

**AGENDA**

FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2018 – CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 207 W. SECOND AVE.

**7:00 P.M.**  
**Regular Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER . . . . . MAYOR FRANK M. RABIL  
PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES . . . . . MAYOR FRANK M. RABIL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZENS' TIME

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

- 1. CONSENT AGENDA
  - A. Minutes: February 20, 2018 Called Meeting; February 21, 2018 Called Meeting; February 26, 2018 Work Session & Regular Meeting; and February 28, 2018 Called Meeting
- 2. OLD/NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Real Estate Property Reassessment 2018 . . . . . Steve Wampler,  
Wampler – Eanes Appraisal  
Group, LTD
  - B. Power & Light Department Annual Report . . . . . Mark Bly, Director of Power &  
Light Department
  - C. City Manager’s Report
- 3. COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS ON BOARDS/COMMISSIONS
- 4. CLOSED SESSION

I move that the Franklin City Council meet in closed session to discuss appointments to boards and commissions; and to discuss 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, and consultation with the City Attorney regarding legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice from the City Attorney pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2 – 3711 (A) (1) (5) & (8).

Motion Upon Returning to Open Session- I move that the only matters discussed during the closed session were those lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened.

- 5. ADJOURNMENT

**UPCOMING ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED**

The items below are intended to be reflective, and not inclusive of all subjects staff is working on to bring forward to City Council in the next two months. Both the time lines and subject matter are subject to change and should not be considered final.

<b><u>SUBJECT</u></b>	<b><u>TENTATIVE TIME LINE</u></b>
<b>Pauline C. Morton Historical Marker Unveiling Event</b>	<b>Saturday, March 10, 2018 9:00 a.m. Reception – PDCCC Workforce Development Center 10 a.m. unveiling at N. College Drive Site near Ruth Camp Campbell Library</b>
<b>FSEDI Partners in Progress – State of the City - County</b>	<b>Tuesday, March 13, 2018 @ 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. – Main Event 110 N. Main Street – Downtown Franklin</b>
<b>VDOT U. S. HWY 58 Corridor Study Public Information Meeting</b>	<b>Tuesday, March 13, 2018 @ 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Southampton County Office Complex, Courtland, VA</b>
<b>Joint Council/School Board Budget Work Session</b>	<b>March, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m. (Date &amp; Location TBD)</b>
<b>Agencies &amp; Organizations Budget Presentations to Council</b>	<b>6:00 p.m. – March 26, 2018 prior to Council Regular Meeting in Council Chambers</b>
<b>Spring Amnesty Week</b>	<b>April 2 – 6, 2018</b>
<b>Council Budget Work Sessions Departmental Requests</b>	<b>6:00 p.m. – April 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 @ Council Chambers</b>
<b>City Council Elections</b>	<b>Tuesday, May 1, 2018</b>

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes: February 20, 2018 Called Meeting; February 21, 2018 Called Meeting; February 26, 2018 Work Session & Regular Meeting; and February 28, 2018 Called Meeting**

**Franklin City Council  
Called Meeting  
February 20, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers Conference Room**

The Franklin City Council met in a Called meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City hall. The purpose of the called meeting was for the City Council and City Administration to have a work session to discuss the City's Electric Utility Fund operations and financials.

**Council Members in Attendance:** Frank Rabil, Mayor; Barry Cheatham, Vice-Mayor; Benny Burgess, Linwood Johnson, Mary Hilliard, Bobby Cutchins and Greg McLemore (note: Councilman Johnson arrived at 6:05 p.m.).

**Staff in Attendance:** Randy Martin, City Manager; Taylor Williams, City Attorney; Mark Bly, Director of Power and Light; Chief Phil Hardison, Franklin Police Department.

Mayor Rabil called the work session to order and reviewed the published purpose of this called meeting. Mayor Rabil then asked City Manager Martin to review the report prepared by staff and previously distributed to Council dated February 16, 2018.

City Manager Martin reviewed highlights of the lengthy report which included background information on previous instances the city had reviewed citizen utility concerns beginning in 2013 up to present. The report included exhibits on historical utility data and current data generated by the city's updated utility billing software that was not available prior to 2017. Much of the updated data and information was aimed at addressing customer and Council questions and concerns expressed at the February 12, 2018 regular Council meeting which focused on recently distributed utility bills for usage from December 21, 2017 through January 21, 2018. The report also contained information on electric usage for the billing period and prior years verifying that this was the highest usage in the documented history of the City's electric department.

Specifically City Manager Martin offered the following: 214 or 4.6% of the city's 4,603 residential customers had bills over \$800.00 for all utilities including electric, water, sewer and solid waste. He also advised that 3,332 or 72% of the residential customers had current bills below \$500.00. He also provided statistics on the abnormally high number of water customers reporting leaks due to frozen pipes during the extreme temperatures during this billing period. The report also focused on public assistance provided to qualifying customers in need to help pay their utility bills. The City's Department of Social Services has approved \$261,685.26 to assist 501 customers thus far this fiscal year. The City Finance Department had also provided an updated analysis and projection of the City Electric Fund Cash balance through the end of February which had been a focus of discussion by Council.

Also presented by the City Manager at the meeting was a report of additional Utility Billing/Service Statistical Information prepared since the 2/16/18 report was sent to Council.

This report contained average residential customer usage data and billing amounts for the fiscal year to date. It also included detailed and summary temperature data documenting the extraordinary conditions this winter with comparison data for the prior year during the same months.

At the conclusion the City Manager's comment on the reports, he recognized Director Bly who reviewed the spreadsheets focusing on power purchases. He noted peaks over the past six years. He also reviewed highlights of Exhibit 3 of the report sent to Council specifically including the City's Virginia Municipal Electric Association (VMEA) relationship. He noted there had been no change in the City's residential service rate

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since July, 2016. The only change impacting customers was a change by Dominion in the fuel adjustment charge that the City is required to “pass through” to customers.

Director Bly advised that he was preparing his budget request for FY 2018 – 2019 and that based upon currently available data, he did not project the need for an increase in the City’s electrical rates for FY 2018 – 2019. This was despite a projected Dominion wholesale rate increase of 6.6%.

