

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 31, 2024**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Tuesday, January 31, 2024, at the Municipal Building, 2nd Floor, Council Chambers, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, MA. Councilors present: Brian Chandler, Theodore Cormier-Leger, Robert Dellorco, Cobi Frongillo, Melanie Hamblen (via Zoom), Glenn Jones, Thomas Mercer, Deborah Pellegri, Patrick Sheridan. Councilors absent: None. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator (via Zoom); Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney.

CALL TO ORDER: ► Chair Mercer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Chair Mercer called for a moment of silence. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: ► Chair Mercer reviewed the following as posted on the agenda. A Note to Residents: All citizens are welcome to attend public board and committee meetings in person. Meetings are live-streamed by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29. In an effort to maximize citizen engagement opportunities, citizens will be able to continue to participate remotely via phone or Zoom. He announced that this meeting is being recorded by Franklin TV; this meeting may be recorded by others. ► He announced upcoming Town-sponsored and community events. Town Council office hours are on February 15 from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM at the Senior Center.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: ► Town Clerk Nancy Danello said the ballots are in for the March 5 election. She said they sent out all vote-by-mail requests that they have received. She said there were 3,200 vote-by-mail ballots and 120 absentee ballots mailed. She said in-person early voting starts February 24, 2024, at Franklin High School. She reviewed additional dates and times for early voting. She said early voting will also be available at the Town Clerk's office starting this coming Monday; she reviewed the hours. ► Mr. Joe Formosa and Ms. Pam Formosa said they represent the Santa Foundation at 1 Joy Street. He said they are new directors of the board at the Santa Foundation which has been in Franklin for the past 38 years and is supporting people who have needs at Christmas time largely through gifts. He explained they are starting the drive to move toward a bigger future for the Foundation. He said they are looking for ongoing support from the community and a new location. He said that if anyone wants to support this, that would be great, and if anyone needs support from them, reach out to them. He said they can be reached at info.santafoundation@gmail.com. ► Ms. Amber Wilson, 903 Lincoln Street, stated that people are unable to join unless they have a Zoom account. She said she was on hold on the phone because she has not been added, and other people are texting her that they cannot join from home. She explained how a person has to install/launch Zoom and the difficulties in adding an address to the Zoom app. ► Chair Mercer confirmed with Ms. Frigulietti that it was part of the additional check that they have put in place because of what has happened a couple of times. He said we asked people to put in their address in order to be allowed into the Town Council meeting. Ms. Frigulietti said she was going to check on this.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: ► *January 17, 2024.* ► **MOTION to Approve** the January 17, 2024 meeting minutes by Dellorco. **SECOND** by Jones. **No discussion.** ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Dellorco-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegri-YES; Sheridan-YES.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: ► *Police Department – Introduction: Mental Health Clinician Sonja Wagner.* ► Chief of Police Thomas Lynch said they had a new police officer and a new mental health clinician. He reviewed the Co-Response Program at the Police Department. He noted it used to be called the Jail Diversion Program. He discussed that they have hired their second co-response clinician, Sonja Wagner. He reviewed Ms. Wagner's education, background, and career. He said that he welcomed Ms. Wagner to the team.

► **Police Department - Swearing In of New Patrol Officer: Patrol Officer Jonathan Butler.** ► Chief of Police Thomas Lynch reviewed Officer Butler's education, background, and career. ► Town Clerk Nancy Danello performed the swearing in. ► Officer Butler's mother pinned the badge.

