

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FRANKLIN SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

June 5, 2020

The Franklin Sustainability Commission held a regular meeting on Friday, June 5, 2020, at 8:05 a.m. The meeting was held virtually through Zoom due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Chair Kose read Resolution 2020-81. This Resolution states that the meeting shall meet on June 5, 2020 and conduct its essential business by electronic means rather than being required to gather a quorum of the members physically present in the same location because it is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Chair Kose asked for a motion to approve the Resolution 2020-81.

Mr. Wood moved, seconded by **Mr. Palmer**, to approve Resolution 2020-81.

Chair Kose asked for a roll call vote.

The following voted in favor of: **Chair Dana Kose, Mike Cassity, Micah Wood, Todd Palmer, Patrick Baggett, and Alderman Beverly Burger.**

The motion carried unanimously. **Mr. Mike Leonard, Ms. Nancy Whittemore, and Mr. Brenton Montgomery** were absent from the vote.

Chair Kose read the following announcement:

“Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this will be a virtual meeting. The public may call 615-550-8420 to join the meeting. The public may email comments to planningintake@franklintn.gov to be read aloud during the meeting. Emailed comments will be accepted until June 4th at 5:00 PM. The meeting video will be available for public viewing within one business day and posted on the city’s website.”

Welcome/Introductions

Chair Kose welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Members Present: Chair Dana Kose, Mike Cassity, Micah Wood, Todd Palmer, Patrick Baggett, and Alderman Beverly Burger.

Members Absent: Mike Leonard, Nancy Whittemore, and Brenton Montgomery

Staff Present: Andrew Orr, Emily Hunter, Elaine Ellis, and Eric Conner, and Steve Grubb.



Approval of Meeting Minutes

Alderman Burger moved, seconded by **Mr. Wood**, to approve the minutes from May, 2020.

Chair Kose asked for a roll call vote.

The following voted in favor of: **Chair Dana Kose, Mike Cassity, Micah Wood, Todd Palmer, Patrick Baggett, and Alderman Beverly Burger.**

Consideration of the Energy Policy Guide

Chair Kose stated that they had incorporated feedback from the May meeting and emails from Commission members and City Staff into the document. She suggested that they submit this document to the Board of Mayor and Alderman (BOMA) for feedback. Then, present that feedback to the Sustainability Commission to amend and approve the document. The Commission would, once the document is approved, delve into the policy statement and take action on the policy items.

Chair Kose stated that she would work with **Mr. Orr** to schedule a date to add the item BOMA’s agenda.

Discussion of Street Light Costs

Mr. Orr turned the meeting over to **Kevin Ogles** from Middle Tennessee Electric (MTEMC). **Mr. Ogles** is the Support Engineer for Williamson County with MTEMC. **Mr. Ogles** presented an excel spreadsheet presentation. **Mr. Orr** stated that they asked **Mr. Ogles** to compare the cost for LED conversions for different areas of town: Mallory Lane (across from Centennial High School), Founders Pointe, Sycamore Drive, and Cool Springs East. The spreadsheet shows a breakdown of costs comparing options: pay for upfront and have MTEMC install, pay the stranded cost, or continue with the current fee.

The following is a summary of the costs for each area:

Sycamore Drive	9% Investment Charge	Pay as you go Maintenance	Current Cost
Upfront Cost	\$3,125.97	\$18,038.69	
Monthly Cost	\$281.31	\$103.11	\$499.41

Cool Springs East	9% Investment Charge	Pay as you go Maintenance	Current Cost
Upfront Cost	\$21,653.17	\$73,385.38	
Monthly Cost	\$982.66	\$111.04	\$1,219.05

Founders Pointe	9% Investment Charge	Pay as you go Maintenance	Current Cost
Upfront Cost	\$4,860.60	\$26,720.94	
Monthly Cost	\$481.24	\$46.83	\$502.78



Mallory Liberty to McEwen	9% Investment Charge	Pay as you go Maintenance	Current Cost
Upfront Cost	\$7,318.92	\$33,614.12	
Monthly Cost	\$598.19	\$133.12	\$558.64

Alderman Burger asked what the bottom line was for the best savings. **Mr. Ogles** stated that the best return on the investment would be with the 9% investment for Sycamore Drive. The upfront investment is \$3,125.97 and the savings per month will be over \$200 per month. There are 36 lights in this area. **Mr. Orr** stated it would make sense to change these lights out since most of the lights are mercury vapor lights, and it is hard to find parts so they do not charge us a stranded cost fee.