Councilman Johnson asked Director Bly to further explain the history and mechanics of the fuel adjustment charge included on customer’s bills. Director Bly gave historical highlights and noted that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulates fuel adjustment charges by investor-owned utilities including Dominion. Director Bly in response to comments reviewed the history of VMEA and the contract currently in force. He also commented on the statewide totals for each type electric service provider in Virginia and comparisons provided by the state for each utility including average rates that were included in the agenda materials for this meeting.

Councilman McLemore commented on specific numbers from the report including the \$1.4 million transfer to the General Fund annually from the Electric Fund. He reminded his fellow Council members that among the three relief proposals suggested at the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, he had proposed adding 15% to the average customer bill and forgiving the balance of the customer bills for this period of usage. He stated only the Vice-Mayor and City Manager had made proposals which simply extended the time for customers to pay their bills. Councilman McLemore felt the City should use part of its reserve funds to pay for the customer credits. He asked that the cost of his proposal be evaluated.

Discussion ensued among several members of Council and staff on methods of estimating the cost and the impact on the electric fund cash reserves. Specifically, it was discussed how to apply the credit and whether the credit would be given to all customers.

Further discussion and questions to the City Attorney focused on statutory provisions that would determine or limit whether the City could forgive a portion of the bills. Equity questions were raised, by the City Manager on the basis to be used such as based upon actual usage or a flat amount per customer.

Councilman Johnson expressed concern that citizens not be given false hope that any credit would be forthcoming.

Mayor Rabil stated that it would be fiscally irresponsible to dip in the reserve funds when the City’s delinquencies are already in the neighborhood of a million dollars. He reminded all present of the amount of assistance being provided by the City and other nonprofit entities to assist customers in need.

Vice-Mayor Cheatham emphasized that the action taken at the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting was aimed at short term relief for the current elevated bills. Longer term implementation of a budget plan will help a lot of customers. He emphasized the need for the City to implement the budget plan for customers as soon as possible.

Mayor Rabil noted that the Council had also directed no cutoffs for two weeks from February 12<sup>th</sup> until the next regular meeting and that the City Manager had also extended the due date for these bills until the end of February. These actions along with the previous Council action to allow customers to pay their prior month amount and spread the difference over four months had provided relief for the current bills.

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Councilman Johnson encouraged Council to keep long and short term solutions in focus.

The Council by consensus agreed to continue this utility discussion at the next regular meeting on February 26, 2018.

Comments were made about providing additional updated information including cost estimates.

**Adjournment**

Vice-Mayor Cheatham made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilman Johnson seconded it

The motion was approved by a vote of 7 – 0.

**Mayor Rabil adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.**

**These Minutes for the February 20, 2018 City Council Called meeting were adopted on the 12<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2018.**

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**Mayor**

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**Clerk to City Council**

**Franklin City Council**  
**Joint Franklin City Council/Franklin City School Board Called Meeting**  
**February 21, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.**  
**Franklin Business Center – 601 N. Mechanic Street, Franklin, VA – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room**

The Franklin City Council and the Franklin City School Board met in a joint called meeting on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room at the Franklin Business Center located at 601 N. Mechanic Street in Franklin, Virginia. The purpose of the joint meeting was to maintain open communication between the City Council and School Board and discuss the state of the Franklin City Public Schools.

Mayor Frank Rabil called the City Council meeting to order and School Board Chair Robert Holt called the School Board meeting to order.

**Council Members in Attendance:** Frank Rabil, Mayor; Barry Cheatham, Vice-Mayor; Benny Burgess, Linwood Johnson, Mary Hilliard, Bobby Cutchins and Greg McLemore. (Note: Councilman Johnson arrived at 6:05 p.m.)

**School Board Members in Attendance:** Robert Holt, Ron Rusnak, Jessica Grant, Amy Phillips, Andrea Hall-Leonard, and Becky Jester (School Board Member Marchelle Williams absent). (Note: School Board Member Ron Rusnak arrived at 6:15 p.m.)

**Other City Representatives in Attendance:** Randy Martin, City Manager; and Taylor Williams, City Attorney.

**Other School Division Representatives in Attendance:** Superintendent Tamara Sterling, Deputy Superintendent Kelvin Edwards, Finance Officer Pam Kindred, Executive Assistant Tammy Moore, Director of Human Resources/Administrative Services Gail Wade and Dr. Roy Geiger, state consultant assigned to the School Division by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).

**Others in Attendance:** Stephen Faleski, Tidewater News Reporter.

Mayor Rabil thanked everyone for attending and then reviewed the purpose of the meeting. City Attorney Williams advised all present that he was in attendance but would not participate or offer any representation or legal advice since he represents both the Council and School Board.

Mayor Rabil then recognized City Manager Martin who gave a brief overview. He congratulated the School Division for assisting the city in successfully completing the annual audit for FY 2016 – 2017 on time, for assisting with the successful closeout of the QZAB loan before the deadline and for completing the last fiscal year with no audit findings and within the budget appropriation. He thanked Superintendent Sterling and her staff for excellent cooperation since the Superintendent took office last year.

Chairman Holt then made remarks about how well the School Board was functioning since the membership changes, and he recognized and introduced the Superintendent praising her efforts since she took office.

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation of which copies were distributed to all present, Superintendent Sterling addressed the three agenda topics as follows:

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A. Prelude to the 2018 Budget Season

The Superintendent made overview remarks sharing the Mission Statement and Core Beliefs of the School Division then she recognized Finance Officer Kindred who reviewed the PowerPoint section for this topic. Highlights are as follows:

- a. Discussion and details of the Governor's Proposed Budget HB/SB 30
- b. FY 2019 Budget Direction and the Challenges Facing the Division
- c. State Funding
- d. ADM – Average Daily Membership – 1061 students
- e. Local Composite Index Historical Trends (LCI) and Budgetary Notes

B. Superintendent Sterling next presented a report on the State of the Franklin City Public Schools.

- a. Franklin High School and J.P. King Middle School fully accredited
- b. S. P. Morton Elementary is not accredited
- c. Superintendent's vision/making it a reality

C. Superintendent Sterling then introduced the identified areas of need for FY 2018 – 2019 and recognized Finance Officer Kindred to review the specifics. It was noted that the Division had solicited public and staff input in developing the reported needs.

