governor Terry McAuliffe visited the City of Franklin and also visited the City's waste water treatment plant and discussed funding options for a restoration project.

Councilman Linwood Johnson also commented on how successful National Night Out was.

Mayor Frank Rabil echoed Councilman Linwood Johnson's words.

#### **Closed Session**

Mayor Frank Rabil entertained a motion to go into closed session.

Councilman Mark R. Kitchen moved that the City of Franklin, Virginia City Council adjourn into a closed meeting pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711-A-1, 1. Discussion of appointments to boards and commissions, and discussion of performance of employees of the public body to discuss the following subject or subjects: Franklin Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, and personnel matters related to COVID-19.

- 2.2-3711-A-3, Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body specifically regarding property in Downtown Franklin, on Langston Court, and on Banks Street.
- 2.2-3711-A-5, Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community specifically along Pretlow Industrial Park, Fairview Dirve, Armory Drive and Franklin Regional Airport.

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynndolyn Copeland.

Councilman Gregory McLemore departed the August 9, 2021 regular City Council meeting at 7:40 p.m.

The motion carried the vote by 6-0.	
The vote was as follows:	
Mayor Frank Rabil	AYE

Vice-Mayor Robert (Bobby) Cutchins AYE

Councilman Linwood Johnson AYE

Councilman Mark R. Kitchen AYE

Councilwoman Wynndolyn Copeland AYE

Councilman Ray Smith AYE

Councilman Gregory McLemore ABSENT

Mayor Frank Rabil stated that the motion passed unanimously.

Other Action Items of Council

There were no other actions of City Council during closed session.

## Adjournment

There being no other items to discuss Mayor Frank Rabil entertained a motion to adjourn the August 9, 2021 regular City Council meeting.

Councilwoman Wynndolyn Copeland made a motion to adjourn the August 9, 2021 regular City Council

meeting.						
The motion was seconded by Councilman Linwood Johnson.						
The motion carried the vote by 6-0.						
The vote was as follows:						
Mayor Frank Rabil	AYE					
Vice-Mayor Robert (Bobby) Cutchins	AYE					
Councilman Linwood Johnson	AYE					
Councilman Mark R. Kitchen	AYE					
Councilwoman Wynndolyn Copeland	AYE					
Councilman Gregory McLemore	ABSENT					
Councilman Ray Smith	AYE					
Mayor Frank Rabil stated that the motion	n passed unanimously.					
The July 26, 2021 regular City Council me	eeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.					
Mayor						
Wayor						
	Clerk to City Council					



#### Proclamation #2021-18

## **Constitution Week**

**WHEREAS:** September 17, 2021, marks the two hundred and thirty-fourth anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

**WHEREAS:** It is fitting and proper to afford official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary; and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion; and

**WHEREAS:** Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17, 2021 through September 23, 2021 as Constitution Week,

**NOW, THEREFORE I,** Frank Rabil by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Franklin, in Franklin, Virginia do hereby proclaim the week of September 17, 2021 through September 23, 2021 as:

#### **CONSTITUTION WEEK**

**AND:** ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals of the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Franklin to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> of August of the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one.

Frank M. Rabil, Mayor	



August 18, 2021

To: Franklin City Council

From: Amanda C. Jarratt, City Manager

Reference: Blackwater Regional Library

## **Background Information**

Staff from the Blackwater Regional Library system will be present to provide an update on their efforts.

## **Needed Action**

None at this time.



August 17, 2021

To: Franklin City Council

From: Amanda C. Jarratt, City Manager

Reference: Southampton County Courthouse Update

## **Background Information**

Please be advised that I attended the opening of the bids for the Southampton County Courthouse on behalf of the City of Franklin. Five bidders prequalified and two withdrew in advance of that day.

Two bids were received as follows:

Heartland Construction: Base Bid \$22,100,000.00

\$500/hour

Bid Alternate 1 \$51,000.00 Bid Alternate 2 \$27,000.00

Kenbridge Construction: Base Bid \$23,863,000.00

\$300/hour

Bid Alternate 1 \$41,000.00 Bid Alternate 2 \$27,000.00

The target bid including the Hunterdale Elementary School improvements that we are not responsible for was \$16.8M. This is \$5.3M over projections. We believe this is due to materials and labor costs and the changing environment associated with COVID-19. An initial discussion was held with the contractor to determine what if any cost savings there might be.

The following was discussed:

- The bid exceeds the Owner's budget. The group agreed that it is unlikely and unrealistic that we will be able to cut \$5-6M out of the project cost to meet the project budget since the Owner does not wish to reduce the scope, size, or function of the building.
- In addition to savings to be gained through this VE exercise, the Owner is also pursuing sources of alternative funding.
- The Owner would like to present the probable construction cost in as finalized a state as possible at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, September 7. We will be working to meet that goal as follows:
- o Heartland will take a first pass at generating a list of potential VE items. Heartland may choose to generate this list internally or with feedback solicited from their subs.

_	leartland	will	own	the	master	list o	f\	/Е	items.

☐ Heartland is encouraged to be creative in generating this list.

- o The design team will simultaneously prepare a list of known low-hanging fruit (e.g., finishes) that may be reduced or substituted without compromising the building scope, size, or function.
- o Heartland and G&HA will exchange lists by the end of the day on Tuesday, 8/24.
- o The group will reconvene to discuss the compiled VE list at 3:00pm on Wednesday, 8/25.
- o A finalized list will be prepared by Friday, September 3.

The items outlined above are scheduled to be presented to the Southampton County Board of Supervisors on September 7<sup>th</sup>. An invitation has been extended to you all to attend if you would like.

## **Needed Action**

Provide direction to staff on whether or not they would like a joint meeting with the Southampton County Board of Supervisors on September 7<sup>th</sup>.



August 17, 2021

To: Franklin City Council

From: Amanda C. Jarratt, City Manager

Reference: City Manager's Report

#### **General Updates**

- The COVID-19 cases in the City of Franklin are now increasing and the City of Franklin has been moved to a high risk of spread locality by the Center for Disease control. Vaccinations continue to be administered through various avenues within the Western Tidewater Health District and other venues.
- COVID-19 Municipal Relief Fund payments are now exhausted. Cut offs for nonpayment will resume on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Community Events**

- Spring and Summer athletic leagues and community wide events are posted on the City of Franklin website.
- The Franklin Cruise In is held every Wednesday evening in Downtown Franklin.
- We Be Jamming is ongoing through the fall.
- The Franklin Farmers Market is open on Wednesday's and Saturday's into the fall season.
- Franklin's Fall Festival will be held on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Friday will be a concert sponsored by the Downtown Franklin Association and Saturday will be typical street scene organized by Tourism, FSEDI, and several local business owners.