

VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, November 08, 2021, at 7:00 PM
Village of Franklin Hall (Broughton House), 32325 Franklin Road, Franklin, MI 48025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Lamott, at 7:00 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Brian Gordon, Kathy Erlich, Mark Hanke, Pam Hansen, Ed Saenz, and Bill Lamott

Absent: Mike Seltzer

Also Present: Dan Roberts, Police Chief; Tony Averbuch, Fire Chief; Roger Fraser, Village Administrator, Village Attorney Peter Gojcaj, Heather Mydloski, Village Clerk, and Ed Zmich of Hubbell, Roth, and Clark

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mydloski stated that Chairman David Sahli of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee had an agenda item to bring to Council and he should be added to Special Reports H.

Motion by Gordon, seconded by Hanke to adopt the Agenda as amended.

AYES: Saenz, Hansen, Hanke, Erlich, Gordon, and Lamott

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Seltzer

Motion carried.

IV. MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting of October 11, 2021

Motion by Hanke seconded by Saenz to adopt the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of October 11, 2021, as presented.

AYES: Saenz, Hansen, Hanke, Erlich, Gordon, and Lamott

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Seltzer

Motion carried.

V. PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS

Public Comments were opened by President Bill Lamott at 7:03 PM.

Cindy Standeroff-32495 Winglake Road

- Spoke of poor cell phone service and the issue of harmful EMF's as well.

Lamott spoke of the Council's plans to address the issues with an outside, independent consultant.

Public Comments were closed by President Bill Lamott at 7:08 PM.

VI. REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICERS AND AGENTS

A. Police Report

Dan Roberts, Police Chief

- Reviewed Submitted Report.
- Larceny with autos has occurred. There were two, one in Franklin and one in Bingham Farms. A crew of thieves went through Franklin and Bingham Farms to attempt theft of unlocked vehicles. In both cases the two cars stolen also had the keys in the vehicle. He implored residents to lock their vehicles and remove their keys.
- No issues with Halloween or Devil's night.
- Meg Schubert and Roberts came to a resolution on closing the road for Main Street Events. Roberts praised Schubert for her efforts to work with him and come to a mutual resolution. The resolution was to close the road at Vincennes and Evelyn Court and for a brief time, allowing traffic to flow around the event efficiently.
- Police Clerk has been acquired to fill the gap from Megan Bohm moving to the Village Hall Office.
- So far, not able to find a qualified candidate to replace Sgt. Mark Dyjewski. The pool of candidates for his replacement has proved shallow.
- Police and Command Union Contracts are up at the end of the year. Roberts encouraged the Council to remain competitive, so the department has an opportunity to attract excellent candidates.
- Thanked the Council and the Village Office for their support with the loss of his father, David Roberts.
- Responding to Hansen, Roberts stated there are a lack of candidates due to a lack of interest in the profession and also other departments are poaching officers from other departments. Also, Franklin is a unique department with limited opportunities for special departments or assignments. We do have a pension and that sets us apart.

B. Fire Report

Tony Averbuch, Fire Chief

- Reviewed Submitted Report.
- Thanked Mobile Watch for spotlighting the Knox Box. He offered residents the opportunity to reach out to him for more information.
- Fire safety of Fireplaces- wood burning. Throw away ashes in an approved, fire approved container.
- 248- 626-5444 is one number to reach the FD. 9-1-1- is still for emergencies.

C. Treasurer Report

Lance Vainik, Village Treasurer

- Council reviewed Submitted Report.

VII. SUBMISSION OF CURRENT BILLS

Totals: 11-08-2021	
CATEGORY	SUB TOTALS
General	\$ 69,322.20
Major Streets	\$ 9,873.43
Local Streets	\$ 750.00
Police	\$ 37,697.43
Garbage and Rubbish	\$ 390.00
Building Dept.	\$ 18,259.81
Library	\$ -
Street Project	\$ 267,278.38
Road Millage	\$ -
Pressure Sewer	\$ -
Tax Collection	\$ -
Wastewater	\$ -
TOTALS	\$ 403,571.25

Motion by Gordon seconded by Saenz to approve the Bills List as presented.

AYES: Saenz, Hansen, Hanke, Erlich, Gordon, and Lamott

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Seltzer

Motion carried.

VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. President's Report

President Lamott

- Reached out to DTE to see if any monies will come to Franklin to compensate for multiple power outages.
- Hansen mentioned that DTE has apologized multiple times for the excessive power outages. The remediation plan was to cut down trees and monitor equipment. The answer is it is too expensive to bury lines, but there is a lack of creative/useful plans.
- Hanke stated that five (5) years is too long to keep on top of the Village needs. He suggested three (3) years instead to remain proactive.
- Hansen asked Fraser if there was anything in the ordinance for buried lines, Fraser said we didn't.

B. Council Report

Trustee Hansen

- Hansen asked Lamott about the old light pole exposed by hidden brush. It is gone, the contractors nor any residents know where it is. No one knows. She asked if it were possible to locate it, it would be a great historical artifact to display as a part of Franklin's rich history.

C. Administrator Report

Roger Fraser, Village Administrator

- Eddie Zmich of Hubbell, Roth and Clark
 - Announced the Village's recently awarded Michigan Enhancement Grant of \$200,000.00 was in process and a part of an HRC submitted proposal to maintain the Village Storm Water.
 - Discussed the submitted Storm Sewer Map and Storm Maintenance Plan.
 - The original scope has been expanded to accommodate additional needs since the initial proposal.
 - Hanke asked if the typography would still be done; Zmich concurred.
 - Hansen asked how the bids would be submitted. Zmich said Village owned was one project. The second was to combine what is found in the drainage studies to be quantified to address the issues found from the typography studies.
 - Hansen reiterated that the Council's intention was to solve the problem.
 - Lamott stated that once a plan is established to address the maintenance of the Storm Water...
 - Hanke stated that there were many vocal residents that asked for help, how do we know their concerns were properly addressed? Hanke asked for Fraser and our Communication team to make every effort to contact every affected resident to the best of our ability to ensure their concerns are heard.
 - Gordon mentioned that there was an area of concern that was not on the list to be addressed. Lamott agreed.
 - Erlich pointed out that there are some areas that are flooding even with mild rain.

- Responding to Erlich, Fraser mentioned that the culvert at Fourteen Mile and Evelyn court is in process. Fraser is working on it with ___ to get it cleaned out. Fraser stated that Fourteen Mile is a county road, and he is working with the Oakland County Water Resource Commission to address the issues.
- Lamott said we will keep pressure on the Road Commission to address this issue, especially before winter.
- Erlich and Hansen asked if there was anything the Village could do in the interim. Fraser said it was out of the Village Control due to private lots and a county road. The best we can do is keep on the pressure.
- Gordon suggested the affected, private residents may want to find a resolution on their own.
- Fraser suggested he and HRC will walk it and see if they can find a resolution.

a. Staffing Recommendation

- Fraser was delighted to report his selection of Susan Goldstrom to the position of Assistant Village Administrator. Goldstrom will handle the financial department of the Village Office.
- Plante Moran has determined that the Village is lacking in several processes within the financial department. Fraser suggested that he will be contracting Plante Moran, or the like, to work two (2) hours a month to perform certain tasks that are beyond the duties of the Village Office Staff.
- Doreen Martin is retiring at the end of the year and Goldstrom has strong, demonstrated skills to bridge the gap from a loss of experience when Martin retires at the end of the year.
- Fraser went in Lamott's stead to the Urban Deer Management Education Meeting at Farmington Hills. He will stay abreast of the evolving deer mitigation pursuits of our surrounding communities.
- Fraser informed the Council there is a seven (7) month wait time for generators. He will keep the Council posted.

b. Sidewalk Discussion

- Gordon met with Fraser with regarding the proposed completion of the sidewalk project. The Sidewalk will be laid in the next couple of weeks. The project is approaching completion by the end of November.

D. Clerk Report

Heather Mydloski, Village Clerk

- Reviewed submitted report
- Fraser advised the Council that Martin had cautioned that the public should not address the Boards directly as it could be construed as a conflict of interest.
- Hanke asked for clarity of cost for adding emails for all Boards and Commissions. Fraser defined the addition of was an additional monthly cost of \$50.00 per month for the addition.

E. Main Street Franklin Report

Meg Schubert, MSF/Economic Development Director

- Thanked all who participated in the Franklins Frenzy.

a. Grant Information Presentation by John Bry, Oakland County Supervisor of Local Business Development

- Genesis Grant Funding was obtained for Tangerine Wine for Franklin in the amount of \$2,500.00.
- Community Navigator Program that will provide five (5) liaisons to support Main Street Programs in Oakland County.
- November 27th, 2021 is Shop Small Saturday. The Village received marketing collateral and shopping bags to promote Main Street Shopping.

b. Main Street Agreement

(SEE BELOW)

F. Economic Development Report

Meg Schubert, MSF/Economic Development Director

a. Review of Business License Procedure

Schubert reviewed the submitted Building License Overview.