- a. Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019 areas of need (i.e. instruction, administration, attendance and health, transportation, technology, change in benefits, 2% raise, maintenance
- b. Proposed Expenditures and Revenues

The deficit in local funding to meet the identified needs totaled \$1,464,934.00.

At the conclusion of the presentation, members of the Council and School Board had the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

Mayor Rabil commented on the ADM projection and historical numbers and particularly identified the number of children from the City that are going outside to other schools. He questioned if the Division had researched the reasons for transfers out?

Superintendent Sterling indicated that the Division's research identified a major factor as being a deficit in programs being offered. She continued that the need addresses this by expanding offerings to hopefully reduce transfers out and possibly increase the number returning to FCPS. Board member Phillips cited her own experiences with her children and how the new offerings already addressed had impacted her family's decision making.

Councilman Johnson asked about efforts to collaborate with neighboring and other school divisions. Superintendent Sterling cited successful examples and other possible collaborations under consideration. She emphasized assessing sustainability and acknowledged some efforts were only in the discussion phase, but she was optimistic. She also noted there were costs involved and that four or five divisions are willing to work



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with FCPS on this initiative. The Superintendent also commented that enhanced teacher training to achieve advanced degree program goals was an identified path to address dual enrollment needs and costs.

Councilman McLemore noted the Superintendent mentioned during the earlier presentation the importance of early childhood development. He specifically wanted to know why S. P. Morton Elementary School was the only one not yet accredited and the timetable for achieving accreditation.

Superintendent Sterling stated accreditation was a priority but it would be difficult to establish a timetable. She noted early childhood efforts could positively impact on future students. She specifically mentioned the ACE program which is a pilot program where some kids are held back to get more help while others move forward. She believed the Division was on a path toward a stronger program at the elementary level in 1 to 2 years.

At the Mayor's request, the School Division commented on State funding options for pay increases. Councilman Johnson also commented on the compensation issues he had heard discussed in recent VML meetings.

Mayor Rabil questioned whether the Division had as yet prioritized the stated need for increased funding of \$1.4 million in local funds? School officials responded this was the total need identified, and the School Board had not established its priorities of the requests. City Manager Martin noted the two boards would schedule another joint meeting in late March to review the School Division budget request once the School Board reviews the total identified needs.

Several of those present commented and reviewed ADM projections and the impact on funding that results. Councilman Burgess commented positively on the earlier presentation which emphasized the importance of efforts to keep the higher performing students from transferring out of the division. He praised this effort to address curriculum needs to challenge these students as a priority. He felt this has not been the case in the past.

To a question from Mayor Rabil on the current status of dual enrollment, Superintendent Sterling noted that testing was scheduled for next week after which analysis will be done and further responses will be available on the status. Mayor Rabil also asked whether the Division's policy has been adjusted to raise the standard for dual enrollment? The Superintendent advised that the minimum standard of 2.0 had been raised to 3.0. She further commented on alternatives of more rigorous courses for those scoring under the policy minimum. The Division is using the policy and implementing it which has not been done in the past when it was relaxed.

Superintendent Sterling then commented in more detail on the accreditation efforts at S. P. Morton Elementary. She stated that third grade reading is an issue hurting accreditation efforts at the school. Students are exhibiting strength in other courses. By contrast, students are doing well in reading at the fourth grade level. The focus is on accreditation. Data is being used to target issues.

Superintendent Sterling indicated the system is focused on instilling confidence in students by pushing them to excel. Fundamentals at lower ages and in developmental stages are believed to be key. When students finally get it they excel and this is verified by improved performance in higher grades. That is why early childhood is so important in early grade success.

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Mayor Rabil commented on some of the early childhood initiatives such as Smart Beginnings and other programs that are available. Superintendent Sterling commented that coordination of efforts to redesign approaches to early childhood may be needed.

Vice-Mayor Cheatham remarked positively on an event held recently by Smart Beginnings at which 400 children were introduced to a preschool program.

**Adjournment**

After the discussion concluded, Vice-Mayor Cheatham made a motion to adjourn the Council meeting and Councilman Johnson seconded it

The motion was approved by a vote of 7 – 0.

School Board member Becky Jester made a motion to adjourn the School Board meeting and it was seconded by Vice-Chair Andrea Hall-Leonard.

The motion was approved by a 6 – 0 vote (School Board Member Marchelle Williams absent).

**Mayor Rabil and Chair Holt then declared the joint meeting of the City Council and School Board adjourned at 7:20 p.m.**

**These Minutes for the February 21, 2018 City Council Called meeting were adopted on the 12<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2018.**

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**Mayor**

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**Clerk to City Council**

**Franklin City Council**  
**Work Session**  
**February 26, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.**  
**Council Chambers Conference Room**

The Franklin City Council met in a work session held prior to the regular meeting of City Council on Monday, February 26, 2018. The work session began at 6:00 p.m. and was held in the Council Chambers conference room in the Franklin City Hall. The purpose of the work session was for the Council to discuss their top priorities

**Council Members in Attendance:** Frank Rabil, Mayor; Barry Cheatham, Vice-Mayor; Benny Burgess, Linwood Johnson, Mary Hilliard, Bobby Cutchins and Greg McLemore (note: Councilman Johnson arrived at 6:05 p.m.).

**Staff in Attendance:** Randy Martin, City Manager; and Taylor Williams, City Attorney.

Mayor Rabil called the meeting to order and asked each member to list their top 3 or 4 priorities. He referenced the agenda materials distributed to Council for this meeting as a source, but members can add to the list additional items if desired. The distributed materials included the Council adopted Vision Statement, 3-Year Priorities list and the City Council Priority Tracking report prepared by the Manager and recently presented to Council.

