



***Minutes of The Board of Commissioners Meeting
January 8, 2024
Held at 163 West Main Street, Franklinville Town Hall***

Attending:

Mayor A.C. Hurley, Mayor Pro Tem Priscilla Dunn, Commissioner Billy Farias, Commissioner Richard Goodwin, Commissioner Brandon Hurley, Commissioner Mac Whatley
Town Clerk /Finance Officer Beverly O'Brien
Public Works Director-Arnold Allred
Utility Clerk – Christie Gunter
Guests: Eddie Carrick, CPA,PC , Harvey Harman

24-64 7:30 pm COMMISSIONER'S MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence/ Prayer

24-65 CONSENT AGENDA

**Motion by Commissioner Whatley to accept the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dunn.
Motion adopted, unanimously.**

24-66 PRESENTATION of AUDIT

Mr. Carrick, Auditor for the Town, presented the recent Audit Report for the Fiscal Year 22-23. He has given the Franklinville Financials a clean audit opinion. There were no negative findings. He presented the audit report and a summary of the report for the Commissioners. Available Fund Balance is \$612,000.00 or 80% of the year's expenditures. The Ad valorem tax collection rate is 98.99%, with revenues over expenses in the General Fund of \$153,800.00. Mr. Carrick discussed the performance indicators from the State Treasurer's office audit worksheet. Almost all of the indicators were positive or showed improvement from prior years, but the enterprise fund showed a performance indicator of 0.49 under Water and Sewer condition of assets. This category measures the age and remaining useful life of the water and sewer assets. A 0.50 is the minimum preferred. The LGC requires a response to the finding and the Auditor will work with us on an appropriate response. We are having the Asset Inventory Assessment studies done by the engineering firm LKC and will do the long-range planning needed for the Enterprise Fund. We have 45 days from the Audit and the full Board must sign off on the letter. We will have the letter by the next Board Meeting for review.

24-67 ADMINISTRATION

Finance Officer O'Brien gave the financial report and ask for any questions. The report was positive with revenues running ahead of projections and expenses coming in as expected. She and the Mayor had met on Monday the 11th with the NC League of Municipalities representative for our area, Harold Owens. They were able to discuss the need for the Highway 64 project funding and their concerns with funding opportunities for distressed utilities. Mr. Owens will take these concerns to the NCLM Board.

24-68 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Whatley discussed the most recent questions about 216 Sunrise Avenue and the possible sale of the residence. A Greensboro Real Estate Attorney had emailed with a question about the property and any outstanding fees. Commissioner Whatley suggested a reply that included "the property is not in compliance with the zoning and is facing possible litigation." The Clerk agreed to also send a copy to the Attorney handling the issue for the Town.

24-69 PUBLIC SAFETY

Mayor Hurley announced the changes to the Governing Committees for this year. A copy was in each Commissioners pre-meeting packet. See included. Mayor Hurley will join Commissioner Farias on the Public Safety Committee. Commissioner Farias offered the Mayor to work with him on the scheduling of the deputies. Mayor Hurley stated that the schedule Commissioner Faris posted would be okay and he could be sent a copy. General discussion of the changes. See attached. Mayor Hurley also discussed the new truck received by the Fire Department. The truck is a replacement for Engine 8.

24-70 PUBLIC SERVICES

Commissioner Whatley discussed Franklinville having the first library in the county and the 100-year anniversary of that founding coming up this summer. The best historical facts he has uncovered say the first Librarian was hired for the library in May or June of 1924. General discussion of the planning needed by the library, and the town to commemorate the event. While the Library committee is focusing on children's events and activities for the anniversary, Commissioner Whatley suggests a more adult celebration with local Legislative and municipal leaders invited. The clerk and the utility clerk will price the costs of tents and supplies.

24-71 TRANSPORTATION

No report was needed for transportation.

24-72 PUBLIC UTILITIES

Public Works Director Allred presented his end of the Calendar year report on the water and sewer enterprises. Director Allred and Mayor Hurley had met with Bill Lester, the engineer for LKC, and they had discussed possible ARP funds from the County for the Ogles Creek sewer facility up-grades and the sewer line replacement across the river. General discussion reference the water in-flow problems with the existing sewer lines. Director Allred discussed the in-flow issues as a common problem with sewer systems and heavy rainfall. General discussion of the water line project on Highway 64 and the routes it might take to the Wolf Speed site in Chatham County. Director Allred discussed the repair to a line on East Bend Street, and the road is reopened and the repairs complete. Lumos had cut a water line there. He gave an update on the Sandy Creek Bridge

project and the trail extension of the Ramseur Greenway. General discussion reference the problem of cows from the adjoining property near the end of the Franklinville Greenway entering the Sandy Creek area and crossing the Town property. Commissioner Farias had met with Harvey Harman of the Living Well Community to try and look at the problem and look for solutions, including fencing, to stop the cows from accessing the creek through the Town's property. General discussion from the Board about how to stop the trespassing.

24-73 NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Hurley discussed the need for a time limit for speakers from the floor. Most municipalities have one. Mayor Hurley suggested 3 minutes as a limit per speaker. General discussion reference the proper time and limit on speakers and the process necessary for them to sign up in advance. Discussion reference how other municipalities manage speakers and manage controversial meeting topics. Mayor Hurley stated that often multiple speakers to an issue can feel like they are trying to force the Board to vote on an issue without proper consideration. General discussion reference avoiding snap decisions and forced votes. The Clerk was asked to research what policies other local municipalities have and if Franklinville has a written policy regarding speakers. One suggestion is three minutes per speaker on a given topic, and if more than 15 people ask to speak, a two-minute limit could be imposed.

Harvey Harman from Living Well discussed the Folk School and planned programs such as "Walks and Talks" along the greenway. He asked for suggestions on how to spread the word to a wider community.

Commissioner Whatley discussed the Economic Development Council and the need for Franklinville to be represented at each meeting. General discussion reference the EDC and meeting schedules.

24-74 MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Hurley discussed the recent Mayor's Walk in Franklinville on January 1st.

We had great participation including people from around the county, and local leaders. He also discussed, the Randolph Tourism's Arts Event that will be held on the Greenway and in the park on May 4th.

Mayor Hurley discussed his disapproval of the bank building/new town hall project and stated that he was surprised by the new drive entrance and the parking area work being done. Commissioner Whatley stated the improvements, including the drive, had been a part of the discussed project for the last 10 years. Mayor Hurley asked for up-dates so he would know what was happening with the project and Commissioner Farias offered weekly or daily up-dates. Mayor Hurley chose daily, and Commissioner Farias asked how he should provide the up-dates and e-mail was chosen. Mayor Hurley discussed people from Ramseur laughing at the Town of Franklinville because of the Town spending the money to fix up the old bank building. General discussion reference tax paying residents and how they approve or disapprove of the funds spent. Commissioner Goodwin stated that all he had heard from citizens was positive feedback and he had talked and met with a lot of them. He asked, who are these people that do not approve? The Facebook page has received over 127 likes on the project, and the people are overwhelmingly Franklinville residents. Mayor Hurley stated that most people would raise Cain with him about the project, but not come to a meeting. Mayor Hurley asked if the 3-bid process was followed for the concrete steps and walkway and Director Allred stated he had Raeford Craven to do it because it did not have to be bid and Raeford had done work for the Town before. Finance Officer O'Brien confirmed that according to LGC guidance, it was too small a project to require bids. Mayor Hurley discussed the disposal of the old Christmas lights and the damage done to them when they were supposed to be sold to the lady in Bennett. Town Clerk O'Brien stated she had offered the lighting to the lady for Bennett, but the lady had been

unaware of the electrical work necessary for them to work and had wanted to purchase them cheaply and donate them to Bennett. She backed out when she considered the cost of the electrical installations. Mayor Hurley stated he had talked to the County some and he did not feel the Commissioners would be happy to advance us any ARPA funds, if we used ours on cosmetics. Commissioner Whatley stated the allocated ARPA funds had been voted on a couple of years ago and followed the guidelines of the Treasury Department. The building is infrastructure, not cosmetics. The Finance Officer stated that the Town is in full compliance and the reporting is accurate. Mayor Hurley stated that it still did not look good to fix up a building instead of infrastructure when it was necessary. General discussion of Board about uses of ARPA funds. Finance Officer O'Brien stated that while the building wasn't much larger than the present office, with the present and anticipated growth in the Town, and the needed processes for that growth, (Planning, Zoning, Cemetery Sales, etc.), it was a chance to have a space planned for the growth and more efficient use of space than the present offices.

General discussion reference appraisals and possible sale of the 163 West Main building. Mayor Hurley asked to also appraise the rent structure of the building, as the rent is too low for the restaurant. Commissioner Whatley suggested when the Town is ready to sell the building, a realtor would be able to set the price for a commercial building without the cost of a formal Commercial Appraisal.

Mayor Pro Tem Dunn discussed the proposed new church building and discussed there being no entrance from the front of the building. The entrance will be from the side of the main parking lot for easier access. The congregation hopes to be starting the building soon.

Commissioner Farias asked the Mayor the name of the concrete person that the Mayor had spoken to about the Bank Building Project and who had wanted to bid. Mayor Hurley stated that he had already told him no and to just do what he wanted to do. Commissioner Farias and Public Works Director Allred agreed to get three bids.

Motion by Commissioner Whatley to adjourn.

Seconded by Commissioner Brandon Hurley

Meeting Adjourned 9:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A.C. Hurley, Mayor

Attest: _____

Beverly O'Brien, Finance Officer/Town Clerk