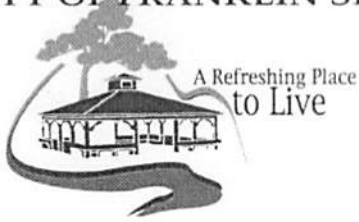


CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS



City of Franklin Springs

Council Meeting Minutes

March 11th, 2025

5:00 pm

Members Present:

Mayor Lee Moore

Council Members: Bill Bell, Tommy Pritchett, Tom Wilson, Josh Walden

City Clerk: Jackie Yearwood

Operation Manager-Daniel Ankerich

Chief of Police-Kevin Thompson

Mayor Moore called the meeting to order.

Tom Wilson gave invocation and pledge followed.

Before the meeting began, Mayor Moore stated the reasoning for rescheduling the Council meeting from March 20th, 2025, to tonight and the reason behind moving the time of tonight's meeting from 5:30 pm to 5:00 pm. Mayor Moore then went to state, the city has not entered into any agreement with any industry and will not do anything unless it's in a public meeting. Mayor Moore then asked this question to each council member; "Would you be in favor of bringing anything in Franklin Springs that would be detrimental to Franklin Springs and Franklin County?" Each council member replied, "No sir or No."

Bill Bell made a motion to adopt the agenda. Tommy Pritchett seconded. Motion carried.

Tom Wilson made a motion for consent agenda approval. Seconded by Bill Bell. Motion carried.

Water/Sewer/Street Report

It was reported that the new supply line has started to the houses on Brad St.

Police Dept

Nothing to report, per Chief Thompson but wanted to commend officers O'Brian and Agnew for the job they are doing and thanked the Mayor and Council for their support.

Fire Dept

No one was present to report. Mayor Moore asked the city clerk if anything was given to report. Nothing to report.

Bill Bell made a motion to accept the Deed from Franklin County for Oliver Road that was abandoned by Franklin County so the city could have access and maintain it for when the wastewater treatment facility is built. Tommy Pritchett second. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Mayor Moore announced that under public comment be aware of Roberts' Rule of Order and asked to be respectful and professional. If someone wanted to speak, they were asked to sign up when they arrived at the meeting and each person that had signed up to speak will be given 3 minutes. Mayor Moore thanked everyone for being there and then Mayor Moore read each name and address of those who signed in to make public comment. They are below:

Nick Martin: 4261 Hwy 29, Royston, GA 30662 (tentative) – Did not speak

Barry Wood: 985 Beatenbough Rd Canon (tentative)-spoke about local contractors. Tommy Pritchett asked who that was and Mr. Wood stated he would retain his name. Mr. Wood stated he had 3 very close incidents dealing with chicken processing plants and explained those.

Joe Lawrence-128 Dickson Drive, Danielsville-lives downstream. Sounds like a lot of rumor mill. Doesn't want to ruin the lifestyle. He is part of the Watershed Association. Broad River and the river is pristine.

Magan Crump-121 River Ridge Rd-born and raised in Franklin County. Quality of life means everything. Speaking for pride for her community and for personal necessity. Recently diagnosed with lung disease and makes the quality of air precious. Property values. Broad River impacts. Welcomes industry that aligns and enhances. Does not want to change the character. Protect community and legacy. Responsible and sustainable growth for generations to come.

Mary McGarity 3600 Harrison Bride Rd, Carnesville and Ms. McGarity also provided address 929 Bond Bridge Rd, Royston as well – will affect our generation currently and will affect generations to come. Students are inheriting land. Not about property values but quality of life. Has a commercial construction background. Neither rendering or waste management will help our community. Cost benefit type of person and will bring

low paying jobs. Asking everyone to be forth coming and stated transparency is questionable.

Michelle Kaye – 1707 Browersville St. Royston-also and the Hudson and Broad River- Important for her to be here tonight. Ms Kaye asked, “Are there now or will there be any contracts or plans in the future to bring to Franklin Springs any industry that dispose of or burns organic matter like rendering plants or biomass plants?” No answer given. Early 90’s there were signs about the Chattahoochee, and they used to ticket you if you got in the river. It has taken 30 years to clean up. Decisions made are for now and future generations.

