
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes January 13, 2025

Call to order

The Franklin City Council held its regular City Council meeting on January 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Council Members in Attendance: Paul Kaplan, Mayor; Wynndolyn Copeland, Vice-Mayor; Councilman Gregory McLemore; Councilman Mark Kitchen; Councilman Linwood Johnson; Councilwoman Jessica Banks; Councilman Richard "Ricky" Grizzard

Council Members Absent: Councilman Gregory McLemore

Staff in Attendance: Rosylen Oglesby, City Manager, Heather Lockerman, City Attorney

Citizen's Time

Sheriff Josh Wyche, Southampton County, introduced himself and welcomed the new council members.

Ms. Purlie Banks, Chairperson of Electoral Board, made comments in reference to two council members being seated without being certified by the Electoral Board and requested that these two members not be allowed to be seated until they have received their certificate of election.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilman Kitchen and seconded by Councilwoman Banks to approve the consent agenda.

The motion carried the vote 6-0

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Kitchen, Banks, Copeland, Kaplan, Grizzard

Organizational Meeting

B. Selection of Vice Mayor

Mayor opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Mayor.

Councilman Kitchen made the nomination of Wynndolyn Hilliard Copeland as Vice-Mayor and was seconded by Councilwoman Banks.

No other nominations were heard.

A motion was made by Councilman Grizzard and seconded by Councilwoman Banks to close the nominations.

The motion carried the vote 6-0

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Kitchen, Banks, Copeland, Kaplan, Grizzard

A motion was made by Councilman Kitchen and seconded by Councilwoman Banks to re-elect Wyndolynn Hilliard Copeland as Vice-Mayor.

The motion carried the vote 6-0

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Kitchen, Banks, Copeland, Kaplan, Grizzard

C. Seat Selections

All council members stated they were satisfied with their current seats.

D. Boards' and Commissions' Council Assignments

A motion was made by Councilman Kitchen and seconded by Councilman Grizzard to adopt the council member appointments to the Boards and Commissions as written.

The motion carried the vote 6-0

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Kitchen, Banks, Copeland, Kaplan, Grizzard

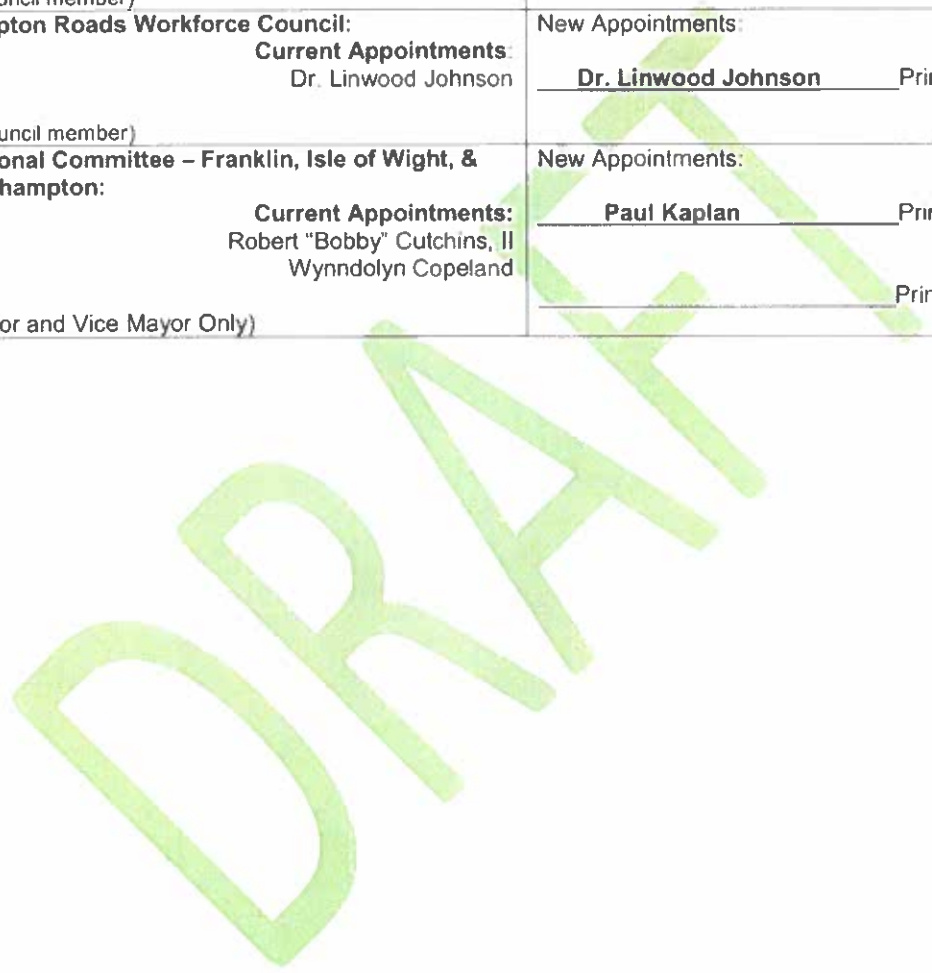
Councilman Kitchen left the meeting at 7:14 p.m.



