

MINUTES

FRANKFORD TOWN COUNCIL

February 2, 2015

Town Council	Joanne Bacon, Pres.	
Roll call:	Pamela Davis, Vice-Pres.	
	Cheryl Workman, Sec/Treasurer	
	Jesse Truitt	
	Charles Shelton	
Town Employees:	Terry Truitt, Town Administrator	
	Nathan Hudson, Police	
	Kyle Gulbranson, URS	
Town Solicitor:	Dennis Schrader	
Others:	Edward Ash	Marty Presley
	Kathy Murray	Toni Presley
	Janet Hearn	Bernard Lynch
	Albert Franklin	James Sample
	Bryan Murray	Beth Dabrowski
	Jerry Smith	Greg Welch
	Russell Davenport	Velicia Melson
	Maria Counts, Coastal Point	Robbie Murray
	Elizabeth Carpenter	Kevin McCabe
	Nate McCabe	Elma Gray
	Andrea Dismuke	Annie Ford
	Robert Murray	Matt Gajdos
	Kristen Gajdos	Greg Johnson

The regular monthly meeting of the Frankford Town Council was opened by Pres. Joanne Bacon at 7:03 PM.

A motion was made to accept the agenda as posted by Cheryl Workman with a 2nd by Pamela Davis. Motion was unanimous.

A review of the Town Council Monthly Minutes from January 5, 2015 was done; A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented by Jesse Truitt with a 2nd by Cheryl Workman. Motion was four in favor-Pam, Cheryl, Charles, Jesse; One opposed-Joanne Bacon noting she had not read them yet.

Minutes of the Executive Session Minutes from January 5, 2015 were tabled.

Pres. Joanne Bacon called on Cheryl Workman to read aloud the Financial Report in its entirety. Council reviewed the Financial Report/ Accounts Payable; A motion to pay the bills as listed was made by Charles Shelton with a 2nd by Jesse Truitt. Motion was unanimous.

Report from Town Departments/ Employees:

Water Department: Jesse Truitt noted he had nothing to report at this time.

Terry Truitt, Town Administrator: Terry Truitt presented Council with a listing of six (6) street lights reported to Delmarva Power for repair.

David Ward, Maintenance: David Ward noted on Jan.6th #9 Know Street had three (3) separate water samples taken due to reports of odor in water. All three test results were in compliance and shared the results with the property owner. Jan.9th #28 Clayton Avenue water leak repaired by himself and Jesse and Truitt. Jan.12th the rear door to the J. P. Court building was repaired. Jan.23rd Leak detected at #17 Thatcher Street-owner side of meter. Jan.22-23rd. water meters were read for billing. Jan.29th Christmas lights were taken down and three (3) hydrants were flushed.

Nathan Hudson, Police: Officer Hudson reported for the period of January 5 through February 2, 2015 there were 12 tickets written for speed, 1 for driver license violations, 0 for registration, and 3 for miscellaneous for a total of 16 traffic arrests for this time period. He added there were 12 complaint/ service calls and 0 for criminal arrests.

Councilman Charles Shelton made a motion to deviate from the regularly posted agenda to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Issues at 7:26pm and the 2nd was made by Cheryl Workman. Motion was unanimous.

Everyone including employees and agents for the Town were asked to leave the meeting room.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:35 PM with no formal motion to be made.

Pres. Joanne Bacon requested a physical check of those who were in attendance earlier to rejoin the meeting. The regular session of the Town Council meeting resumed at 8:36pm.

Dennis Schrader announced that Jesse Truitt had excused himself from the remainder of the meeting.

REPORTS:

President Bacon asked for report(s) from Council regarding Parks, Police, Streets and Water.

Joanne Bacon- Parks- She noted other than one (1) light out at the Town Park she had nothing new to report.

Charles Shelton, Police: He noted for those present that the Police Committee met a few weeks ago. Unfortunately after the meeting Officer Nathan Hudson resigned from the Town. He suggested that if anyone has any questions and/ or concerns to bring them to him. He added the Town would be advertising for a Police Chief in the near future. He noted that the Town may advertise the Chief position as being full time and the officer position as part time saving the Town money on salary and benefits. A motion was made to advertise for both positions and utilize Dagsboro and Selbyville officers as back up by Charles Shelton with a 2nd by Cheryl Workman. Motion was unanimous.

Pamela Davis, Streets- She noted she had nothing new to report other than to confirm the street lights have been repaired.

Chery Workman, Water – She noted she had nothing to report at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Pres. Joanne Bacon noted the discussion on a Town Employee Pension Plan will be tabled at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pres. Joanne Bacon announced the Town Election is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2015 from 1-4pm

Pres. Joanne Bacon called on Kyle Gulbranson of URS as the Town Consultant to read aloud the synopsis of the Flood Plain Maintenance Ordinance as required by FEMA. He noted a draft copy of the ordinance was posted on the Town website since last month's meeting of January 5, 2015. He noted there was very little impact for most of the Town residents other than the ten (10) properties along Thatcher Street with a 2nd structure. He added it was a necessity that the ordinance be adopted tonight. A motion to approve the ordinance as read and presented was made by Cheryl Workman with a 2nd by Pamela Davis. Motion was unanimous.

Pres. Joanne Bacon announced the name of Ingrid M. Kellaher as willing to serve as a Polling Judge for the Town Election. A motion to approve the appointment of Ingrid M. Kellaher to serve as a Polling Judge was made by Charles Shelton with a 2nd by Pamela Davis. Motion was unanimous.

Pres. Joanne Bacon noted she would like to thank those who served on the Health Insurance Committee and looked forward to presenting their report findings.