APPOINTMENTS: ► **Joint Town Council and Planning Board Vote to Fill Associate Planning Board Vacancy.** ► Chair Mercer asked Planning Board Chair Greg Rondeau to open the Planning Board's meeting. ► Chair Rondeau stated that he opened the Planning Board meeting for the appointment of an associate member for the current open position. ► Mr. Hellen reviewed his memo to the Town Council dated January 26, 2024. He said before the Town Council is the joint appointment of the associate Planning Board member. He said there is a vacancy because the former associate member, Jay Mello, was elected as a full member. He said this appointment is for the remaining two years of the four-year term. He explained the process and said that any member can nominate anyone to fill this seat. He said they are recommending the appointment of Mark Mucciarone as an associate member of the Planning Board with a term to expire on November 4, 2025. Mr. Mucciarone's volunteer form is included in the meeting packet. He reviewed that Mr. Mucciarone was the first individual who applied and showed interest, as far back as last September. He noted that a handful of others applied. He reviewed that upon interviewing each person, each applicant withdrew when they were educated on what the Planning Board does and the time commitment among many other reasons. He said that since Chair Rondeau opened the Planning Board meeting, the Town Council and Planning Board can move forward with the deliberation on appointing the Planning Board associate member for the remaining two years of the term. ► Chair Mercer said that he will open nominations. He said that because anybody can nominate anybody, the resolution was put in place without a name. He said the combination of the Town Council and the Planning Board need to put a name in those spots. He said that he opens up nominations for the associate member Planning Board vacancy. ► **MOTION** to nominate Mark Mucciarone for the Planning Board associate member position by **Planning Board Chair Rondeau.** ► **SECOND** by **Councilor Dellorco. No vote taken.** ► Chair Mercer asked if there were any other nominations; there were none. ► Chair Mercer declared the nominations closed. ► Councilor Jones confirmed the spelling of Mr. Mucciarone's name and read the appointment. ► **MOTION** that the Franklin Town Council and Planning Board hereby vote to appoint Mark Mucciarone to fill the Associate Planning Board vacancy with a term to expire November 4, 2025, by **Jones. SECOND** by **Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Planning Board member Beth Wierling said being a member of any board can be rewarding and challenging. She said that on the Planning Board, you have to be neutral and cannot really put your own emotion and opinions into whether something should or should not be allowed. She asked Mr. Mucciarone if he felt comfortable being on a board where we need to be neutral. ► Mr. Mucciarone said he understands that he needs to keep the personal part out of it. He explained that from his past experience, he can make those difficult decisions and be impartial. ► Councilor Frongillo thanked Mr. Mucciarone for stepping up. He asked him what he sees the role of the Planning Board. ► Mr. Mucciarone said the Planning Board is governed by the bylaws and the laws of the state, and they would have to be applied to make the decisions on the projects or issues at hand. He said he would like to be a part of what Franklin is going to be like in the future. ► Councilor Frongillo reviewed how the Planning Board is defined online. He said he thinks that you see in all communities as the Planning Board seeing themselves as the line of defense against possible change and impacts to current residents and he thinks when we talk about welfare and the interests of the community that involves our ability to continue to afford to pay the services that we all enjoy and keep the budget balanced. He asked Mr. Mucciarone weigh in the balance our ability and need to grow with our ability and need to be fair to the current residents. ► Councilor Dellorco said there will be no problem with Mr. Mucciarone doing his homework and standing up to anybody. ► Councilor Jones said he has no doubt Mr. Mucciarone will do a good job and thanked him for stepping up. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Town Council Members: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Dellorco-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Sheridan-YES. Planning Board Members: Beth Wierling-YES; Jennifer Williams-YES; Jay Mello-YES; Chris Stickney-YES; Greg Rondeau-YES.** ► **TOTAL VOTE: Unanimous.** ► Motion to close the Planning Board public hearing for the nomination of the associate Planning Board member and Adjourn the Planning

Board Meeting. Rondeau. Second: Wierling. Vote: 5-0 (5-Yes; 0-No). Planning Board Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM. ► Town Clerk Nancy Danello performed the swearing in of Mark Mucciarone.

► **2024 Election Workers: See Exhibit 1 of Appointment Transaction in agenda packet for list of names.**