**City Council Members Appointments
Boards/Commissions**

<p>Eastern Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority:</p> <p align="center">Current Appointments: Robert "Bobby" Cutchins, II, Primary Member Meghan Councill, Primary Member Karl Heck, Alternate Member Darlene Burcham, Alternate Members</p> <p>(2 Primary and 2 Alternates. Alternates are usually City Manager & Economic Development Director)</p>	<p>New Appointments:</p> <p align="center"><u>Paul Kaplan</u> Primary Member</p>
<p>Western Tidewater Regional Jail Authority Board:</p> <p align="center">Current Appointments: Dr. Linwood Johnson Wynndolyn Copeland</p> <p>(2 Councilmembers. City Manager - Alternate)</p>	<p>New Appointments:</p> <p align="center"><u>Dr. Linwood Johnson</u> Primary Member</p> <p align="center"><u>Paul Kaplan</u> Primary Member</p>
<p>Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC):</p> <p align="center">Current Appointments: Robert "Bobby" Cutchins, II</p> <p>(Mayor Only)</p>	<p>New Appointments:</p> <p align="center"><u>Paul Kaplan</u> Primary Member</p>
<p>Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance (HRMFFA):</p> <p align="center">Current Appointments: Robert "Bobby" Cutchins, II</p> <p>(Mayor Only)</p>	<p>New Appointments:</p> <p align="center"><u>Paul Kaplan</u> Primary Member</p>
<p>Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Commission (HRTPO):</p> <p align="center">Current Appointments: Robert "Bobby" Cutchins, II, Primary Member Gregory McLemore, Alternate Member Rosylen Oglesby, Non-Voting Members</p> <p>(Mayor is primary with an Alternate. City Manager is a non-voting member)</p>	<p>New Appointments:</p> <p align="center"><u>Paul Kaplan</u> Primary Member</p> <p align="center"><u>Gregory McLemore</u> Alternate Member</p>
<p>Hampton Roads & Southside Mayors and Chairs:</p> <p align="center">Current Appointments: Robert "Bobby" Cutchins, II,</p> <p>(Mayor Only)</p>	<p>New Appointments:</p> <p align="center"><u>Paul Kaplan</u> Primary Member</p>
<p>Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC):</p> <p align="center">Current Appointments: Gregory McLemore, Primary Member</p> <p>(1 Council member and City Manager)</p>	<p>New Appointments:</p> <p align="center"><u>Paul Kaplan</u> Primary Member</p>

<p>Franklin Business Center Advisory Board: Current Appointments: Ray Smith</p> <p>(1 Council member)</p>	<p>New Appointments:</p> <p><u>Dr. Linwood Johnson</u> Primary Member</p>
<p>Social Services Advisory Board: Current Appointments: Mark Kitchen, Primary Member Gregory McLemore, Primary Member</p> <p>(1 Council member)</p>	<p>New Appointments:</p> <p><u>Mark Kitchen</u> Primary Member</p>
<p>Hampton Roads Workforce Council: Current Appointments: Dr. Linwood Johnson</p> <p>(1 Council member)</p>	<p>New Appointments:</p> <p><u>Dr. Linwood Johnson</u> Primary Member</p>
<p>Regional Committee – Franklin, Isle of Wight, & Southampton: Current Appointments: Robert "Bobby" Cutchins, II Wynndolyn Copeland</p> <p>(Mayor and Vice Mayor Only)</p>	<p>New Appointments:</p> <p><u>Paul Kaplan</u> Primary Member</p> <p>Primary Member</p>