Kelley Tamplin-475 Pillips Rd, Royston-wanted to educate herself and be an advocate for the community. Franklin County is a great place to live. There to voice her opinion. Wished community could stay small but understands that is not always realistic. Not opposed to growth and industry. Asks that everything is transparent and not detrimental to the community. It’s a great thing the community is at the meeting and doing it to educate themselves. More community involvement is needed. Things in life that’s most important is faith, health, legacy, and reputation.

Lori Huster, 2112 Hwy 145-live and farm on North Fork Broad River. Franklin County became her home. Grows dahlias, her farm is a place of learning, growth, and opportunity. Accommodates youth learning and what small businesses can do for youth in the community. Hosts workshops from all over Southeast. With news of a rumored mystery industry everything is on hold. With this news, expansion is on hold. Too much uncertainly. Not against development. Supports small sustainable industry. Franklin County is a prime location for strong businesses like Jarrett Foods, Steelworks, Bobcat, that bring value and stability, but 100 percent opposed to the wrong industry. Wrong industry doesn’t attract growth but prevents it. You can attract industry that will respect natural resources and add to our community does not take from it. Angry, heartbroken and deeply concerned not for only her business but for the future of Franklin County. Choose industry that builds us up and does not tear us down.

Christie Busby – 26541 W Main St. Franklin Springs- appreciates having your ears open and hearts open to God. Where’s there is smoke there is fire. Read off data that with Pilgrims, since 2000 there have been offenses including environmental, 173 just in safety, price fixing, anti-competitive, corruption, employment discrimination, last two years had lawsuits from Attorney General in New York over environmental issues. The company is not great and does not want to partner with them at all. Had this fight once and doing it over and over again is insanity. Water treatment facility is going to impact on our environment. Love this County. We have a college. Doesn’t want to move her home. Need to attract great business.

AR Brookshire-16 Swails St- Ms. Brookshire was speaking on behalf of her mother, Ruth. Stated her mother is thankful for 65 and older city tax break. That benefit does not

offset the detriments brought from a processing plant. Vehemently opposed to processing plant. Requests to find funding a water treatment plant in a different way.

K. Combs-no address listed-sewage treatment-what are you putting back in the river. Dog food plant-would smell it when you drive by-whether its wastewater or treatment. Don't want anything, not saying that in the way of progress.

Andrew Crump – 121 River Ridge, Carnesville-read Mayor Moore statement from March 6th, 2025. Why is Franklin County left out? Their voices matter. If so good, why are you not telling everyone about it. Why is it rumored that the wastewater treatment plant is larger than Gwinnett County? Trust goes down and frustrations go up. One Franklin. November 4th, 2024, Chairman Jeff Jaques said Franklin Springs has an agreement with an industry that will help pay for the wastewater facility. Called March 3rd, 2025 and Mayor stated Franklin Springs was paying for it and also said he was the second person to call, but the article in the paper said only one person had called. Doesn't make sense. Lose trust. Denied rendering plant not being built on Hwy 29, but DDA own 129 acres on Park Road, is it going to be built at that location? Why hide what industry? Why not say who is helping pay for the wastewater plant. Citizens deserve openness. Seems like Franklin County Board of Commissioners signed a contract without proper legal advice. Franklin Springs moving forward without real transparency or community involvement. Franklin County needs to wake up and pay attention. Decision will affect everyone. Demand transparency and One Franklin for all citizens.

Thomas Gift-1538 Hwy 145, Royston, 30662- glad to know a decision hasn't been made. Federal government for 25 years. All changes have benefits and cost. Plan analysis. Tax growth. Analysis falls short on because doesn't consider value. Important for transparency. Sacrifice quality of life. Franklin County has a bright future.