► Councilor Jones read the appointment and list of names. ► **MOTION** to appoint the persons whose names appear in “Exhibit 1” as Election Workers as requested by the Town Clerk for the upcoming 2024 elections, by Jones. **SECOND** by Dellorco. **No discussion.** ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Dellorco-YES; Frongillo-YES; Jones-YES; Hamblen-YES; Mercer-ABSTAIN; Pellegrri-YES; Sheridan-YES.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-0, Abstain-1.** ► Chair Mercer thanked all election workers for stepping forward and giving their time.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - 7:00 PM: ► Street Acceptance: Portion of Farrington Street (Legislation for Action Item 9a). ► **Chair Mercer declared the public hearing open.** ► Mr. Cerel explained the first part of the street is a public way; the next portion is not a public way and was never accepted by the Town. He said that working with the town engineer, we have obtained requests from the abutters that the street be accepted; it is in need of maintenance. He said this is a friendly taking. ► Councilor Frongillo said that when we accept these roads, it is a good opportunity for us to see why we struggle to maintain our roads because we can easily do the calculations that this road only serves those nine properties, and we know that annually, based on the percent that we put toward our roads and our budget, that annually they contribute \$460 to our road maintenance. In order to pay for the length of road at the end of 30 years which is about as long as a road lasts, you would need to be contributing \$3,700 every year. That means that after one 30-year life span of the road, we as a Town, have lost \$100,000 on just this .09 piece of road. When you multiply this across the town, that is why it is so difficult for us to continue to afford things. He said we do this because there is an expectation from the residents there that they did not know that they were on a private road, and we need to service them with our ambulances and firefighters and make sure that road stays safe. But, this is a good opportunity to review as we evolve as a town, so we can afford the infrastructure. ► Councilor Chandler asked how much work is needed on this road. ► Mr. Cerel said he has a memo from the town engineer that indicates there is an area of the road that is subject to flooding and will have to be remediated. ► **Chair Mercer declared the public hearing closed.**

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: None.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: None.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

Note: Two-Thirds Vote requires six votes; Majority Vote requires majority of members present and voting.

- a. **Resolution 24-06: Order of Layout, Acceptance and Taking of a Portion of Farrington St, Currently a Private Way (Motion to Approve Resolution 24-06 - 2/3 Majority Vote).** ► Councilor Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION** to Waive the reading by Dellorco. **SECOND** by Cormier-Leger. **No discussion.** ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Dellorco-YES; Frongillo-YES; Jones-YES; Hamblen-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrri-YES; Sheridan-YES.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** ► **MOTION** to Approve Resolution 24-06: Order of Layout, Acceptance and Taking of a Portion of Farrington St, Currently a Private Way by Dellorco. **SECOND** by Cormier-Leger. **No discussion.** ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Dellorco-YES; Frongillo-YES; Jones-YES; Hamblen-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrri-YES; Sheridan-YES.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- b. **Bylaw Amendment 24-904: A Bylaw to Amend the Code of the Town of Franklin at Chapter 82, Fees, Municipal Service - Second Reading (Motion to Approve Bylaw Amendment 24-904 - Majority Roll Call Vote).** ► Councilor Jones read the bylaw amendment. ► **MOTION** to Approve Bylaw Amendment 24-904: A Bylaw to Amend the Code of the Town of Franklin at Chapter 82, Fees, Municipal Service by

Dellorco. SECOND by Cormier-Leger. Discussion: ► Mr. Hellen explained that this bylaw amendment will revise the fee schedule for ambulance fees by increasing the BLS & ALS1 emergency base rates and the mileage rates in the Town's fees bylaw. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Dellorco-YES; Frongillo-YES; Jones-YES; Hamblen-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Sheridan-YES. ► VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

