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## Regular City Council Meeting Minutes February 10, 2025

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### Call to order

The Franklin City Council held its regular City Council meeting on February 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

### Roll Call

Council Members in Attendance: Jessica Banks, Councilwoman; Wynndolyn Copeland, Vice-Mayor; Richard Grizzard, Councilman; Paul Kaplan, Mayor; Mark Kitchen, Councilman

Council Members Absent: Councilman Linwood Johnson

Others in Attendance: Rosylen Oglesby, City Manager, Kyle Eldridge, City Attorney

### Cell Phones

Mayor Kaplan asked all to silence cell phones.

### Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

### Citizen's Time

**Ms. Audrey Lee** made comments in reference to the need to have an elected school board and concern about the removal of Principal Felts from his position at the high school to a created position.

**Ms. Regina Hill** made comments in reference to the school's decision of the principal, the effect on the children, and lack of communication with the parents.

**Mr. Clyde Bailey** made comments in reference to dissatisfaction of the school system and superintendent, concern about the school's decision to remove Principal Felts, and the need for an elected school board.

**Mr. Gregory McLemore** made comments in reference to Black History Month and noted today in Zimbabwe Rhodesia an African American named Maxwell Chikumbutso invented and unveiled the first self-propelled EV car that never needs charging that operates by micro sonic energy technology.

**Councilman McLemore joined council at this time (7:20 p.m.).**

**Mrs. Pam Lease** made comments in reference to her dissatisfaction of the school's decision regarding Mr. Felts and how it was poorly communicated.

**Mr. Ricky Sykes** made comments referencing his support for an elected school board and asked for council's help to rectify the situation regarding Mr. Felts.

**Mrs. Carolyn Lawrence** thanked Council for doing what they did to get her back in the schools, made comments expressing concern about the school's decision regarding Mr. Felts, and expressed her dissatisfaction with the Superintendent.

**Ms. Jennifer Crouse and Mr. Dustin Sykes** made comments regarding Mr. Felts and his positive influence on the children.

**Mr. Jesse Evans** made comments referencing Mr. Felts and the need for an elected school board.

**Mr. Horatio Funches** made comments in support of Mr. Felts, asked for assistance in the removal of a homeless gentleman living beside his property due to concern of his family, and expressed that he was not in favor of a homeless shelter.

### Consent Agenda

Mayor Kaplan requested that Item A (Approval of Agenda for February 10, 2025) be removed from the consent agenda.

Councilman McLemore requested that Item B (Approval of January 27, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes) be removed for discussion.

### **Councilwoman Banks left the meeting at 7:43 p.m.**

Mayor Kaplan requested to amend the agenda to add a closed session to discuss consideration of a candidate for employment.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Copeland and seconded by Councilman Kitchen to approve to amend the agenda.

### **The motion carried the vote 5-0**

#### **The vote was as follows:**

**Ayes: Copeland, Grizzard, Kaplan, Kitchen, McLemore**

**Absent: Banks**

Councilman McLemore stated that he would like to be entered into the record that he request the additional comments made by the Council Lady be removed from the minutes unless the context and circumstances can also be included reflecting a more accurate account of what was said and occurred.

### **Councilwoman Banks re-joined the meeting at 7:45 p.m.**

Councilman McLemore referred to page 11 of the minutes where Councilwoman Banks made a statement that there was a departure from the closed session requirements.

City Attorney advised that Council would be violating closed session if they were to speak on what went on in closed session.

Councilman McLemore clarified that he said in his opinion that he had served in the last council who is the most corrupt and unprofessional council he has served on in 14 years and this, in his opinion, was the most ignorant, degenerate council he has served on and Councilman Grizzard was not included in this exchange.

City Manager's Report

Agenda Item #2025-12

A motion was made by Councilman Kitchen and seconded by Vice-Mayor Copeland to approve Resolution Approving and Adopting the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement.

**The motion carried the vote 6-0**

**The vote was as follows:**

**Ayes: Banks, Copeland, Grizzard, Kaplan, Kitchen, McLemore**



**RESOLUTION #2025-5**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Franklin recognizes the need for a coordinated emergency services, law enforcement, fire protection, and disaster response to ensure public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the Code of Virginia § 15.2-1728 authorizes local governing bodies, agencies and departments to enter into mutual aid agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Franklin and the other parties to the agreement desire to enter into a mutual aid agreement to provide assistance and resources during emergencies, disasters, and other events requiring additional personnel and equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement outlines the terms and conditions under which mutual aid shall be rendered, including liability, reimbursement, and operational procedures, and is in the best interest of the City of Franklin and its residents;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Franklin, Virginia:

1. The Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Franklin and other parties to the agreement, as presented and attached hereto as Exhibit A, is hereby approved and adopted.
2. The City Manager is authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the City of Franklin, and to take any actions necessary to implement its provisions.
3. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

**VOTE:**

**Ayes:**

**Nays:**

**Abstentions:**

**Absent for vote:**

**ADOPTED:**

**CERTIFIED:**

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**Paul Kaplan, Mayor**

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**Kimberly Turner, Deputy Clerk**

A motion was made by Councilman Kitchen and seconded by Councilwoman Banks to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Benefit Programs Specialist Appreciation Month.

**The motion carried the vote 6-0**

**The vote was as follows:**

**Ayes: Banks, Copeland, Grizzard, Kaplan, Kitchen, McLemore**



**RESOLUTION #2025-6**

**BENEFIT PROGRAMS SPECIALIST APPRECIATION MONTH  
Resolution of Appreciation**

WHEREAS, Virginia provided \$23,848,366,681 in benefits to the most vulnerable citizens of the Commonwealth through programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medical Assistance, Child Care, General Relief, Auxiliary Grant, Foster Care IV-E, Refugee Cash Assistance, Employment Service Programs and Energy Assistance administered by local departments of social services; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's governing body continually seeks to enact legislation that best supports our benefit programs, positively impacting our economy and empowering local Benefit Program Specialists to promote individual self-sufficiency among our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Benefit Programs Specialists continue to navigate the complexities of evolving policies and procedures across major benefit programs, requiring adaptive transitions and overcoming technological shortcomings to ensure that citizens receive the correct benefits; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's 4,084 Benefit Programs Staff, including 3,540 specialists, 493 supervisors, and 51 managers, have been instrumental in meeting community needs, maintaining high rates of application processing and case management to ensure that qualified individuals receive necessary social services; and

WHEREAS, significant financial support has been extended to Virginia's vulnerable populations, including \$85,668,950 to TANF recipients; \$11,600,380 for the Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (View) participants; \$15,428,674 for SNAP Employment & Training (SNAP E&T) programs; \$1,796,754,340 in food benefits to SNAP participants; \$21,385,613,147 in medical care through various Medical Assistance Programs; \$109,463,144 for Energy Assistance; \$408,723,826 for Child Care services; \$30,324,396 for IV-E Foster Care support and \$4,789,824 for IV-E Fostering Futures; and

WHEREAS, Benefit Programs Specialists exemplify the core values of ethical public service by respecting human dignity, demonstrating personal integrity, promoting professional excellence, and ensuring the accurate application of current policies and guidance;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025, the Franklin City Council does hereby commend all Benefit Programs Specialists across the City of Franklin and the Commonwealth of Virginia, for their dedicated service and hereby recognizes February 2025 as Benefit Programs Specialist Appreciation Month, encouraging all Virginians to acknowledge and celebrate their invaluable contributions to public service.

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Paul Kaplan, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Kimberly Turner, Deputy City Clerk

Agenda Item #2025-14

A motion was made by Councilman Kitchen and seconded by Vice-Mayor Copeland to approve Resolution Amending the FY 2024-2025 Operating Budget to Accept and Appropriate the Amount of \$5,000 Received as a Donation from Bronco Federal Credit Union for Use by the Franklin City Police Department for Creation and Implementation of a Police Explorer’s Program within the Police Department.

**The motion carried the vote 6-0**

**The vote was as follows:**

**Ayes: Banks, Copeland, Grizzard, Kaplan, Kitchen, McLemore**



**BUDGET AMENDMENT 2025-12**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, VIRGINIA that the 2024-2025 City Budget is hereby amended to:

- 1. *Recognize donation to the Police Dept from Bronco Federal Credit Union and to appropriate such donation for the creation and implementation of a Police Explorer’s Program. The Police Dept has requested that this be a perpetual fund;*

	2024-2025 BUDGET	AMENDED BUDGET	INCREASE (DECREASE)
<b>100 GENERAL</b>			
<b>REVENUE</b>			
100-3-18990-3041 Donations Police	\$ 3,677	\$ 8,677	5,000
			5,000
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
100-4-31100-6010 Police Supplies	\$ 62,000	\$ 67,000	5,000
			5,000

*Certified copy of resolution adopted by Franklin City Council*

*Deputy Clerk to the City Council*

Agenda Item #2025-15

A motion was made by Councilman Kitchen and seconded by Councilwoman Banks to approve the Resolution Amending the FY 2024-2025 Operating Budget to Move the Amount of \$6,534.01 from the General Fund’s Unassigned Fund Balance and Appropriate the Said Amount into the General Fund to Reimburse Previous Interim City Manager and Current City Manager with Taxes Payable on Expenses Associated with Their Contracts. Discussion: There was discussion to clarify the resolution and reason for owing these funds.

**The motion carried the vote 5-0**

**The vote was as follows:**

**Ayes: Banks, Copeland, Grizzard, Kaplan, Kitchen**

**Abstained: McLemore**



**BUDGET AMENDMENT 2025-13**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, VIRGINIA that the 2024-2025 City Budget is hereby amended to:

1. Reimburse previous Interim City Manager and current City Manager with taxes payable on expenses associated with contract.

	2024-2025 BUDGET	AMENDED BUDGET	INCREASE (DECREASE)
<b>100 GENERAL REVENUE</b>			
100-3-41050-0150 Use of Unassigned Fund Balance	\$ 596,536	\$ 603,070	6,534
			<u>6,534</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
100-4-12100-5840 Miscellaneous	\$ 1,500	\$ 8,034	6,534
			<u>6,534</u>

*Certified copy of resolution adopted by Franklin City Council*

*Deputy Clerk to the City Council*

## New Business

### A. Boards & Commissions

A motion was made by Councilman Kitchen and seconded by Vice-Mayor Copeland to appoint Brenda Peterson to the Social Services Advisory Board.

**The motion carried the vote 5-1**

**The vote was as follows:**

**Ayes: Banks, Copeland, Grizzard, Kaplan, Kitchen**

**Nays: McLemore**

### B. Items Submitted by Council Members (Council Comments)

Vice-Mayor Copeland made comments referencing the citizens' comments tonight, provided attributes of Mr. Felts, thanked him for his service, and made comments regarding the utility bill due date.

City Manager Oglesby provided an update on utility billing.

A motion was made by Councilman McLemore and seconded by Vice-Mayor Copeland to give the City Manager the ability to extend the deadline for utility payments this month.

**The motion carried the vote 6-0**

**The vote was as follows:**

**Ayes: Banks, Copeland, Grizzard, Kaplan, Kitchen, McLemore**

City Manager Oglesby stated that she will extend the deadline to February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Kitchen made comments referencing the school system issue and asked for another meeting with the Chair and Superintendent to find out what is really going on.

Councilwoman Banks made comments referencing the school system issue regarding Mr. Felts, asked citizens to be patient with Council and explained Council role as it relates to the school system.

Councilman McLemore made comments referencing the school system situation regarding Mr. Felts and explained the disadvantages of an elected school board.

Councilman Grizzard made comments in support of Mr. Felts.

Councilman McLemore also made comments regarding citizens attending the meetings and holding them accountable.

Mayor Kaplan made comments explaining the matter that took place at the first Council meeting brought forth by the Electoral Board with seating council members, made comments regarding Mr. Felts, and asked for a joint meeting with the School Board with the Superintendent and City Manager.

There was a consensus of Council to schedule a joint meeting with the School Board.

Councilman McLemore also made comments regarding how school board elections are voted on by wards.

Mayor Kaplan read an email that came from Ms. Carrie Johnson regarding the recent leadership change within the school system.

**C. Report on Pending Items**

- Renaming and Honorary Street Policies

There was a consensus of Council to put this item on agenda for next meeting.

- Bon Secours Mercy Health 2025 Bond Issuance

There was a consensus of Council to allow Henrico County to conduct the public hearing for the City of Franklin and to have Bon Secours Mercy Health and a representative from Henrico County to come before Council on March 10, 2025.

**Closed Session**

A motion was made by Councilman Grizzard and seconded by Vice-Mayor Copeland to convene a closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 A-1, for the purpose of discussing, considering, or interviewing prospective candidates for employment.

**The motion carried the vote 6-0**

**The vote was as follows:**

**Ayes: Banks, Copeland, Grizzard, Kaplan, Kitchen, McLemore**

**Reconvene Regular Session**

A motion was made by Councilman Grizzard and seconded by Vice-Mayor Copeland to reconvene regular session.

**The motion carried the vote 6-0**

**The vote was as follows:**

**Ayes: Banks, Copeland, Grizzard, Kaplan, Kitchen, McLemore**

**Certification of Closed Meeting**

Councilman Grizzard moved that each council member certify that, to the best of his or her knowledge: I hereby move that each council member certify that, to the best of his or her knowledge:

- (i) Only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and



- (ii) Only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed meeting just concluded.

Any member of the public body who believes that there was a departure from the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii), shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his or her judgement, has taken place. The statement shall be recorded in the minutes of the public body.

**City Council certified the meeting.**

**The motion carried the vote 6-0**

**The certification was as follows:**

**Certified: Banks, Copeland, Grizzard, Kaplan, Kitchen, McLemore**

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilwoman Banks and seconded by Vice-Mayor Copeland to adjourn.

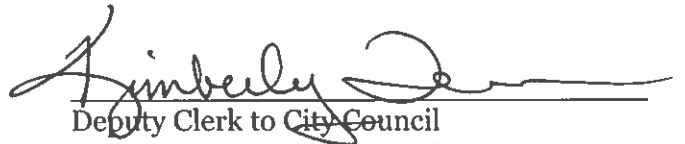
**The motion carried the vote 6-0**

**The vote was as follows:**

**Ayes: Banks, Copeland, Grizzard, Kaplan, Kitchen, McLemore**



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Mayor

  
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Deputy Clerk to City Council