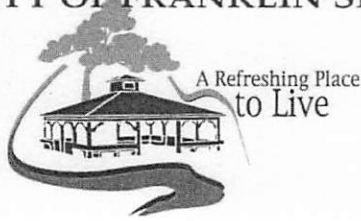


CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS



City of Franklin Springs

Council Meeting Minutes

May 15th, 2025

5:30 pm

Members Present:

Mayor Lee Moore

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

City Clerk: Jackie Yearwood

Chief of Police-Kevin Thompson

Mayor Moore called the meeting to order.

Tom Wilson gave invocation and pledge followed.

Tom Wilson made a motion to adopt the agenda. Tommy Pritchett seconded. Motion carried.

Bill Bell made a motion for consent agenda approval. Tommy Pritchett seconded. Motion carried.

Chief of Operation Report:

None

Police Dept

Chief Thompson reported that all officers have completed their mandated training for the year. The state requires 20 hours of training, and the officers are currently at 60-70 hours of training. Also, the firing range is almost complete. Mayor Moore thanked the Police Department, Fire, EMS, and First responders for what they do.

Fire Dept

No one was present, but the Fire Dept representative did call prior to the meeting and the Mayor reported there were no calls and no changes for the month. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Fire Chief or Asst. Fire Chief.

With changes from the legislature where the city needs to give an estimated millage rate for assessment notices to be mailed, Bill Bell made a motion to estimate the 2025 city millage rate to be 4.70 mils (same as last year). Josh Walden seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Bruce Scranton: Two points Mr. Scranton wanted to make.

1-On the motion that just passed, he was here about a year ago and wanted to opt-out. It was decided not to opt-out but talked about making sure that we continued good management of city funds. Also, it was stated about potentially introducing some new exemptions to help people with taxes. Mr. Scranton was concerned about millage with increased property assessments from the County, but stated we are not doing our usual reduced millage rate. Curious about what has changed and when will we hear about keeping taxes low in Franklin Springs.

2-Mr. Scranton stated he spoke with Mayor earlier in the week and been thinking about one thing the Mayor said that troubled him. It was with the answers he received back from Turnipseed. Mr Scranton stated Mayor Moore said the engineers usually don't respond to the citizens, that they work for the city and respond to the city. But his questions were intended for the open meeting for the citizens to come and ask questions. It took him two months to get answers. He got answers to a few questions, but for the big questions, they did not attempt to answer. Since he has background in consulting, he is concerned about what they are really proposing? He wanted the information so he could make his own mind up and see if it's really a good risk for the city and a good opportunity for the city or not. He has not received anything on that and doesn't know when he will get something. There are questions for Turnipseed but there are also questions for the city. When do I get a date for some real answers?

Executive Session: None

Miscellaneous:


Mayor Moore stated the city has asked Tonya Powers to give a quick overview on Industrial Development, how things work, and to explain that to the community. Ms. Powers had a flow chart to hand out if anyone wanted a copy and began explaining an overview of the way projects work. The State of Georgia or site consultants are the ones who send projects. They look at a database that covers the entire State and they start matching communities with what they are looking for. If matches occur, it then gets sent out to different developers (Ms. Powers, for example). If there is a piece of property, or parcel, that matches what they sent, preliminary work begins on it. Ms. Powers begins with reaching out to the County Engineer to check on infrastructure and utilities before she gives them to her Board to make sure it is something that can be done. She makes no decision on the project and sends to her Board members. She has 7 Board members; 5

Mayors and 2 appointed by the County. Typically, the IBA will work on the project if they own the property or if incentives will be given on the local side. Ms. Powers also stated incentives can be offered but have not in quite some time. Industries have come in with not having to offer incentives and that is something to be proud of. If for some reason the IBA doesn't work the project, Ms. Powers will pass on to the Cities or the County. If the City decides to work a project, Ms. Powers will continue to help, if needed, but the City Council will make the decision to proceed with the project. Project decisions will depend on where they land. A good example of this, and the most recent one, is a project that began with the IBA but passed to a city. It was Jarrett Foods in Lavonia. Jarrett Foods took an older building, remodeled it, and was a great investment. It provided over 200 jobs and did a great job revitalizing that building. Ms. Powers went on to say it initially came to the IBA, but there was no property available and no incentives, so the City of Lavonia took the project and moved forward with all the decisions. Ms. Powers concluded by saying if anyone had any questions, she would be happy to talk with them.

Mayor Moore wanted to publicly congratulate Coach Ryan Phillips and the FC baseball team that will be playing for the State championship. Franklin Springs City Hall will be closed next Wednesday to allow anyone to go and cheer on the Lions.

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



Lee Moore, Mayor

Jackie Yearwood, City Clerk