- c. ***Resolution 24-07: Town of Franklin Flag Policy for Display of Flags at Franklin Municipal Building (Motion to Approve Resolution 24-07 - Majority Vote).*** ► Councilor Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 24-07: Town of Franklin Flag Policy for Display of Flags at Franklin Municipal Building by **Dellorco. SECOND by Cormier-Leger. Discussion:** ► Councilor Frongillo said he thanked the administration for pulling this together. He said this is a group of the community that has not always felt welcome in Franklin and how important it is to use the tools available including the flag to indicate this is a welcoming space. ► Councilor Sheridan asked why only one flag was added and why not just make a general policy for the future. ► Mr. Hellen said he thinks going any further beyond this, and the Town Council goals for this year, the group wanted to evaluate and discuss the flag policy. He said the memo kind of goes into some of the legal discussions that the municipal community and the municipal lawyers have had over the last year in trying to figure out how to deal with all of this. He said this is the one entity that has come forward and brought this forward to the community, and he thinks that anything further than this, as we have taken this from the neighboring community of Medway, if somewhere down the line the Town Council wanted to engage in a further debate on this, we really need to have a much broader discussion about infrastructure and how we are going to handle that. He said this is a very complicated, time consuming, and potentially expensive endeavor. He said this is a very easy thing; this is this one request that we have received. He said that as his memo states, a flag policy in a community is now going to be viewed as government speech. He explained that he thinks right now this is in the best interest of the community to not go down a wide rabbit hole. He noted that there are 36 flag poles in town, but the request has really been for the Pride flag on the Town Administration pole for that one month. He said the recommendation right now is to approve this policy and then begin to focus on other goals for the town. ► Councilor Hamblen thanked those who worked on this. ► Councilor Dellorco said that he will not support this tonight. He said he feels those flagpoles are the taxpayers, so if you are going to do one, you have to do it all, you have to do everyone's. He said he flies a Pride flag at his house; he said it should be on private property. He said if you do it for one, you have to do it for all. ► Councilor Pellegrini said that she agrees with Councilor Dellorco. She said one after another is going to want to put up their flags. She said this flag policy is premature. She said we need a general policy as to flags being flown. She said she does not think we should single out a group. She said it should not be on the municipal building. She asked the other Town Councilor members to think about this. ► Councilor Chandler said we support all of the Franklin community to be who they are 100 percent. He said after listening, we need a criteria. He said are people going to get upset when another flag flies; I think they are. He said his criteria is just the American flag. ► Councilor Cormier-Leger said that he thinks the closest comparisons he could draw is if you go anywhere in the world and there is war and the Americans are fighting that war and we are victorious and we take over an area, we fly the American flag proudly and it tells people the area is now safe and under American protection. He explained American flags flying at embassies. He said flags are very powerful symbols. He said so, a Pride flag to a person of the LGBTQ community says to them what I just said the American flag says to many of us. It says it is a place of acceptance and safety. He said it is more than just the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts or the Italians or the Armenians. He said this flag has grown over the years to represent safety, inclusion, acceptance, and it is a symbol to people that if it is flown proudly at the municipal building in Franklin, that tells me that Franklin is a place that me and my family are going to be okay. He said it is only in the month of June. He said he supports this policy. He said he does not think it will open up a can of worms. He said we may get other requests. He said we have a lot of work to do as a town; we are not perfect. He said we have hatred running amuck. He said we have children threatened at our high school all of the time for sexual orientation related issues. He said this is a start. ► Mark Minnichelli, 31 Longfellow Drive, said I strongly support this policy. Franklin is making