The Business License Regulation Pursuant to Chapter 810, Licenses in General, of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Franklin

- No person shall conduct, operate, or carry any trade, business, or profession within the Village of Franklin without first obtaining a license therefore from the Village. Such licenses are for a one-year term and must be obtained or renewed annually.
- The license year shall begin December 1st and shall terminate at 11:59 p.m. on November 30th of the following year, provided, however, where licenses are issued after December 1, the license period shall begin from the date of issuance and shall terminate 11:59 p.m. on the following November 30th. The license fee shall be set by Village Council resolution.
- Upon receiving an application for a license or license renewal, the Village shall conduct any necessary inspection(s) of the premises to verify code and ordinance compliance and to ascertain whether the premises are in a safe, structurally sound, sanitary, and occupiable condition

- The annual fee for business licenses in the Village of Franklin is set at \$100.00 and a \$50.00 penalty for failure to renew with a 30-day grace period for all business licenses effective on and after December 1, 2021.

Administration of Business License

The administration process for business licenses has been modified this year. The Village recently implemented a certificate management software offered by BS&A to help issue and monitor all business licenses. This program allows for the Village to streamline the renewal process as well as schedule and track inspections.

G. Planning Commission Report

No one was present.

H. Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee Report

David Sahli, Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee Chairman

- Reviewed the Proposed Resident Communication Survey that was sent to the Council.
- Couf-Cohen will work with the DE&I Committee to develop a strategy for disseminating the survey to residents.
- Saenz expressed the survey feels intrusive to him. He also doesn't see a connection with the requested information and how we would improve communication within the Village. He did not feel it was prudent to request this information without a clear-cut reason it needs to be obtained by the Village.
- Sahli stated that ADA compliance on the website is something to consider around the questions being asked by the DE&I.
- Saenz offered to work with Sahli on the resident letter.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Hubbell, Roth & Clark Connectivity Pathways Presentation

- Reviewed submitted report
- cross section shared path
 - geographic underneath to abridge existing soils. The proposed cost is \$78.00 per lineal foot and is based on a path constructed ten feet wide.
 - If this was the kind of path that was common in a local metro park? Zmich said it was.
 - The second proposed path is comprised of compacted stone at a cost of \$95.00 a lineal foot.
 - Burton stated that if the funding is obtained, it is mandatory that the pathway be 10 feet wide to accommodate a bicycle. The Village chooses to designate the path for foot traffic only then it can be a smaller width, but it will need to be ADA compliant (American Disabilities Act.)

- The Pathways must be designed and built around the Villages desired pathway use.
- Zmich suggested taking a boring sample of the soil content of the existing pathways in order properly build and design the pathways to the Village's desired specifications.
- Lamont wants to ensure the past retain the historic feel the village and the rustic aesthetic desired by village residents. Gordon asked about the primary design for sidewalks. Fraser interjected that there was not a council direction and that was needed to proceed.
- Burton's and Zmich will come back to the council in December with a report.

B. Discussion Community Ice Rink Installation

Erlich asked if it was too late to take this project on. Fraser responded it was not too late, but that time was of the essence.

Lamott thinks it's a great idea, but the last time it was constructed it was not maintained well.

Hanke stated he cannot commit to the maintenance of it as his work schedule did not permit him to oversee the project.

The Council agreed to let it go for now. They asked that it be put on the agenda earlier next year to allot enough time to develop a team to facilitate the request.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider Proposal from Johnson Landscaping for Streetscape Landscaping Additions along Meadow Drive

Saenz asked Fraser how the Village could justify spending Village monies on private property.

The Council agreed that the cost was necessary to keep in good faith with the modifications done because of the Streetscape.

#2021-98 Motion by Gordon, seconded by Hansen to approve to the Proposal from Johnson Landscaping for Streetscape Landscaping Additions along Meadow Drive as proposed.

AYES: Saenz, Hansen, Hanke, Erlich, Gordon, and Lamott

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Seltzer

B. Consider Village Emails for all Board Members and Commissioners

Council discussion on cost. The Clerk report was referenced to state the cost of adding all Board members and Commissioners was an additional \$50.00 per month.