Marty Presley gave his presentation of the Healthcare Committee. He noted they came together as a group with citizens to formulate:

- Evaluate current healthcare costs.
- Compare to surrounding Towns and quotes provided by current Town Insurance agent-Danny Short.

He outlined the Affordable Healthcare Act rules pertaining to costs and benefits. He noted that in continuing to pay 100 of the employee cost of benefits would have the Town facing a 270% increase in four (4) years. He noted they had used a grid of four (4) surrounding Towns when comparing healthcare costs. He stated that spouse/ dependents of employees cannot go through the exchange if the employer offers coverage available to them. He noted the Town of Frankford only has three employees currently. He stated the Town can do one of the following:

1. Not change anything.
2. 80/20 split on employer/ employee cost.
3. Eliminate dependent coverage.
4. Balance the Budget to afford for a pension.

Marty Presley stated that by cutting dependent coverage an average gross salary of \$30,000 would cost the Town \$661.00 per month with the cost to the employee of \$132.00. Variables of the Affordable Care Act-silver plan were outlined. He added by increasing the employees monthly salary by \$300.00 would allow for a 5% defined contribution Town Pension Plan.

Elizabeth Carpenter noted her employer only offers to contribute 3% toward a pension.

Dennis Schrader questioned the employees cost as outlined. He added there were subsidies also available for families of four (4) who did not make up to \$90,000 yearly.

Marty Presley noted the open enrollment ran through February 15, 2015 and added the changes being presented could be effective by March 1st.

Councilwoman Cheryl Workman noted she found the presentation interesting but added she would like to have time to look at the information provided tonight before making a decision.

Marty Presley noted the salary gross up of \$300.00 would only apply to current employees and not for new hires. He added future employees would receive 5% when council decides on an investment period. He added it was bogus to have anyone feel as though the Police officer or any employee leaving would be because the Town did not offer a pension plan. He added that with Officer Nate Hudson leaving he was wished well. He said if the Town had implemented a pension plan prior to December 2014 as planned then \$50,000 of the Towns money would be in South Carolina right now. (Meaning with the retirement of Chief Dudley). He suggested that an investment schedule be considered that way should an employee decide to leave during the first 6 months then it controls the Towns loss.

Robbie Murray noted the benefits as outlined should be advertised when advertising for the Police Department openings.

Greg Johnson questioned the Council on who would be doing the interviewing for a Police Chief once the advertising was done? Pres. Joanne Bacon replied the Delaware Police Chief's Council. He added that he felt no one on the council was qualified to properly interview for the position.

Matt Gajdos questioned the Council on what would attract employees and achieve consistency to retain employees. Elizabeth Carpenter replied that being competitive to surrounding Towns and exceeding in some areas would.

Jerry Smith noted there had not been any turn over in the Police Officers adding that Chief Dudley had planned on retiring but noted he was unsure exactly why Nate Hudson was leaving.

Dennis Schrader stated that he represents other Towns with community policing and states that no matter what benefits plans are offered there are twenty six (26) other Towns with viable benefits.

Jerry Smith noted no one would be against the Town saving \$21,000 yearly.

Council deliberated the facts presented from the Health Insurance Committee. A motion to change employee healthcare to a 80/20 contribution with a pension plan, no dependent coverage, and gross up on salary was made by Pamela Davis with a 2nd by Charles Shelton. Motion was three in favor-Pam, Charles, and Joanne. One opposed-Cheryl Workman.

Dennis Schrader suggested a sixty (60) day implantation period to be by April1, 2015. Council agreed.

Citizen's Privilege:

Pres. Joanne Bacon called on those present if they wanted to address Council with comments.

Elizabeth Carpenter stated that she was displeased and appalled with the action taken against a grouping of citizens who had recently registered to vote who she felt were being discriminated against. She added that by having a different last name could be considered profiling. She added that by disclosing their birthplace on their registration card does not imply they are not naturalized. She stated it is violating their voting rights and manipulating the outcome of the Towns' elections. She added that the Towns Charter does not state one must be a U. S. Citizen to vote and feels they are not being treated fairly. She stated she felt the Town Hall should send letters of apology to those being discriminated against and to allow them to be able to vote in this year's election. She added the Post Office still has the incorrect notice shown and since the Town Hall cannot get the information correct for this reason alone should be allowed to vote. She added this could be construed as an ACLU violation as well.

Pres. Joanne Bacon called on Dennis Schrader to reply. He noted that the criteria of being a U. S. Citizen and being able to vote is parallel to the State

Jerry Smith questioned what governs who can vote in the Town Elections prior to 2012? He added that in the 2012 Town Charter change adopted that you are not required to be a U. S. Citizen. Dennis Schrader noted the decision of the State Appeal would resolve the issue.

Russell Davenport questioned if the Town Council was aware of the letters going out. (Referring to the voter registrations being questioned with regards to naturalization). Pres. Joanne Bacon acknowledged that she was aware of the notice/letters going out.

Kathy Murray questioned the fines receivable account for November and December 2014 as still showing a zero income. Terry Truitt noted she would check on it and would report back of her findings.

Robert Murray questioned the June expense of \$12,000 versus the fines receivable expense –water fund. He questioned account#6019 as having a \$24.71 credit?

Greg Johnson questioned if the Town Council had sat down with Officer Hudson to clarify the current healthcare benefit and pension plan? Councilman Shelton replied that he had already resigned his position and accepted another position with South Bethany.

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There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Cheryl Workman with a 2nd by Charles Shelton at 10:15 PM. Motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry H. Truitt
Town Administrator
Town of Frankford