

**VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN
VILLAGE COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019, 7:00 PM
FRANKLIN VILLAGE HALL – BROUGHTON HOUSE
32325 FRANKLIN ROAD, FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN 48025**

BUDGET PLANNING MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President, Pam Hansen, at 7:02 PM at the Franklin Village Hall, Franklin, Michigan.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Fred Gallasch, Pam Hansen, Bill Lamott, Mira Stakhiv
Absent: Brian Gordon, Ed Saenz, Mike Seltzer
Also Present: Jim Creech, Village Administrator
Eileen Pulker, Village Clerk
Krista McClure, Main Street Executive Director
Gary Roberts, HDC Chairman

Hansen reported that Seltzer was out of town and it was unlikely he would be in Michigan for the Council meeting on Monday, April 8, 2019.

Hansen stated the purpose of this informal discussion meeting was to listen to the heads of the various commissions and Main Street to understand the work they had been doing, as well as, what their priorities for the coming year would be, especially regarding their funding requests for the next fiscal year.

This coming Monday night the Council meeting would be a Budget Workshop and items in the budget would be discussed in detail. The Finance Committee has reviewed the Budget and the time between now and Monday's meeting would be the time for Council to review the Budget, ask questions, and get clarity on several items in order for the work session on Monday night to be successful. Hansen also noted that while the annual Budget was being discussed, Council should be looking at and planning for the future.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Stakhiv, seconded by Gallasch to adopt the agenda, as presented.

Motion was approved unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS

No public was present, no comments were made.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Historic District Commission (HDC)

Gary Roberts, HDC Chairman, presented a proposed 12 month Budget for the Historical Commission, copies of which were provided to the Council members. He divided the budget discussion into two categories (Administrative/operational and CLG compliance) and each subdivided into specific areas, most of which would be the same as this current budget. The

additional requests would be for a Group Training session, which should be done at least every other year, especially if a new member has joined the Commission, which was the case this year. Roberts planned on engaging someone from the Historic Preservation Department to do an “HDC Certification” program over view and conduct individual seminars for the members of the Commission.

Roberts reminded the Council of the activities of the Historic District Study Committee which has been working on and its important project to review properties for inclusion in the District and of becoming Certified Local Government (CLG) compliant. He listed the three (3) major CLG goals that the Committee wanted to accomplish: Implement a program to identify historic properties in the Historic District; Take action to protect historic resources within the Village limits; and, Collaborate with Bloomfield Township to protect the Cider Mill. The first two (2) might need funding for some outside resources to help complete the projects. The last one would be at no cost. Additional projects would be plaque design and QRS codes for individual properties, a sample plaque for the Kreger House, photography, and title searches, all of which might require additional time and money for the consultant. A contingency fund would also be appreciated.

Lamott had some suggestions for getting possible assistance in the Township with the preservation of the Franklin Cider Mill.

Hansen suggested adding another goal of protecting the properties owned by the Village, plus the Church, and annexing them into the District. Roberts stated that this was already a goal of the Study Committee. Roberts stated that the Ordinance required the Study Committee to present Council with the pertinent properties, which it was going to do. However, in order to achieve this, funding would be necessary. Involvement with the FCA has been discussed.

Lamott broached the subject of some buildings in town, including some in the Historic District, needing help. Roberts suggested Council consider an “Anti-Blight” Ordinance which would stress property maintenance and include some sort of enforcement mechanism. Hansen mentioned that at Monday’s Council meeting a resolution will be considered dealing with the creation of a Task Force which, among other things, would be looking at different ways of supporting the care of historic buildings in town and not necessarily just in the Historic District. Hansen mentioned something that Lamott had said which was that the Building Inspector uses building codes which were different and not necessarily lined up with the Historic District. The Building Inspector would need to work in both areas. Lamott even brought up the idea of the Village considering a Historic Preservation millage. This subject would be researched for further discussion.

Creech suggested increasing the Historic District Commission’s funding to \$10,000.

B. Planning Commission

No representative from the Planning Commission was in attendance. David Goldberg, Chairman, had been detained at work.

C. Main Street Franklin

Krista McClure, Executive Director, requested the same amount as last fiscal year. She supported the idea and purpose of the Task Force, relating some recent activities and opinions of some business owners regarding a possible proposal she had introduced to the MSF Board. Adding to the discussion about the establishment of a Task Force and the “anti-blight” situation, she mentioned her having done some work in Detroit and being familiar with similar situations. She might be able to pass along some suggestions which the Task Force could consider.

Stakhiv suggested that MSF needed to put a little more pressure on the commercial landlords or businesses to have a vested interest in maintaining and caring for the landscaping or whatever beautification project which might take place in the downtown.

Concerned that McClure might get sidetracked with too many projects, Lamott stated that he hoped that she would narrow them down and her objectives would be more specific and more measurable. Lamott commented on something that a business owner had told him a while ago, “I really don’t care what Franklin looks like or what Franklin does. I’m here to make money.” This impacted him because he and a lot of people do care. The merchants need to know that they are part of “Us” and if that was their attitude, they would lose him, as well.

McClure was very excited about the Task Force and hoped Council would approve it, speaking from her experience. Hansen spoke of MSF (specifically she) being part of the Task Force.

McClure announced that Fitness Driven would be having its Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on May 2, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

Regarding the upcoming Budget Meeting on Monday, Hansen asked if Council members wanted or needed more information on any item (s) so they could talk about them in more details. Gallasch said that the Finance Committee had questions for Creech to research and implement in a revised Budget. Stakhiv stated that the large increase in group insurance was her biggest concern and needed to be explored. At Creech’s request she pinpointed the actual expenditure accounts and he explained that it was because the status of the staff had changed. Lamott was still advocating to increase NEXT’s allocation to \$10,000. There would be a more in-depth conversation about this at the Monday meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Beke, Recording Secretary

Eileen H. Pulker, Clerk

Pamela Hansen, President