Gordon and Lamott expressed concern with the emails being on our website as they may be laden with spam and open to infiltration without the right protections in place. Lamott will work with the Village IT provider.

C. Consider Main Street Agreement

Responding to Hansen, Schubert substantial there were no substantial changes to the agreement.

Lamott stated that he felt strongly that the two issues he raised, maintaining businesses, and attracting the right business to downtown Franklin.

Saenz and Gordon both agreed that business retention and recruitment were not within the scope of Main Street Franklin.

Hanke and Erlich suggested bringing the businesses up to date with such things as electrical and plumbing upgrades.

Fraser stated that with Schubert and a part-time Code Enforcement Officer on his team, the Village was better suited to address the issues are hand. He and Schubert would work with owners before being forced to use Code Enforcement.

Regarding the exterior appearance of downtowns buildings, Hanke asked for clarity on how Fraser is addressing the issue. Fraser agrees with the Councils concern but reiterated that he wanted code enforcement to be a last resort.

Schubert interjected that the Economic Development was a separate issue and we needed to be strategic in how the issue is handled with the business owners. Lamott wants to identify the properties that really need help and determine a course of action.

#2021-99 Motion by Gordon, Seconded by Hanke to approve the Main Street Agreement as presented.

AYES: Saenz, Hansen, Hanke, Erlich, Gordon, and Lamott

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Seltzer

Motion carried

D. Consider Appointment to the Village Fire Board of Appeals

#2021-100 Motion by Gordon, seconded by Hanke to appoint Brian Marx, Mike Brassfield, David Schmerin, David Goldberg, Shadia Martini and Peter Kelly to the Village Fire Board of Appeals to serve a two (2) year term.

AYES: Saenz, Hanke, Erlich, Gordon, and Lamott
NAYS: Hansen
ABSENT: Seltzer

5-1, motion carried

E. Consider the Scheduling of a Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG Plan Year 2022)

#2021-101 Motion by Hansen, seconded by Gordon to approve the Scheduling of a Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG Plan Year 2022) for Monday, December 13, 2021.

AYES: Saenz, Hanke, Erlich, Gordon, and Lamott
NAYS: Hansen
ABSENT: Seltzer

Motion carried

F. Consider Village Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2022

#2021-102 Motion by Gordon, seconded by Erlich to approve the Village Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2022 as presented.

AYES: Saenz, Hanke, Erlich, Gordon, and Lamott
NAYS: Hansen
ABSENT: Seltzer

Motion carried

G. Discussion on the Quality of Cellular Service in the Village

Lamott spoke of his plan to meet with an outside consultant.

Hanke stated that residents are not happy with any service in the Village.

Erlich asked what the process for cell phone tower placement was. Lamott clarified that the process was the vendors come in with an application for the use of the right of way and the Council approves it.

Rick David- 27201 WELLINGTON- When this issue was previously examined it was determined that if the Village were to build a cell tower; the service providers would then add their antenna.

Lamott agreed with David that the problem is we have a lot of forest and hills with a low density within the Village.

Daniel Rosenberg- 25335 DENNISON Circulated a petition by publishing it on the Nextdoor Social media platform and within hours 100 people responded that they want something done to improve the cell phone service within the Village. Rosenberg has T-Mobile and it is horrible. Hanke reminded the Council of many residents that are still working from home and require excellent cellular service. There are also safety issues that arise from poor cellular services in general.

Lamott reiterated that for the above reasons, the Council is meeting with an outside contractor to address these issues as they are not easy to understand. He also mentioned the possibility of the whole Village becoming a WIFI hotspot.

Erlich stated the Village needs to handle all resident concerns around the issues of cellular service with care and concern.

Lamott urged residents to call their carriers and not to underestimate the power a multitude of calls will achieve.

SKANDERUP, CYNTHIA - 32495 WING LAKE Agreed with Erlich to proceed with caution in working to correct the problem.

SAHLI, DAVID - 26172 MEADOW Stated it is worthwhile to be intentional with the health concerns and the cost of infrastructure. He urged the Council to be intentional on framing their investigation around the residents' stated concerns.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lamott, seconded by Hansen to adjourn.

AYES: Saenz, Hansen, Hanke, Erlich, Gordon, and Lamott

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Seltzer

Motion carried

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 PM.

William Lamott
Village Council President

Heather Mydloski
Village Clerk