E. Approval of 2025 Meeting Calendar

Councilman Kitchen returned to the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

There was discussion referencing the tentative work sessions scheduled at 5:30 p.m. that may present a problem for some council members and a recommendation was made to change the time to 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Copeland and seconded by Councilman Kitchen to change the work session times from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The motion carried the vote 6-0

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Kitchen, Banks, Copeland, Kaplan, Grizzard

A motion was made by Councilwoman Banks and seconded by Vice-Mayor Copeland to approve the 2025 Council Meeting Calendar with the said changes.

The motion carried the vote 6-0

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Kitchen, Banks, Copeland, Kaplan, Grizzard

City Manager's Report

Agenda Item #2025-1

A motion was made by Councilman Grizzard and seconded by Councilman Johnson to approve the Resolution Honoring the Memory of June Fleming.

The motion carried the vote 6-0

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Kitchen, Banks, Copeland, Kaplan, Grizzard



A RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF JUNE FLEMING

WHEREAS, June Fleming, a distinguished leader and dedicated public servant, passed away on December 9, 2024, leaving a profound impact on her community and the many lives she touched throughout her exemplary career;

WHEREAS, Ms. Fleming served as the City Manager of Franklin, Virginia where her leadership and vision significantly improved local governance and community services, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life for residents;

WHEREAS, with more than 45 years of experience in public service and library science, Ms. Fleming inspired countless individuals as a chief librarian, high school librarian, associate professor, and a respected city manager, paving the way for future generations in her field;

WHEREAS, her notable accomplishments included the Woman of the Year Award from the Women’s Resource Center in Palo Alto and the Chancellor’s Award for Leadership in Philanthropy from the Virginia Community College System, reflecting her exceptional contributions to both her profession and the community;

WHEREAS, June Fleming was an active member of several organizations, including the International City and County Managers Association and Delta Sigma Theta, dedicating her time and talents to serving others and promoting civic engagement;

WHEREAS, June Fleming’s legacy includes her profound belief in the importance of community service and her passion for library science, inspiring many to pursue careers that serve the greater good;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Franklin City Council and those who were fortunate to know Ms. Fleming, honor her memory by upholding the values she embodied—leadership, dedication, and a commitment to service;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the Franklin City Council, extend our deepest condolences to her family, friends, and all who were touched by her kindness, grace, and steadfast spirit;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be presented as a lasting tribute to June Fleming’s extraordinary life and her enduring contributions to our community, serving as a reminder of the impact one individual can have on the world around them.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of January 2025.

Attest:

Mayor, City Council

Deputy Clerk, City Council

Agenda Item #2025-2

A motion was made by Councilman Kitchen and seconded by Councilman Grizzard to approve the Resolution Honoring Robert “Bobby” Cutchins, II for his Service and Contributions to the Community.

The motion carried the vote 6-0

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Kitchen, Banks, Copeland, Kaplan, Grizzard

Former Mayor Cutchins was presented with the resolution and a plaque.

Former Mayor Cutchins made comments and thanked everyone.



A RESOLUTION HONORING ROBERT "BOBBY" CUTCHINS, II FOR HIS SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, Robert "Bobby" Cutchins, II, a dedicated and influential member of the Franklin/Southampton County community, has exemplified commitment and service in various capacities throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, Bobby was born and raised in Franklin/Southampton County, where he contributed to the community as a business leader, public servant, and active member of numerous organizations; and

WHEREAS, Bobby graduated from Franklin High School in 1975 and went on to become the Founder and Chief Visionary Officer of Bobby's Tire & Auto Care, significantly impacting the local economy; and

WHEREAS, he served as the Ward 6 City of Franklin City Council Member from May 2017 to December 2022 and was appointed to the esteemed position of Franklin City Mayor from January 2023 through December 2024, leading with integrity and vision; and

WHEREAS, Bobby held key roles on various boards, including serving as President of the Virginia Automotive Association and contributing to the Tire Pros National Board of Directors, where he promoted excellence in the automotive industry; and

