

Town of Franklinton
Regular Meeting
April 26, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, Town of Franklinton, La. was held at the Municipal Building at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor M. Wayne Fleming, Aldermen T.J. Butler, John Daniel, Richard Dillon, Brad Orman and Heath Spears

Absent: None

Mayor Fleming called the meeting to order; established a quorum and the meeting was opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: Washington Parish Youth Council: Mrs. Charlotte Fornea introduced Mrs. Regina Myercheck and Mrs. Gail Brigham with the Washington Parish Youth Council Coalition. The coalition includes Pine, Varnado and Franklinton and they would like to expand to all Parish Schools. A grant from Federal Drug Free Communities helps fund this initiative. Their goal is to help youth to become the leaders of tomorrow by helping other youths of today. Several of the young people in attendance presented highlights from the two large projects they did this year; one pertaining to tobacco and the other pertaining to alcohol. The projects are geared to help educate youth and adults alike on drug and tobacco use in Washington Parish. Several of the students showed pictures of the "Kick Butt Rally" they attended at the state capitol to promote tobacco-free lifestyles and advocate for anti-tobacco public policies especially pertaining to products that target youths. Franklinton High School also sponsored a Spring Alcohol Free Fun Festival where fun games were played concluding with a lesson about the dangers of alcohol use. Town officials were commended for only allowing the sale of low content alcohol in restaurants. They also requested that the Town Council adopt smoke-free ordinances that are already in place in Alexandria, Abbeville, Monroe and other municipalities.

Old Business:

1. Approve minutes- March 22, 2016: The minutes of the April 12, 2016 meeting were approved as written on motion of Alderman Spears, seconded by Alderman Butler and unanimously carried.

2. Alcohol Permit- Goings & Goings, LLC: Attorney Ellen Creel stated that this is the second submission and there are still blanks on the application. She stated she would contact their attorney to proof –read the application so it can be presented at the next meeting.

New Business:

1. Court Magistrate: Alderman Daniel stated that when searching for a court magistrate the main thing to look for is criminal law experience. After interviewing three good candidates, the committee selected and recommended Dan Foil who had more experience than the other two applicants and could stay at the position long term. A motion was made by Alderman Daniel, seconded by Alderman Orman that attorney Dan Foil be appointed as Court Magistrate. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Departmental Reports: Police: Police Chief Smith gave the following report for March 22- April 26, 2016: 524 Public Assistance calls, 246 traffic calls including 61 citations issued, and 92 Criminal Patrol calls including 34 arrests. Chief Smith also reported on the Police Department's involvement in the community. He had the opportunity to speak at the Spring Creek United Methodist Church about community Police relationships. Also Major Brown and Sgt. Will Brumfield spoke to the JAG group at Franklinton High School about life after high school and the skills needed to succeed in today's world. They also took part in mock job interviews and gave tips and techniques to be more effective in job interviews. PFC Gerald Stubs has been acting as a mentor to Kianna Taylor who wants to go into law enforcement after high school. Also Officer James Pugh took part in a lock in at Sweet Home Church and did a presentation on narcotics and canine and law enforcement. Two young African American men from the lock in have been to his office three times getting ideas about law enforcement. Chief Smith wants to have a place where youth can learn from police and teach younger siblings and others about being responsible citizens.

Fire Dept. Fire Chief Chad Manning reported that 2015 was the biggest year the Fire Department has had with a total of 465 emergency calls. He gave the following reports for the month of April: 3 structure fires with mutual aid to other departments., 1 extrication, 1 motor vehicle accident with injury, 4 motor vehicle accidents without injury, 2 fire alarms, 1 grass fire, 2 medical call –outs. Year to date there have been 195 calls. Currently there are 25 active firefighters. All equipment is operational and in service except for the ladder truck.

3. Financial Reports March, 2016: Municipal Clerk Merty Fitzmorris presented the March financial statements which were accepted as reported.

In other business, Jay Pittman with Spangler Engineering reported that the letter of conditions for the USDA loan/grant has been prepared and is awaiting signatures from key state staff. Alderman Dillon, referring to a statement made by Spangler Engineering at an earlier meeting, asked if the Town would be able consolidate the old loan with the new one which is at a lower interest rate and result in one payment each month to USDA. Mayor Fleming stated that due to changes in USDA, this option is no longer available. Mr. Pittman stated that construction should begin before the end of this year.

Being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Dillon, seconded by Alderman Daniel and unanimously carried.

M. Wayne Fleming, Mayor

Merty G. Fitzmorris, Municipal Clerk

