**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FRANKLIN SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

**October 2, 2020**

The Franklin Sustainability Commission held a regular meeting on Friday, October 2, 2020, at 8:00 a.m. The meeting was held virtually through Zoom due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Chair Kose** read Resolution 2020-191. This Resolution is a Resolution Declaring That The Sustainability Commission Shall Meet On October 2, 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 2020-191.

**Alderman Burger** moved, seconded by **Mr. Cassity,** to approve Resolution 2020-191.

**Chair Kose** asked for a roll call vote.

The following voted in favor of: **Chair Dana Kose, Mike Cassity, Patrick Baggett, Mike Leonard, Brenton Montgomery** and **Alderman Beverly Burger.**

The motion carried unanimously. **Mr. Wood** and **Mr. Palmer** were absent. **Ms. Whittemore** did not vote due to technical complications.

**Chair Kose** read the following announcement:

“Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this meeting will be a virtual meeting. The public may call in to listen to the meeting and make comments during any public comment period.  The public may also email comments to planningintake@franklintn.gov to be read aloud during the meeting. Emailed comments were accepted until yesterday at 5:00 pm.  The meeting video will be available for public viewing following the meeting on the City of Franklin Facebook and YouTube accounts, and the City of Franklin website.”

**Welcome/Introductions**

**Chair Kose** welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Members Present: **Chair Dana Kose, Mike Cassity, Patrick Baggett, Mike Leonard, Nancy Whittemore, Brenton Montgomery** and **Alderman Beverly Burger.**

Members Absent: **Micah Wood and Todd Palmer**

Staff Present: **Andrew Orr, Emily Wright, Eric Conner and Elaine Ellis**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Baggett** moved,seconded by **Alderman Burger,** to approve the minutes from August 7, 2020.

**Chair Kose** asked for a roll call vote.

The motion carried unanimously. **Mr. Wood** and **Mr. Palmer** were absent. **Ms. Whittemore** did not vote due to technical complications.

The following voted in favor of: **Chair Dana Kose, Mike Cassity, Patrick Baggett, Mike Leonard, Brenton Montgomery** and **Alderman Beverly Burger.**

**Municipal Electricity Usage Overview (FY19-20)**

**Mr. Eric Conner,** Principal Planner, gave a presentation about the total Municipal Electricity Usage and Cost for the past year. He stated that the cost was slightly lower than FY18-19. He stated that the usage for the Fire Department went down significantly, while the Police Department’s usage went up. He stated that Fire Training Facility/Police Firing Range cost may have been split between both departments. He stated that the other department totals did not change significantly. The top energy usage consumers are the Waste Water Treatment Plant (54%) and Water Pumps & Infrastructure (16%).

 **Mr. Orr** stated that the drastic drop in usage was due to the change in billing by Middle Tennessee Electric. He stated that the Wastewater Treatment Plant will probably have more usage due to the new plant.

**Mr. Conner** stated that they began tracking energy usage in 2008. He stated that overall usage had increased.

**Mr. Orr** stated that the City had done a good job keeping energy cost consistent.

**Mr. Conner** stated that the City, for FY 19-20, received a solar revenue credit of $26,500.58.

**Mr. Orr** stated that for the 200kW Array, the City keeps 20%. He stated that in the next eighteen months, the City will be able to keep 80%. He stated that the $26,500.58 goes to a revenue expense account. He stated that since 2012, there should be approximately $160,000 in the account.

**Alderman Burger** asked how the money was being used. **Mr. Orr** stated that it is in an account under the Water Department’s authority. **Alderman Burger** asked **Mr. Orr** to find out if this money is in an interest-bearing account.

**Mr. Baggett** asked if there was any efficiency to having the solar area close to the new Waste Water plant. He stated that **Mr. Palmer** could address this at a later meeting. **Mr. Orr** stated that there may be a financial incentive to target some of the demand.

**Mr. Montgomery** stated that 70% of the usage is from the Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Water Department. He stated that they may be able to look at using energy at times where the cost is lower (non-peak demand hours) and also using alternative power sources to reduce cost and increase efficiency. He stated that they should have further discussions with Middle Tennessee Electric.

**Chair Kose** stated that looking at this information was part of the Energy Conservation Policy Guide that the Commission drafted earlier this year. She stated the next step is to talk with the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. She stated this discussion had been on hold due to Covid-19.

**Mr. Leonard** stated, if they are talking about cutting peak-demand, they need one-minute interval energy data over the typical 24-hour period. A battery system would be needed to determine what the solar is generating. He stated that looking further into this would be a good next step.

**Mr. Baggett** stated that peak energy usage is between 2-3 pm in the summer and early morning in the winter. He stated that the Water Treatment Plant needs could be at different times. He suggested having a consultant look into this.

**Mr. Cassity** stated that this system was built in 2012 and the cost to build in 2020 is dramatically lower.

**Mr. Orr** stated that they leased one acre of land to Energy Source Partners. He stated that there may be more room to expand on this acre.

**Mr. Cassity** state that the efficiency of the panels has also improved greatly since 2012.

**Litter Survey Results**

**Mr. Orr** thanked everyone for submitting the survey. He stated that there were seven areas in the survey. The survey scores were from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest score for litter. He stated that he was pleased with results. He stated that Area One (West Franklin) looked good overall with a score of 1.0, considering the construction of Highway 96 West. Area Two (North Franklin) also looked good with a score of 1.0 and stated there was “very light trash”. **Ms. Kose** stated that Spencer Creek Road had improved. **Mr. Cassity** stated that areas that were developed were cleaner, but the wooded areas had more trash. Area 3 (Cool Springs) scored the highest with 2.14. **Alderman Burger** stated that interchange areas near the interstate are the worst areas. She stated that the Moores Lane Interchange was the worst, with the Cool Springs Interchange second. She said this is frustrating because these are gateways to the City. **Mr. Orr** stated that he had asked TDOT to assist. He stated that you have to request for TDOT to pick up the litter. Area Four (McEwen) also rated low with 1.17. **Ms. Kose** stated that she did not notice a lot of litter. **Alderman Burger** stated that they pick up litter around the round-a-bout a few times a year. Area Five (Murfreesboro Road Corridor) scored low with 1.18. **Mr. Orr** stated that he will contact Sargent Stephens for help cleaning up the Mack Hatcher Parkway/Murfreesboro Road intersection. Area Six (South Franklin) scored 1.15. Area Seven (Central Franklin) scored 1.0. **Mr. Orr** stated that the area near the railroad tracks on Lewisburg Pike needed attention. He stated that the area on Lewisburg Pike near Mack Hatcher Parkway needed some help also. He stated that the average total for all seven areas was 1.2 which is a very good score.

**Alderman Burger** stated that the trash has increased between Moores Lane and Highway 96 on the Interstate due to increased traffic on the interstate. She stated this has increased substantially in the last five years. She stated she would like to have a local program to pick up the trash.

**Mr. Orr** stated that he did not think Sargent Stephens would be able to help with the interstate. However, he felt that they would be able to help with areas such as the Goose Creek By-pass, Cool Springs, and Mack Hatcher Parkway.

**Walk Friendly Communities Update**

**Mr. Orr** stated that the results were not in at this time.

**Other News/Adjourn**

**Mr. Orr** stated that one of the Planning Commissioners had expressed an interest in Dark Sky Lighting. This was brought up during the Zoning Ordinance update. He stated that they will invite her to a future commission meeting.

The Commission agreed to hold the next meeting at 8 am on November 6, 2020. **Mr. Orr** stated that he would send out an invite for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 am.