WHEREAS, his leadership extended to the Franklin/Southampton Chamber of Commerce, where he served both as a board member and as President, fostering economic development and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Bobby's community service included membership on the Franklin Municipal Airport Advisory Board and the International Paper Community Advisory Board, where he provided valuable insights and leadership; and

WHEREAS, he was recognized as the Franklin/Southampton County Business Person of the Year in 1993, honoring his dedication to local business and community welfare; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Cutchins' service on numerous panels and advisory boards has made a lasting impact on our community and continues to inspire those around him;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Franklin expresses its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Robert "Bobby" Cutchins, II for his outstanding contributions and dedication to the citizens of Franklin/Southampton County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the official records of the City Council, and that a copy be presented to Robert "Bobby" Cutchins, II as a token of our esteem and respect.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of January 2025.

Mayor, City of Franklin

Attest:

Deputy Clerk, City Council

Agenda Item #2025-3

A motion was made by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Vice-Mayor Copeland to approve the Resolution Honoring Ray Smith for his Service and Contributions to the Community.

The motion carried the vote 6-0

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Kitchen, Banks, Copeland, Kaplan, Grizzard

Former Councilman Smith was presented with the resolution and a plaque.

Former Councilman Smith made comments.

Councilman Kitchen left the meeting at 7:34 p.m.



A RESOLUTION HONORING RAY SMITH FOR HIS SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, Ray Smith has proudly served as a Councilman for the City of Franklin from July 1, 2020, to December 31, 2024, representing Ward 2 with dedication and commitment; and

WHEREAS, prior to his election as Councilman, Ray contributed significantly to the community through twelve years of service on the Planning Commission, seven years on the Airport Advisory Board, and numerous years helping to revitalize the downtown corridor; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Ray Smith has focused on promoting economic growth in the City of Franklin, ensuring a vibrant and prosperous community for all residents; and

WHEREAS, Ray's leadership and vision have greatly impacted the enhancement of local infrastructure, community programs, and business development initiatives that benefit the citizens of Franklin; and

WHEREAS, his consistent commitment to public service, collaboration, and community engagement has set a remarkable example for future leaders; and

WHEREAS, the City of Franklin recognizes and appreciates the valuable contributions made by Ray Smith during his time in office, which have positively shaped the future of our city;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Franklin does hereby honor and commend Ray Smith for his outstanding service, dedication, and leadership, and extends best wishes for his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the official records of the City Council, and that a copy be presented to Ray Smith as a token of our esteem and respect.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of January 2025.

Mayor, City of Franklin

Attest:

Deputy Clerk, City Council

Agenda Item #2025-4

A motion was made by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Vice-Mayor Copeland to adopt the Resolution Amending the FY 2024-2025 City Operating Budget to Accept and Appropriate the Amount of \$77,220 Received as a Donation from the Camp Family Foundations to the Foundation Grant Funds for Use by the Franklin Police Department, Franklin Fire Department, and the Hunterdale Volunteer Fire Department.

The motion carried the vote 6-0

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Kitchen, Banks, Copeland, Kaplan, Grizzard (Councilman Kitchen voted from the other room)



BUDGET AMENDMENT 2025-8

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, VIRGINIA that the 2024-2025 City Budget is hereby amended to:

- 1. Recognize grant revenue from the Camp Foundation for Franklin Fire & Rescue, Franklin Police Department, and the Hunterdale Volunteer Fire Department and to appropriate such revenue for use;

	2024-2025 BUDGET	AMENDED BUDGET	INCREASE (DECREASE)
220 FOUNDATION GRANT FUND			
REVENUE			
220-3-18990-3000 Camp Family Foundation Grants	\$ -	\$ 77,220	<u>77,220</u>
			<u>77,220</u>
EXPENDITURES			
220-4-31100-5848 Camp Foundation Grant Police	\$ -	\$ 14,000	14,000
220-4-32100-5848 Camp Foundation Grant Fire	-	57,500	57,500
220-4-91450-4009 Hunterdale Volunteer Fire Dept	10,000	15,720	<u>5,720</u>
			<u>77,220</u>

Certified copy of resolution adopted by Franklin City Council

Deputy Clerk to the City Council

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Agenda Item #2025-5

A motion was made by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Councilwoman Banks to Adopt the Resolution Amending the FY 2024-2025 City Operating Budget to Accept and Appropriate the Amount

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of \$10,000 Received as a Donation from the Franklin Southampton Charities to the Foundation Grant Funds for Use by the Franklin Fire Department and the Hunterdale Volunteer Fire Department.

Councilman Kitchen returned to the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

The motion carried the vote 6-0

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Kitchen, Banks, Copeland, Kaplan, Grizzard



BUDGET AMENDMENT 2025-9

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, VIRGINIA that the 2024-2025 City Budget is hereby amended to:

- 1. *Recognize grant revenue from Franklin Southampton Charities for the Franklin Fire Department and Hunterdale Fire Department and to appropriate such revenue for use.*

		2024-2025 BUDGET	AMENDED BUDGET	INCREASE (DECREASE)
220 FOUNDATION GRANT FUND				
REVENUE				
220-3-18990-3001	Franklin/Southampton Charities	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	<u>10,000</u>
				<u>10,000</u>
EXPENDITURES				
220-4-32100-8117	Fire Prevention - Other Grants	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	5,000
220-4-91450-4009	Hunterdale Volunteer Fire Dept	5,000	10,000	<u>5,000</u>
				<u>10,000</u>

Certified copy of resolution adopted by Franklin City Council

Deputy Clerk to the City Council

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New Business

A. Boards & Commissions

Agenda Item #2025-6 and 2025-7: Appointment of Wendell Adkison to VMEA and Rosylen Oglesby to EVRIFA

A motion was made by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Vice-Mayor Copeland to approve the appointments as presented.

The motion carried the vote 6-0

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Kitchen, Banks, Copeland, Kaplan, Grizzard

B. Items Submitted by Council Members (Council Comments)

Councilman Johnson made comments referencing the Western Tidewater Regional Jail Board.

Councilman Kitchen made comments in reference to his disappointment in the swearing in ceremony not taking place. Councilman Kitchen also requested follow-up on the Cobb Street issue that a citizen came before Council about kids playing basketball in the streets. Councilman Kitchen requested that the City Manager check on the Sign Ordinance and wanted to know who enforces it as well as the Food Trucks.

Councilwoman Banks made comments recognizing three sororities founder's day.

Vice-Mayor Copeland made comments referencing Ward 5 Neighborhood Watch meeting, citizens receiving utility bills late and recommended that citizens receive another five working days in paying the bill as previous city manager has done before.

Mayor Kaplan brought forth a letter of support for HB246.

There was a discussion referencing whether or not the support this and the matter was tabled.

Councilman Kitchen requested a resolution be prepared to recognize for Dean Franklin Wagonback as well as a bench with a plaque on it in front of his favorite restaurant-Fred's whereby he would support the cost.

C. Report on Pending Items

Agenda Item#2025-7: Renaming and Honorary Street Policies

City Manager Oglesby presented this information for the council to review.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Councilman Kitchen and seconded by Councilman Johnson to convene a closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) for the purpose of discussing, considering, or interviewing prospective candidates for employment.

The motion carried the vote 6-0

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Kitchen, Banks, Copeland, Kaplan, Grizzard

Reconvene Regular Session

A motion was made by Councilman Kitchen and seconded by Vice-Mayor Copeland to reconvene regular session.

The motion carried the vote 6-0

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Kitchen, Banks, Copeland, Kaplan, Grizzard

Certification of Closed Meeting

Councilman Mark Kitchen moved that each council member certify that, to the best of his or her knowledge: I hereby move that each council member certify that, to the best of his or her knowledge:

- (i) Only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and
- (ii) Only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed meeting just concluded.

Mayor Kaplan stated the following:

Any member of the public body who believes that there was a departure from the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii), shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his or her judgement, has taken place. The statement shall be recorded in the minutes of the public body.

None were heard.

The motion carried the vote 6-0

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Kitchen, Banks, Copeland, Kaplan, Grizzard

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Kitchen and seconded by Councilman Johnson to adjourn the January 13, 2025 City Council Meeting at 8:30 p.m.

The motion carried the vote 6-0

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, Kitchen, Banks, Copeland, Kaplan, Grizzard

Mayor Kaplan stated the meeting stands adjourned.



Mayor



Deputy Clerk to City Council