the right decision for Franklin with this policy. It is the prerogative of the duly elected officials to make decisions on behalf of the community and urged all the Town Council members to support the proposal. ► Jennifer Rossing, 136 Summer Street, said I support the flag policy that allows Franklin to show its support for the LGBTQ citizens of Franklin by choosing to fly a Pride flag. It is a statement that the LGBTQ people will receive the same treatment that every other citizen of Franklin receives. I am a supporter of equal rights, and it is critical as a resident to know that the Town is committed to my wife's safety and rights as much as any other citizen of this town. Doing the right thing is sometimes hard and may cause problems, but it does not excuse us from doing the right thing. ► Max Morrongiello, 127 Central Park Terrace, said I rise before you today as my community is under threat. As an openly gay member of the LGBTQ community, I have felt safe in Franklin; unfortunately, that is beginning to change. The 2016 Pulse Nightclub in Orlando and other violence toward members of the LGBTQ community was noted. A situation in Franklin where a display was vandalized was reviewed. The message is clear; we are not safe here. The symbol of the Pride flag was discussed. The Town Council members were urged to take a stand and show us that as members of the community, violence is not acceptable and that we matter. ► Ruthann O'Sullivan, 175 Oak Street, said I am here as a parent and a member of the School Committee and voicing from a perspective of those in touch with these kids every day. What her generation and older do not realize is that what has been going on with this unregulated social media, it was all over the Senate hearings today, is that there is targeting misinformation and bigotry infiltrating these kids. Parents and the schools are not monitoring these cell phones, and we have gone backwards. These kids are being spoon-fed targeting information that is skewing their perspective on inclusion and diversity and it is creating these microaggressions daily. There is non-stop bullying. I cannot believe the vote is this close. We have to stand up for these kids. ► Patricia Torizzo, 16 Vine Street, said it resonated as to what was just heard in terms of children in the schools. I have been here for 28 years and watched the community grow. We are tripping over ourselves. We are so worried about opening a can of worms and what that means. What it is like in the high school was discussed. If we can take ourselves out of the comfort of our loafers and safety shoes and understand what it is like to be a young person here in Franklin and the pressure there. The world has changed and we need to take that into account. ► Dylan of 2 Independence Way said I am a student at Franklin High School and feel there is a lack of representation of LGBTQ media. Raising a Pride flag outside the building would really give awareness to the situation so it is not negatively looked at. This is only one month of the year. ► Amber Wilson, 903 Lincoln Street, said we have been talking about this since March 15, 2023. I am fighting back tears as that is how important it is to me. I have been harassed in town, and it is important to recognize that yes all of the flags are so important, but this is also important. I know people who have moved to Franklin because they have seen the Peace flags and Progress flags and Pride flags. They are asking the Town to show that they overall support this. I understand the concerns with the policy. This is the first step that does not require an additional planning committee or make the lists of which flags. I have been attending Town Council meetings since March 2023 asking about this. Anyone that is complaining, I have noticed has done so with camera off and refused to provide their address. I am very passionate about this. It was discussed that on June 1 they held their flagging on the Town Common which a permit was pulled for and it was approved. Someone vandalized that. As of right now, this is what can be done to show support for this community that needs support. ► Evelyn Rossing, 136 Summer Street, said that today, it is illegal in some places in this country for me to get the necessary medical care for my physical and mental health. I love the American flag and am proud to be American, but the country as a whole does not welcome. If Franklin wants to set itself apart from that, flying the Pride flag is how you can show support. Flying the flag shows everyone that the Town does support the LGBTQ community, that we are welcome here. ► Kyle Thompson, 8 Mercer Lane (via Zoom), asked if the American flag is just a flag. We need some people in the community from this perspective to stand up. They are out there in the community. I do not support the initiative to fly the Pride flag. In the ocean of diversity, equity, and inclusion, lives a never-ending hierarchy of oppressed groups based on race, sexuality, gender identity, and intersections of those categories, and within it is the LGBTQ community. This community is trying to push the Town to fly Pride flags and display banners on municipal property. It is not the job of someone else to affirm someone's identity. The American flag represents every

American citizen in town. ► Rachel Plukas, 37 Anchorage Road (via Zoom), said Franklin is my home. This is emotional. I am confused about the statement, we are professionally disappointed by this trend, which was about the Supreme Court and how things are moving with this. I am confused about the argument about if we fly a Pride flag can't we say that anyone gets to fly a flag is not at all what is presented to the Town Council right now. This is about the federally recognized one month for the Pride flag. This is not opening Pandora's box. Franklin needs to do better and needs to let people know they are safe. ► Sharon Bogere, 50 Shady Lane (via Zoom), said Franklin has more than 31,000 residents and they all have differences, values, opinions, religions, races, and more. As homeowners, we pay taxes and are not interested in the Town making political decisions and representations on behalf of the whole community simply because of what might be popular or being advocated for by people that have loud voices. All the residents have the right to fly whatever flag they want on their own property, and that is the way it should remain. It is not the Town's place to take political stance on issues such as flying the Pride flag, supporting abortion, or any other values that vary person to person. We need to stay focused on the Town figuring out how they are going to close the fiscal gap. The real issues affecting the masses need to remain the focus. I am asking the Town to stay neutral on individual values and issues and stay focused on issues that relate to town matters. ► Patrick Gallagher, 2 Cohasset Way (via Zoom), supports the measure before the Town Council. This is an important issue. It is important that what is before the Town Council is specific to the Pride flag because this is an issue that deserves our specific attention. ► Meaghan Benson, 90 Winthrop Drive (via Zoom), said this is opening Pandora's box and a can of worms. People can then petition to fly any flag. The Town Council members who did voice concern and looked at the ethical and logistical issues of this matter were thanked. Those members should stand strong and hopefully anyone who ends up bullying you will realize that is the exact thing that they are trying to fight against. ► Councilor Pellegri explained what she meant by opening a can of worms. ► Councilor Cormier-Leger asked Mr. Cerel if Medway has received legal challenges to their policy. ► Mr. Cerel said that as far as he knows, there has not been anything. He explained that any policy is subject to change in the future. He said if you are going to allow one, it has to be pursuant to a conscious determination of the basis for doing it which is what has been discussed here tonight. ► Councilor Cormier-Leger said after hearing some comments tonight, he hopes people would understand exactly what the LGBTQ community is up against and how powerful flying this flag could be. ► Chair Mercer said the subject has been before us for a long time. He said he virtually attended an MMA webinar held on this subject basically pushing it back to the municipality. He expressed that regardless of how the vote goes tonight, it will not be the end of the bylaw; they will have to relook at it. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-NO; Cormier-Leger-YES; Dellorco-NO; Frongillo-YES; Jones-YES; Hamblen-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegri-NO; Sheridan-YES. ► VOTE: Yes-6, No-3, Absent-0.**