Brandon Cothran-1816 Bond Bridge Rd, Royston-family has been here for generations. Haven't heard anything good to overcome the bad. Wanted to talk face to face. Think about future generations. Generations subject to chemicals and bad things. Wastewater treatment plant-talk about Lavonia by the ball fields stinks to high heaven. Sit and get together. Money doesn't buy happiness

Jill Parten-2626 Athens Rd, Royston-last week stood before Mayor Moore at the IBA meeting speaking from her heart. Everyday praying and praying for an umbrella of protection. Speaking from her head today. Certified appraiser of 25 years. Seen what certain types of plants have done to home values in a negative manner. Scenarios were given of appraisal and values lowered and how it affects home values. She asked, "if there is nothing to report then why did someone from GA Power call her husband who is retired from Ga Power and told him about a 46 line?"

Polly Walker – 381 Walkers Way, Royston- daughter shared handout and Mrs. Walker brought pictures to share. Lives on the river. 6 generations. Her son's legacy is Slow Water. Introduced her grandson. They love that river. Means everything to them. Been there for 60 years. Precious families on slow water. Slow water is a wonderful

experience. Not much to do in Franklin County. No rendering plant wanted. Doesn't even want wastewater. Wants her river to stay the same. Stated she walked in door, and saw where it says Franklin Springs, a refreshing place to live. She asked "Mayor, is it?" "Yes, it is," Mayor Moore replied.

Wendy Walker Edmonds-Walkers Way, Royston – Mrs. Polly Walker is her mom. Her brother was a good steward of the land. He cleaned up the river and kept it that way. Why is this coming back around? Daniel's son wants to go fishing. We are not the only kayaking place, there are 3. They are going to have to deal with this too. She stated she didn't know about the water treatment stuff, but nobody wants the rendering.

Michael Moody-7911 Wildcat Bridge Rd, Danielsville, GA – First one on the river. All share the love of the river. Cleaned up the river. Someone is making money. That company is notorious for polluting it. They just pay fines. If the river is in a drought, they will not stop producing. They are downwind and will blow down to them. Who's paying for this? Who's making money? What are the benefits for the community?

That concluded public comment and Mayor Moore thanked everyone for coming and thanked all who spoke.

No executive session

Miscellaneous:

Mayor Moore wanted to address a couple of things. He asked Mr. Joe Lawrence to come up and go into more detail of the Broad River Watershed Association. Mr. Lawrence explained the mission and protect resources of the pristine river. Mayor Moore asked Mr. Lawrence to share who the President was of the Association and Mr. Lawrence replied, "Amanda Willis." Mayor Moore was glad Mr. Lawrence was there that evening and spoke of the meeting March 20th hosted by the city engineers that will go over all permits and processes that has been done with the wastewater treatment facility. The Mayor further stated we currently have a wastewater treatment facility that the city has outgrown and empties into the Broad River currently. Ms. Willis is aware of the current facility and speaks highly of the operator. Mayor Moore stated we have to prepare for growth and it's not any specific industry. He also stated, we need sewer, we need growth and that a plan was pitched 16-18 years ago for a regional wastewater facility that was discussed with the County partnering with all the Cities. The city is the only entity paying for it. There is not a contract with anybody. There is no contract with any industry. We are paying for this with bonds through our current customers. Not raising rates. Mayor Moore than stated, we don't have to have this public hearing on the 20th, we are doing it because we want to be transparent. The city has also been working with Ms. Willis with the Broad River Water Association and they are going to have a meeting on the 20th or April 17th. This wastewater plant is being built and operated by Franklin Springs, will be beneficial and will not hurt business. Franklin Springs is working with different entities and working together to get things accomplished and the positive of wastewater treatment plants done

right. Lori Huster, a speaker during the time of public comment, yelled out during Mayor Moore speaking "You're lying. You're lying. Jeff Jacques said an industry is contributing to it. You're lying to the citizens. You are lying." Mayor Moore went on to conclude to everyone present, if you want to learn, please come to those meetings. Mr. Lawrence agreed with him and stated the Watershed wanted to have a public forum to bring people more into what's happening, strategic plan and transparency and city government. Mayor Moore thanked Mr. Lawrence for being there tonight.

Someone from the audience yelled out "So, it's the rendering plant not the sewage treatment plant that's the issue?"

Bill Bell made a motion to adjourn. Tommy Pritchett seconded. Motion carried.



Lee Moore, Mayor



Jackie Yearwood, City Clerk