Council members individually offered their priorities as follows:

- a) Vice-Mayor Cheatham
  - 1) Utility Billing Budget Plan with a donation provision
  - 2) HR Personnel Study/Update
  - 3) Rental Housing Inspection Program (revisit)
  
- b) Councilwoman Hilliard
  - 1) School Budget/Funding Strategy (Priority)
  - 2) Rental Housing Inspection Program
  
- c) Councilman Burgess
  - 1) Fill Key Positions (Dept. Head Vacancies, Admin. Asst.)
  - 2) 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Study of Electric Dept. (equipment/rates)
  - 3) Water/Sewer Authority Utility Study next steps
  
- d) Councilman McLemore
  - 1) Study Electric Equipment
  - 2) IT use of PEG Channel (record all Council meetings & put other information on PEG Channel)
  - 3) Study options for Grant Writing Assistance (new position)
  - 4) Study to address gender & racial equality (citizen time request)

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- e) Councilman Cutchins
  - 1) Study Electric equipment
  - 2) Fill Key Positions
  - 3) Grant Writing Study
  
- f) Councilman Johnson
  - 1) Consider Prayer at Council meetings
  - 2) Study Electric equipment
  - 3) Develop marketing plan for housing stock
  - 4) Extend Madison Street CDBG project to other areas of the city.
  
- g) Mayor Rabil
  - 1) 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Study of Electric Dept. (equipment/rates)
  - 2) Rental Housing Inspection Program
  - 3) Filling Key Positions

Mayor Rabil summarized the list indicating: the electric study received five priority listings and if the budget plan implementation is included that would be six members. Next highest was three priority listings for revisiting the rental housing inspection program. The next highest received two priority listing was for filling key staff positions. It was noted that all except the grant writing was included in the current budget (i.e. finance director position, HR director, admin asst. Parks & Rec director).

The Council then discussed timelines for these priority items. Suggested timelines for each were as follows: 1) electric study – RFP finalized by March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting for Council review, study results by August, 2018; budget plan policy be presented by May with implementation June, 2018 effective date July 1, 2018; 2) rental housing inspection program next step – discuss ADHOC Advisory Committee appointments (March 12, 2018 Closed session); and, 3) fill key positions: administration best effort by July, 2018 as many as possible. It was noted that the rental housing committee would not be a standing committee and that appointments would be at large with the focus on having broad stakeholder representation.

Members of Council asked that these items be reflected on future updates of the priority tracking report as top priorities.

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Rabil thanked the Council members for coming prepared to the work session. Mayor Rabil then recessed the work session at 6:48 p.m. with the regular meeting to follow and convene at 7:00 p.m.

**Mayor Rabil recessed the meeting at 6:48 p.m.**

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**These Minutes for February 26, 2018 City Council Work Session were adopted on the 12<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2018.**

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**Mayor**

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**Clerk to City Council**

The Franklin City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, February 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

**Council Members in Attendance:** Mayor Frank Rabil, Barry Cheatham, Vice-Mayor; Bobby Cutchins, Mary Hilliard, Greg McLemore, Linwood Johnson and Benny Burgess.

**Staff in Attendance:** Randy Martin, City Manager; Taylor Williams, City Attorney; Mark Bly, Director of Power and Light; Donald Goodwin, Director of Community Development; Brenda Rickman, Commissioner of Revenue and Dinah Babb, Treasurer.

**Others in Attendance:** Officer Marissa Foster, Franklin Police Department; Lieutenant Karl Boone, Franklin Police Department; Lieutenant Patrick Wilson, Franklin Police Department; Bruce Edwards, Communications Manager, Franklin Police Department; Phillip Sherman, Community Development; Lee Copeland, Retiree, Community Development; Stephen Faleski, Tidewater News Reporter; and Teresa Rose-McQuay; Administrative Assistant and Acting Secretary, Recording Minutes.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone in attendance.

### **Electric Usage & Billing Update**

### **CITIZENS' TIME**

No citizens signed up to speak at Citizens' Time.

### **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

### **Minutes: January 22, 2018 Regular Meeting & February 12, 2018 Regular Meeting**

Mayor Rabil asked if there were any questions or corrections to the January 22, 2018 Regular meeting minutes. Hearing none, Mayor Rabil asked for a motion. Vice-Mayor Cheatham made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Councilwoman Hilliard seconded it.

The motion was approved by a 7 – 0 vote.

Mayor Rabil asked if there were any questions or corrections to the February 12, 2018 Regular meeting minutes. Hearing none, Mayor Rabil asked for a motion. Vice-Mayor Cheatham made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Councilman Cutchins seconded it.

The motion was approved by a 7 – 0 vote.

### **Resolution: Virginia School Board Appreciation Month**

Mayor Rabil asked Councilman Burgess to read the resolution for Virginia School Board Appreciation Month aloud. Virginia School Board Member Appreciation Month is February of 2018. Councilwoman Hilliard made the motion to approve the resolution as presented and Councilman Johnson seconded it.

The motion was approved by a 7 – 0 vote.

Mayor Rabil presented the resolution to School Board member, Dr. Andrea Hall-Leonard.

### **Resolution of Appreciation: Lee D. Copeland, Retirement**

Mayor Rabil asked Vice-Mayor Cheatham to read the resolution honoring retiree, Mr. Lee D. Copeland aloud. Councilman Cutchins made the motion to approve the resolution as presented and Councilman Johnson seconded it.

The motion was approved by a 7 – 0 vote.

Mayor Rabil presented Mr. Copeland with a plaque commemorating the occasion and his service to the City and Southampton County.

### **Departmental Reports: January, 2018**

There were no questions or comments concerning the January, 2018 Departmental Reports.

### **Public Hearings**

#### **Charter Communications Cable Franchise Ordinance**

Mayor Rabil opened the public hearing on the Charter Communications Cable Franchise Ordinance at 7:08 p.m.

No one spoke concerning the matter. The public hearing was closed at 7:09 p.m.

Mayor Rabil asked Manager Martin if he had any comments on the Cable Franchise Ordinance. Manager Martin stated that the Charter Communication governmental liaison, Mr. Eric Collins was in attendance to answer any questions the Council may have on behalf of Charter. Manager Martin deferred to Attorney Williams for more information on the subject.

Attorney Williams explained that Charter Communications reached out to many Virginia localities where cable service was provided but no cable franchise existed or the franchise had expired and has slowly obtained current cable service franchises. Franklin and Southampton County are each considering adoption of non-exclusive cable franchises. Isle of Wight County adopted a cable franchise within the last 2 years. The City has confirmed several other Virginia communities that have adopted or are in the process of adopting franchise agreements. The main benefits of having a franchise agreement are found in Section 4, Use of Streets and Dedicated Easements; Section 5 Maintenance of the System; Section 7, Public, Educational and Governmental Access Channels; Section 9, Insurance; Section 10, Indemnification; Section 17, Customer Service Standards; and, Section 18, Reports and Records.

Attorney Williams recommended adopting the negotiated cable franchise agreement with Charter Communications, VI, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company authorized to do business in Virginia, pursuant to Va. Code Section 15.2-2108.20. Attorney Williams also acknowledged the required public hearing had been properly advertised as documented in the agenda.

Mayor Rabil asked if there were any questions concerning the franchise agreement.

Councilman Johnson asked if Broadband came in and wanted to apply for a franchise could they.

Attorney Williams stated that it would be considered competition and yes they could.

Councilman McLemore asked how many PEG channels the city has and what access does the public have to utilize the PEG channel.

Attorney Williams stated that the city has two PEG channels and we can put on as much as time will allow.

Councilman McLemore stated that his concern was what and how the public can access the PEG channel.

Attorney Williams stated that there aren't City criteria to address this currently. The Manager noted that federal regulations limit the use of the PEG channel.

Mr. Collins stated that the FCC controls the content and there are restrictions limiting what can be included on the PEG channels. Mr. Collins stated that he did not know the criteria off hand.

Manager Martin stated that staff could research the guidelines and restrictions.

Councilman McLemore stated that he felt like the PEG channels are underutilized.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to adopt the Resolution granting a negotiated cable franchise agreement with Charter Communications and Vice-Mayor Cheatham seconded it.

The motion was approved by a 7 – 0 vote.

### **Verizon Property Lease Public Hearing**

Mayor Rabil asked the City Attorney to review the purpose of this Public Hearing. Attorney Williams stated that the Public Hearing was scheduled pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-1800 (B). A Notice of the Public Hearing has been advertised in the Tidewater News newspaper once a week for two successive weeks as required by law.

Verizon Wireless has proposed to lease a parcel of land from the City of Franklin that is 50 feet by 50 feet square (2,500 sq. ft.) to locate communication equipment on a tower to be built by Verizon on City property. The proposed parcel of land is a part of the farm referred to as the Rawls Farm located adjacent to Fairview Drive. The parcel of land will be accessed from Fairview Drive by a 20-foot dirt path that is already located on the farm. A copy of a current survey is attached to the proposed lease agreement. The proposed lease would be for an initial period of 5 years and will have the option of being renewed for 4 additional 5-year terms. The lease could be for up to 25 years. The lease will not commence until either Verizon begins installation of its communications equipment or two years after the execution of the lease. Therefore, lease payments for rent may not begin until 2 years after the agreement might become executed.

In addition to the rent to be paid for the leased parcel of land, Verizon will reserve space free of charge on the communications tower between 140 feet and 150 feet for the City to have a non-revocable exclusive license to install a whip antenna for City purposes. The City will be responsible for installing its equipment properly on the tower and to maintain the City's equipment.



The lease is contingent upon Verizon obtaining all necessary certificates, permits, or other approvals that may be required by any federal, state, or local authority, and a satisfactory soil boring test, environmental studies or any other due diligence.

Mayor Rabil opened the Public Hearing at 7:27 p.m.

A question was asked if this was a cell tower. Mayor Rabil responded that it was. There were no other public comments.

The public hearing was closed at 7:28 p.m.

Attorney Williams stated that Mr. Steve Romines with Verizon was also in attendance to answer questions as well.

Councilman McLemore asked how much revenue the land lease would produce.

Attorney Williams stated that the rent is to be paid at the initial annual amount of \$14,400.00. Each year the rent will increase by the amount of 2% per year over the rent paid in the previous year. Verizon will have a non-exclusive easement for ingress and egress over the 20 foot wide dirt path from Fairview Drive to the location of the parcel of land. The easement can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the purpose of installation, operation and maintenance of the communications equipment for up to 25 years.

Attorney Williams acknowledged the efforts of Communications Manager Bruce Edwards and Deputy Chief Bob Porti of the Franklin Police Department who assisted with the Verizon lease negotiations.

Mayor Rabil asked if there had been a timeline established for when the work will be started and completed.

Manager Martin stated that Verizon had already begun the process and hopefully it would be completed with the next 18 months. Manager Martin asked Communications Manager, Bruce Edwards if he had anything to add.

Communications Manager Edwards stated that the city and Verizon have worked closely together on the issue; the sooner we can alleviate the communication issues that the city is having and Verizon is having with cell service in the area, the better for all concerned. He believes Verizon will move quickly to construct the tower to this end.

Councilman McLemore asked the average amount of the rent that Verizon pays for a lease.

Mr. Romines stated that it is dependent on many variables including location.

Councilman McLemore asked why the city didn't build its own tower.

Manager Martin stated that it was not cost effective for the City of Franklin. He cited the cost estimated for each option and other factors that would impact on the decision including insurance, maintenance, liability and timing.

Communications Manager Edwards said that there is space in other places to build a tower if the Council decides to do so in the future.

Vice-Mayor Cheatham asked about the access to the property.

Manager Martin stated that it is already in use.

Councilman Burgess made the motion to approve the lease as presented and Vice-Mayor Cheatham seconded it.

The motion was approved by a 7 – 0 vote.

Mayor Rabil encouraged all parties to cooperate and move to construct the tower as soon as possible to address the need.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Utility Billing Discussion (Continued from 2/20/18 Work Session)**

Councilman McLemore stated that he was concerned that no one signed up to speak at citizens' time. Councilman McLemore spoke about all the plans and noted that the citizens were in favor of his plan. He stated that in his opinion he still has not seen the numbers to show what it would cost.