Councilor Hamblen left the meeting.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: None.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. **Capital Budget Subcommittee.** None.
- b. **Economic Development Subcommittee.** ► Councilor Frongillo said it was a great first meeting. He said they prioritized goals. He noted on the top of the list was how we meet the MBTA Communities Law.
- c. **Budget Subcommittee.** None.
- d. **Master Plan Update Committee.** ► Councilor Jones said they met last Wednesday and they set some schedule dates. He said the next meeting is on February 7. He said February 14 will be an overall open hearing meeting for the public, kind of a public outreach event to introduce the committee, objectives, goals, and schedule. He reviewed how this information would be provided to the public.
- e. **Davis-Thayer Building Reuse Advisory Committee.** ► Councilor Pellegri confirmed the letter of interest is going out.
- f. **Police Station Building Committee.** ► Chair Mercer said they met and reviewed the Request for Information (RFI) which is going out this week.

- g. **GATRA Advisory Board.** ► Councilor Frongillo said they hosted a public hearing in Franklin last Thursday; residents attended and shared experiences and difficulties. He said if anyone has thoughts on GATRA let him know.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: ► Councilor Cormier-Leger asked to have the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals give a combined presentation for the public on housing in town. ► Councilor Chandler requested the fire chief come in to explain mutual aid and the priorities and legalities regarding the ambulances. ► Mr. Hellen said they are going to hear about this issue during the entire budget season. He said he has already spoken with the fire chief on this issue. He noted that there will be a presentation on Franklin Ridge later this summer and the Planning Board and ZBA will be invited in at that time. ► Councilor Jones asked for an update from the facilities director. ► Chair Mercer said every department will be coming in during the budget.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Councilor Cormier-Leger thanked all those who voted in favor of the flag policy and those who voiced their opinions against. He said he would never bully any of them to change their opinion. He thanked those in the community who voiced their support or concerns. ► Councilor Chandler said he thanked all those who spoke for and against; it is a passionate issue. He said there is a lot of hate and we all have a lot of work to do. ► Councilor Pellegrini said she thanked the DPW for all they do. ► Councilor Frongillo said he was proud to be a community that is loud about supporting its LGBTQ neighbors. ► Councilor Jones thanked the chief of police for introducing the new officer and clinician. He welcomed Mr. Mucciarone to the Planning Board. ► Councilor Dellorco reviewed the situation in Winthrop. He said he voted against it because of the way he felt and nothing against anybody. ► Chair Mercer thanked the chief of police and staff and said he thanked the fire chief as well when they bring in the new staff. He acknowledged that there were people here tonight who lived on the private way that was voted in, and he thanked them for being at the meeting. He said it was a lengthy but good discussion on the flag. He said he understands both pieces of it. He said he is sure that is not the end of the flag policy. He said as they approach the budget season, based on some of the preliminary information he is getting, they have a lot of work to do. He asked the community to get involved and come to the meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURN: ► **MOTION to Adjourn by Dellorco. SECOND by Jones. No discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.** (Councilor Hamblen had left the meeting.)

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary