

**VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020, 6:00 PM
FRANKLIN VILLAGE HALL – BROUGHTON HOUSE
32325 FRANKLIN ROAD, FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN 48025**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Pam Hansen, at 6:00 PM at the Franklin Village Hall, Franklin, Michigan.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Fred Gallasch, Brian Gordon, Ed Saenz, Pam Hansen, Bill Lamott, Mike Seltzer, Mira Stakhiv

Absent: None

Also Present: Roger Fraser, Interim Village Administrator
Eileen Pulker, Village Clerk
Tad Krear, Land Design Studio
Jeff Huhta, Nowak & Fraus Engineers

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Seltzer, seconded by Saenz to adopt the agenda, as presented.

Ayes: Gallasch, Gordon, Hansen, Lamott, Saenz, Seltzer, Stakhiv

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS

Hansen stated that questions and comments would be allowed during Council's discussions of specific items that the consultants were going to bring to Council.

V. DISCUSS FRANKLIN ROAD STREETScape PLAN.

Stakhiv confirmed that a copy of the older plans were in the Village office.

Huhta stated that the focus of tonight's agenda would be a review of the Design Review Meeting No.2 minutes, the irrigation plan and options, the lighting design status, and decorative signage posts and details.

Reviewing the minutes from the December 16, 2019 meeting, Huhta made a correction for the word "sidewalk" on page 2, paragraph 3, 4th line. It should be "curb". The line should read, "... (safety and drainage) were discussed, as was the subject of having a curb on both sides of..."

Huhta updated the Council on the Field Survey which was now complete, as was the Geotechnical Investigation. He shared with Council a map of soil classifications of Oakland County which supported the findings of the Geotechnical Investigation and confirmed the proposed number of borings which had been discussed at the last meeting. If desired, he stated, more could be taken.

Following the same process used to select the engineering firm, Hansen, Krear, and committee members met with a couple of candidates for the lighting contract; one of which both Hansen and Krear described to be a better fit than the other. The information would be brought before Council at its next regular meeting for its approval. Both firms were able to commit to providing a proposal for a lighting design by the end of the week so they would be in the Council's packet. Krear added that both had been informed that the Village was about a month behind in its schedule in getting this out to bid.

Gallasch clarified with Krear that the chosen firm would determine how many lights would be needed. The firms had different opinions about different types of lighting and one had some guidelines and/or suggestions for the downtown businesses and street lighting. Krear confirmed that both firms were local. Each would provide a mock-up.

According to Krear, reaching a consensus of all the components for the actual pole lighting could be very difficult. Each firm would be bringing recommendations and options with different grades of costs. Hopefully, construction documents and estimates for the streetscape and lighting elements would be completed in early to mid-March. At the January 21 meeting a concept plan and cost estimates for the streetscape with the decisions from tonight and those from the previous meetings would be presented. It was hoped that the lighting consultant would be able to attend that meeting with a preliminary presentation.

Hansen confirmed that Franklin did not have Ordinances/Standards for lighting regulated by the National Standards for lighting and engineering. Therefore, it might be the engineering firm which would provide those guidelines for the merchants. Downing, member of the Planning Commission, confirmed that the only guidelines for lighting related to residential lighting. Stakhiv suggested that Main Street Franklin be a part of this endeavor.

Hansen was curious as to the working relationship between Huhta/ Krear and the lighting firm, hoping the work efforts would be in sync. Huhta emphasized there would be a clear division between the firm's work and his and Krear's work and there would not be any overlap.

A proposal for an irrigation design was excluded in the original presentation, for several reasons: there was no water main in the downtown area so the water source was unknown; Huhta was not positive if Council wanted the streetscape to be irrigated; and irrigation comes with great expense and significant amount of maintenance. Tonight was for brainstorming the subject and, hopefully, coming to a conclusion.

Krear has spoken with Johnson, who in addition to being the Village contractor for street and roadside maintenance, was also a volunteer fireman, and had proposed several landscaping options, including estimated prices. Of the three (3) landscaping ideas, establishing drought tolerant and salt tolerant plants seemed to be the most cost efficient. Taking into consideration unknown precipitation, Johnson estimated the cost for a truck to water the plants during July and August which were the driest months. Limited and/or select pockets along Franklin Rd. would be considered possible locations, not the entire length of the road.

Answering Gallasch's inquiry of whether the Franklin Garden Club might be willing to help with the maintenance, Lamott stated that the club had not been interested in helping with the Kreger House. After establishing and taking care of the plant material for the first couple of years, Stakhiv was in favor of keeping it natural and wild. Soil augmentation was paramount for plant survival which would be different than what had occurred with the Rain Garden on Franklin Road in front of the Jones Building. Krear also identified a combination of other shortcomings associated with the Rain Garden. Huhta stressed the importance and need of proper maintenance. Once a plan was established, Johnson would provide an estimate for the weeding and watering. This type of plan was similar to what Huhta and Krear had designed for Bloomfield Township and they were very proud of it. The idea, ramifications, and shortcomings of using water from the Franklin River were discussed, as were the types of landscape plants, all of which might depend on whether the Village opted for irrigation or not.

The consensus was to forego irrigation.

Huhta re-addressed the types of retaining walls by showing slides of different options: concrete, real stone, and different details. He would keep exploring different examples. Lamott supplied pictures of actual retaining walls within the Village. Huhta was in favor of retaining a pre-approved mason while the Council was still making some decisions. A mason could meet with the Council and present different wall options, possible recommendations, locations, and associated costs.

Using a variety of designs throughout the Village appeared to be acceptable.

Huhta was aware the Village had been working on its sign inventory. He was interested in vehicular signs and inquired if the Village wanted to change the look of them. He remarked that some of the existing ones were difficult to read. He showed slides of signs with decorative poles and bases with decorative frames and finials in different shapes and colors. He pointed out there were companies in Muskegon and Indianapolis which make them. Bottom line, when comparing all the different elements, Huhta agreed that less was more for Franklin. Hubbell Roth & Clark (HRC) will be looking at what signs were needed in the Village, but not what the signs looked like. Consistency was another important factor for all signs, whether vehicular or street signs.

Saenz questioned if the cost of all this was in line with the proposed budget. Stakhiv stated that no one has seen the costs. Huhta said that that was the next step and the cost estimates would be presented at the January 21 meeting. Hansen noted that before Creech retired he did a high level source budget for this and gave it to Fraser, the Interim Administrator. Stakhiv requested that Fraser look over the document and give it to Council. Hansen believed the cost, not including the repaving of Franklin Road, was \$1.2 million. Gallasch was curious about the source(s) for the monies which Hansen listed as, separate from the road funds: Act 51 (Gas tax- state funds), General Fund-Road funds, and Local Streets and Major Street funds. Hansen reiterated that this was all included in the report that Creech had prepared.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Gordon, seconded by Seltzer to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Gallasch, Gordon, Hansen, Lamott, Saenz, Seltzer, Stakhiv
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Beke, Recording Secretary

Eileen H. Pulker, Clerk

Pamela Hansen, President