Mayor Rabil stated that on February 21<sup>st</sup> Council received those figures. Mayor Rabil stated that the information was in the agenda which should be read before we come to the meeting.

Councilman Burgess stated that the city could not set a precedent by issuing credits due to the increase in usage by customers because this is not the first instance where this has occurred. Since 2013, this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time this has happened. In prior history, the city has not given any credits because it is not fiscally responsible to do so. Determining an equitable method is a challenge and the impact on reserve funds is a concern.

Councilman McLemore insists that because it was an act of God, the city should pay the citizens to rectify the burden incurred by the increase of their power usage this one time. He also commented that he cannot trust the numbers given.

Councilman Burgess made the motion to recertify the motion made at the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting to allow the bill to be paid in installments; it must be paid in the amount of the previous month's bill and then four subsequent payments; must pay each month's bill current after that point, no interest or penalty would be assessed to those in this plan and no cutoff's for those in this plan and it does not apply to balances that were prior to the February bill that is being discussed. Councilman Burgess also moved that Council immediately set up a fund to receive donations for the funding to be used for those who need assistance paying their electric bills and the Council authorize and request the City Manager to submit to Council at the last meeting in March the cost to have an independent energy audit to include certifying the equal application of appropriate rates and the accuracy of our equipment with said funding to come from the Electric Fund and to be completed by the end of August.

In discussion on the motion, Councilman Johnson asked if he could offer another motion to extend the installment plan to a six to eight-month period instead of four.

Councilman Cutchins also stated that he did not feel like a four-month period was long enough. He also asked Councilman Burgess about the donation fund he was talking about.

Councilman Burgess stated that he felt like there were some citizens who would be willing to help by donating to a fund to assist those who are in need.

After further comments on the motion; Councilman Burgess restated the motion and amended the four-month period to up to seven-months.

Councilman Burgess made the motion to recertify the motion made at the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting to allow the bill to be paid in installments; it must be paid in the amount of the previous month's bill and up to seven-months subsequent payments; must pay each month's bill current after that point, no interest or penalty would be assessed to those in this plan and no cutoff's for those in this plan and it does not apply to balances that were prior to the February bill that is being discussed. Councilman Burgess also moved that Council immediately set up a fund to receive donations for the funding to be used for those who need assistance paying their electric bills and the Council authorize and request the City Manager to submit to Council at the last meeting in March the cost to have an independent energy audit to include certifying the equal application of appropriate rates and the accuracy of our equipment with said funding to come from the Electric Fund and to be completed by the end of August. Vice-Mayor Cheatham seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with the vote as follows:

Councilman Johnson, AYE; Councilman Cutchins, AYE; Councilwoman Hilliard, AYE; Vice-Mayor Cheatham, AYE; Councilman Burgess, AYE; Councilman McLemore, NAY; and Mayor Rabil, AYE.

Mayor Rabil recessed the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Mayor Rabil reconvened the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

### **City Manager's Report**

Manager Martin reminded Council of the joint meeting with the Southampton County Board of Supervisors on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Paul D Camp Community College Workforce Development Center at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Utility Study latest steps. Manager Martin stated that the hard copy of the reports for that meeting was distributed to the Council before tonight's meeting. An email version was sent out to Council previously.

Manager Martin advised Council that there would be another joint meeting with the Franklin City Public Schools sometime in March to discuss their budget needs. Manager Martin also advised Council that the City department meetings for the FY 2018 – 2019 budget are scheduled to begin this week.

### **BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

Councilman Burgess was unable to attend the meeting for the Franklin Business Center and deferred to Manager Martin to report on it. Manager Martin stated that there were three new businesses approved for occupancy.

Vice-Mayor Cheatham reported on the WTRJ meeting. He reported that the Federal inmates are remaining at a steady level. There was a policy passed to allow some electronic meetings in limited circumstances: i.e. if a board member is unable to make a meeting for some reason they could attend electronically with the approval of the board members. The training of the staff was also discussed and the board has elected not to change anything at this time and continue utilizing the Hampton Roads Training Academy.

Vice-Mayor Cheatham reported on the HRPDC. He shared that he made a motion to exclude the waters off the coast from gas and oil drilling. Vice-Mayor Cheatham made the motion because of the negative effects to our shipping lanes, the port and the Navy.

Vice-Mayor Cheatham reported on the HRTPO. He stated that the current State Transportation Secretary had left and the Division Engineer was leaving to take an assignment overseeing a project at the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel. His replacement has not been announced.

Manager Martin stated that he would be attending a budget committee meeting at the jail on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> and he is hoping to keep the budget number palatable for the city.

Councilman McLemore thanked the citizens that remained for the rest of the meeting.

Mayor Rabil commented on the joint meeting with the FCPS School Board. He stated that it was a very good meeting and thanked everyone for their participation.

Mayor Rabil announced that Council would be identifying volunteers to serve on a committee to advise Council regarding the Rental inspection program. He asked that anyone interested in volunteering please talk to your ward representative.

### **Adjournment**

Councilwoman McLemore made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Vice-Mayor Cheatham.

The motion was approved by a 7 – 0 vote.

**Mayor Rabil declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**

**These Minutes for the February 26, 2018 City Council Regular Meeting were adopted on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018.**

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**Mayor**

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**Clerk to City Council**

**Franklin City Council**  
**Joint Franklin City Council/Southampton County Board of Supervisors Called Meeting**  
**PDCCC Workforce Development Center – Technology Theater**  
**February 28, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.**

The Franklin City Council met in a joint called meeting with the Southampton County Board of Supervisors on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the PDCCC Workforce Development Center, Technology Theater located at 100 N. College Drive, Franklin, VA. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a joint meeting of the two elected boards with the City/County Utility Study Subcommittee to review the results of an Asset Valuation Study and a Water & Sewer Consolidation Rate Study.

**Council Members in Attendance:** Frank Rabil, Mayor; Barry Cheatham, Vice-Mayor; Benny Burgess, Linwood Johnson, Mary Hilliard, and Bobby Cutchins (Councilman McLemore absent).

**Other City Staff in Attendance:** Randy Martin, City Manager; Taylor Williams, City Attorney; Tracy Gregory, Interim Finance Director; Joyce Johnson, Utility Billing Supervisor; and Amanda Jarratt, FSEDI President.

**Members of the Southampton County Board of Supervisors in Attendance:** Ronnie West, Carl Faison, Randolph Cook, and Bruce Phillips (Dallas Jones, Dr. Alan Edwards and Barry Porter absent).

**Other County Staff in Attendance:** Mike Johnson, County Administrator; Lynnette Lowe, Deputy County Administrator; and Julian Johnson, Public Works Utility Director.

Citizen member Nick Kitchen, representing the County on the subcommittee was also present.

Consultants present representing the firms that did the studies were Michael Maker and Edward Donahue of Municipal & Financial Services Group (MFSG).

Mayor Rabil and County Vice-Chair Ronnie West called the meeting to order on behalf of their elected boards. They each recognized the members of the two boards present then turned the meeting over to County Administrator Mike Johnson.

County Administrator Johnson offered a brief summary of the steps that have led up to tonight's presentation of the reports completed. Copies of the two reports had been distributed to committee members and both elected boards prior to this meeting. Administrator Johnson also noted that the committee had met twice to review the study before recommending it be presented tonight to the elected bodies and the public.

### **Study Reviews**

Mr. Maker and Mr. Donahue then presented a PowerPoint summarizing the reports with focus on the results of the consolidated rate study. It was noted Mr. Ed Wetzal who led the asset valuation effort was not present, but would be available if additional input is needed in the future from him.

The highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- 1) Project Background – Overview of the steps from the beginning to present
- 2) Study Scenarios

**Franklin City Council**  
**Joint Franklin City Council/Southampton County Board of Supervisors Called Meeting**  
**PDCCC Workforce Development Center – Technology Theater**  
**February 28, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.**

- 3) Current Financials
- 4) Projected Financials
- 5) Conclusions and Recommendations

At the conclusion of the summary review, the consultants fielded questions from those present. Members of the two boards and interested citizens asked a series of questions which were addressed by the consultants.

After the question and answer period, City Manager Martin addressed the gathering. He advised that the City/County Utility Study Subcommittee had unanimously recommended acceptance of both studies and that the City and County should proceed with the next steps toward creation of an authority to merge City and County Water & Sewer Utilities. City Manager Martin also advised that he and County Administrator Johnson had been tasked to develop an updated timeline for next steps in the process.

City Manager Martin thanked everyone for attending and the consultants for their presentation. City Manager Martin turned the meeting back over to Mayor Rabil and Vice-Chair West to adjourn.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Rabil asked for a motion to adjourn the joint called meeting.

Vice-Mayor Cheatham made a motion to adjourn the joint called meeting and Councilman Johnson seconded it. The motion was approved by a vote of 6 – 0 (Councilman McLemore absent).

Vice-Chairman West asked for a motion to adjourn.

Supervisor Cook made a motion to adjourn the joint called meeting and Supervisor Faison seconded it.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 – 0 (Dallas Jones, Dr. Alan Edwards and Barry Porter absent).

**Mayor Rabil and Vice-Chairman West then declared the joint called meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.**

**These Minutes for the February 21, 2018 City Council Joint Called meeting were adopted on the 12<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2018.**

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Mayor

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Clerk to City Council

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Real Estate Property Reassessment 2018      •      •      Steve Wampler,  
Wampler – Eanes Appraisal  
Group, LTD
- B. Power & Light Department Annual Report      •      •      Mark Bly, Director of Power &  
Light Department
- C. City Manager's Report



*Office Of The City Manager  
R. Randy Martin*

March 7, 2018

To: Mayor & Council Members  
From: R. Randy Martin  
SUBJECT: Real Estate Property Reassessment 2018

Mr. Steve Wampler of Wampler – Eanes Appraisal Group, LTD will attend the meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> to present an overview of the results of the biennial reassessment of real property values in the City.

Contrary to the result of the last several reassessment efforts, the results show market improvement overall which is an encouraging sign for the City. Overall values had declined or been flat the last two cycles since 2012.



# City of Franklin Power & Light

Department Update

March 12, 2018

# Power Costs

- ▶ FP&L purchases power through a seven member jurisdiction association, Virginia Municipal Electric Association (VMEA) and also purchases a small amount of hydro power from the Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA). FP&L also generates peaking power from owned resources.
- ▶ VMEA's new power contract with Dominion began January 1, 2011 and is a 20 year contract. Power costs are based on Dominion's "cost-based" rates for capacity, energy and transmission.
- ▶ FP&L wholesale power costs are projected to increase 6.6% for FY19. Final costs will not be known until June 1.
- ▶ **FP&L is NOT proposing a retail rate increase at this time.**
- ▶ 7/1/2017 to 1/31/2018 Energy Purchased vs Billed

Total kWh purchased from VMEA and SEPA **89,403,524**

Total kWh billed to Customers **84,083,177**

Approximately 6.3% of energy purchased is system losses and not recovered

# Power Costs, cont'd

- ▶ VMEA continues to monitor legislation that could have an adverse affect on wholesale power costs. We as members of MEPAV have a voice in Richmond regarding adverse legislation through the VML Legislative Group.
- ▶ Federal Tax Cut - VMEA continues discussion with Dominion on this issue. There has been no discussion of exact numbers but we have been told VMEA should see some sort of wholesale rate reduction. This reduction will probably not be realized until mid 2019.