Mr. Ogles stated that MTEMC has over 20,000 lights in their coverage area and the total of these four areas together is less than 200. MTEMC has about 6,500-7,000 lights in the City of Franklin. There are 300 mercury vapor lights currently in the City. **Mr. Ogles** provided a map.

Mr. Baggett suggested that they should target replacing the mercury vapor lights over the next couple of years.

Chair Kose asked what the process is for choosing an area and getting approval for changing the lights.

Mr. Orr stated that they would work with MTEMC and then present the proposal to the Capital Investment Committee. If a large amount of funds is required, the proposal would need to be submitted for approval as part of the fiscal budget.

Alderman Burger stated that they should proceed to recommend changing out the lights for the Sycamore area.

Mr. Orr stated that the earlier Ash Drive project was met with approval and was approved very quickly.

Mr. Grubbs stated that they are approached by developers who want LED lights installed. He stated that their policy is for the developer to pick up the added costs over the stranded cost.

Alderman Burger asked how Cool Springs East was chosen.

Mr. Orr stated that he asked **Mr. Ogles** to review four areas to update the lights. **Mr. Orr** stated this would be an ongoing process to determine what areas would present a quick return on investment.

Walk Friendly Communities

Mr. Conner, Principal Planner, presented information about Walk Friendly Communities. The presentation included the following information:

What is Walk Friendly Communities:

- Walk Friendly Communities is a national recognition program developed to encourage towns and cities across the U.S. to establish or recommit to a high priority for supporting safer walking environments.”
- “The WFC program recognizes communities that are working to improve a wide range of conditions related to walking, including safety, mobility, access, and comfort.”
- There are currently 76 cities across the currently that have received a bronze, silver, gold, or platinum designation since the program began in 2011.
- An additional 21 cities have received honorable mentions, including Franklin.

Application Process includes:

- Community Profile & Evaluation
- Planning & Policy
- Engineering & Design
- Education & Encouragement
- Enforcement

Why Apply:

- Receive 3rd-party feedback on areas our community is doing well and what we could focus on to be more pedestrian friendly.
- If successful, helps set our community apart and be a model for others.
- Gives the City recognition for work done ensuring pedestrian connectivity and amenities with new developments.
- Provides justification for elevated standards of development, public right-of-way, and capital improvement projects.

Mr. Conner stated that the City of Franklin received Honorable Mention designation in 2011. Franklin is the only city in Tennessee that has a designation.

Mr. Conner stated that the application deadline is June 15th. He stated that the application is 80% complete. He stated that they planned to meet that deadline. He stated there is another submittal deadline in December if more information is needed.

Alderman Burger asked if the designation included crosswalks and intersections. She stated that this is an area which needs improvement. She stated that signs were needed for motorist to stop for pedestrians. She stated that striping was used but not signs. She stated this was a project she would like the Sustainability Commission consider.

Mr. Conner stated that the information pertaining to crosswalks/intersections was included in the process. He stated that the information was based on percentages such as how many intersections have crosswalks and how many have striping. He stated that they would not receive feedback telling where



crosswalks were needed. He stated that the data information provided by the City is community wide and not specific to certain areas. He stated that outside of the downtown area, there are not a lot of people walking.

Alderman Burger stated that she would like to see Franklin as a pedestrian friendly city. She stated that this could be an education program.

Mr. Wood asked if the idea was to submit for bronze designation and then try for silver or gold designation at a later date.

Mr. Conner stated that the steps to each level are very significant. He stated that striving for silver over the next five to ten years would be realistic. He stated that, in Franklin, most people drive to work instead of walking. This will possibly hurt the chance of moving into a higher level.

Mr. Wood and Alderman Burger stated that they fully support this initiative. **Alderman Burger** stated that this was especially important in the Cool Springs area. She stated she would like to see the feedback.

Mr. Conner stated he would send out the feedback once received. He stated in 2011 it took 2 months to get the information back.

Mr. Orr stated that he worked with GIS, Engineering and Streets in 2010 for the application. He stated that it was a rigorous application.

Other News/Adjourn

The Commission agreed to hold the next meeting at 8 am on July 10, 2020.

Ms. Hunter stated earlier that per the Governor's Executive Order, virtual meetings were only approved through June 30, 2020. So, the next meeting would, most likely, be in person at City Hall.

Mr. Orr stated that he would send out an invite for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 am.