# Department Personnel

- ▶ The department consists of 18 positions:
- ▶ 1 - Director
- ▶ 1 - Administrative Assistant
- ▶ 1 - Engineering and Services Superintendent -
  - 3 - Electric System Technicians
- ▶ 1 - Line Superintendent -
  - 4 - Line Tech 1<sup>st</sup> Class **1 VACANT**
  - 4 - Line Tech 2<sup>nd</sup> Class **3 VACANT**
  - 3 - Line Tech Apprentice

# Department Equipment

- ▶ The department presently has the following equipment:
- ▶ Bucket Truck - 2 Large (60' reach), 1 Small (48' reach)
- ▶ 2 Digger Truck
- ▶ Small One ton dump body truck
- ▶ Small One ton flatbed body with crane
- ▶ 4 Pickups
- ▶ 2 small SUV
- ▶ Backhoe
- ▶ Trencher

# Work Orders 7/2018 to 1/2018

## Engineering and Services

367 - Turn on Electric

322 - Turn off Electric

396 - Transfer Service

176 - Check Readings

7 - Remove Electric from Premises

15 - Change meter

137 - Disconnect for non-payment

81 - Reconnects

10 - Disconnect for bad check

18 - Theft of Service Investigation

427 - Miss Utility Locates

50+ customers requested meter inspections and rereads in February 2018

# Work Orders 7/2018 to 1/2018

## Line Department

▶ New Service:

1 - 600 amp commercial service

4 - 200 amp residential service

Trouble Call:

40 - Regular work hours

36 - After hours

Misc:

237 - Miss Utility Locates

92 - Street Light repair

29 - Misc customer service

16 - remove tree limb from line

3 - Assist Services dept with cutoff

# Work Orders 7/2018 to 1/2018

## Line Department, cont'd

► Misc:

138 - Traffic Signal malfunction

3 - Demolition permit

32 - Pole change out - maintenance

3 - Pole change out - accident

Lighting:

3 - New lights

12 - Change out malfunction light to LED

City has a total of 1386 street and security lights, **981** remain to be changed



# FP&L In-Kind Services

- ▶ Repair lights at Fair Grounds
- ▶ Assist Parks & Rec contractor locate bad pool control cables
- ▶ Assist Public Works with tree removal
- ▶ Replace flag pole pulley assembly at Armory Park
- ▶ Assist with repair and install of speakers at Armory Field
- ▶ Install Christmas decorations at Barretts Landing and add lights to tree
- ▶ Assist Public Works installing and lighting Christmas Tree at Meadow Ln park

# FY19 Budget

► FY19 Budget proposed as follows:

Operating	\$1,883,842
Capital	\$ 673,089
Energy Cost	\$9,698,581
Fuel Adjustment	\$1,052,516
Transfer to General Fund	\$1,439,393
Transfer to GF - Services	\$ 423,737
Transfer to GF - PILOT	\$ 59,282
Lease Payment	\$ 76,145
Debt Service	<u>\$ 253,652</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,560,237</b>
FY18 Budget	\$15,405,786

# Capital Improvement Plan

## ▶ Proposed FY19

Miscellaneous System Improvements	\$ 200,000
Digger Truck replacement - Unit 8	\$ 230,000
Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI)	\$1,500,000
LED Street Light Project	\$ 500,000
SCADA Replacement	\$ 280,000
Bucket Truck replacement - Unit 9	\$ 150,000



*Office Of The City Manager  
R. Randy Martin*

March 7, 2018

To: Mayor & Council Members  
From: R. Randy Martin  
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report 03/12/18

The following are reports to be included in the City Manager's report at the March 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting:

- 1) The Commissioner of Revenue & Treasurer's office staffs have recently completed the training prerequisite to the software conversion process for real estate and personal property tax billing applications. The training went well according to the Commissioner and Treasurer. They and the software provider have set the first week of April as the goal to complete the conversion of the applications to the new system. City staff has also begun research to collect peer utility providers policy examples for budget billing options toward the Council priority to finalize and offer a plan to customers before July, 2018.
- 2) The HRPDC has asked each member community to consider authorizing a letter of opposition to offshore drilling similar to the example enclosed. Vice-Mayor Cheatham commented on this at the last Council meeting. I suggest Council consider authorizing a statement of opposition on this topic for the City of Franklin.
- 3) I am collecting and preparing summary data on the action taken by Council to provide relief in the form of a short-term payment plan for utility customers in response to the elevated utility bills sent in early February, 2018 for usage during the extremely cold weather period between December 21, 2017 and January 21, 2018. I will update Council at the meeting on information available thus far with additional updates planned for the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting including analysis and comparisons of the next billing period for January 21, 2018 to February 21, 2018.

Director Mark Bly and I have also already identified and held a preliminary meeting with at least one company that has experience doing the analysis of equipment and billing that the Council directed be undertaken. I expect to provide cost and other feedback information on procuring these services from an independent third party and report at the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting as well.

Enclosure



February 26, 2018

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

CHESAPEAKE

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Mail Stop 6242  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dr. Walter Cruickshank  
Acting Director  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
Mail Stop 6242  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

FRANKLIN

GLOUCESTER

HAMPTON

Re: Opposition to Off-Shore Drilling  
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

ISLE OF WIGHT

JAMES CITY

Dear Secretary Zinke and Acting Director Cruickshank:

NEWPORT NEWS

At its meeting on February 15, 2018, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) voted unanimously to oppose off-shore drilling near the Virginia coast and requests that the waters off the coast of Virginia be excluded from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's next iteration of the Five Year Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

NORFOLK

POQUOSON

The HRPDC represents 17 local governments and over 1.7 million residents in southeastern Virginia. The Commission is responsible for encouraging regional cooperation and planning for the future economic prosperity and health of the Hampton Roads region. The HRPDC stands united in its opposition to off-shore drilling near the Virginia coast due to the potential negative impact this activity could have on our military's ability to conduct operations and training as well as the potential impact that off-shore drilling could have on our region's tourism industry.

PORTSMOUTH

SMITHFIELD

SOUTHAMPTON

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or HRPDC Executive Director Robert Crum at 757-420-8300 or [rccrum@hrpdcva.gov](mailto:rccrum@hrpdcva.gov).

SUFFOLK

SURRY

Sincerely,

Dr. Ella P. Ward  
Chair

VIRGINIA BEACH

WILLIAMSBURG

copy: Hampton Roads Federal Delegation

YORK

RAC/ka

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**COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS ON BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**