

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, January 11, 2016**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Council members present were: Degner, Heibel, R. Kokesch, Scharfencamp, and Wiese. Staff Department Heads present were: K. Kokesch, Pederson and Wiggin. Guests present were: Corey Gruendemann and Myron Gehrke.

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor Degner called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call showed all council present.

Mayor Degner called for approval of the agenda; motion to approve by Wiese, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Mayor Degner called for approval of the minutes. Scharfencamp motioned to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2015 Truth in Taxation Public Hearing and Regular Meeting as presented, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Citizens were addressed. Gehrke questioned the new recycling program and bins, and was referred to the Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste authority, as this is not a city run program.

R. Kokesch motioned to approve the City Council Meeting Schedule as presented, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Resolution 2016-1, Official Designations and Annual Appointments was presented for approval. Pederson noted a concerned citizen questioned Wiese being appointed to too many positions; Wiese stated that in the future at least one appointment will be eliminated. **Wiese motioned to approve Resolution 2016-1, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Resolution 2016-2, Approval of 2015 Contributions, was presented with contributions totaling \$4,100.00. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve Resolution 2016-2, 2015 Contributions, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The 2015 Ambulance Department Report was presented for approval, with the 2015 income of \$27,555.06, and expenses of \$26,614.55, net income of \$940.51, for a total cash of \$45,799.22 as of 12/31/15. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the 2015 Ambulance Report and the income transfer as presented, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The Franklin Ambulance Association 2015 Financial Report was presented for approval, with the total income of \$9,036.17, no expenses, for a total cash of \$56,792.13. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the 2015 Franklin Ambulance Association Financial Report as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The 2015 Fire Department/Rural Fire Association Report was presented, the city and rural halves of the expenses being \$16,512.73. **Wiese motioned to approve the 2015 Fire Department/Rural Fire Association Report, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The financial status of the city was reviewed and the pre-audit 2015 budget-to-date was provided. December receipts totaled \$133,888.90; current bills were presented for payment in the amount of \$154,353.28. **Wiese motioned for approval of the bills and financial report as presented, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Five residences with unpaid utilities were presented to the city council, with council order to disconnect as per the city's policy.

Department Heads were addressed. Kokesch questioned lawn mower replacement and was directed to check with the three local (Redwood Falls) dealers on options; there have been delivery issues with getting water samples to MN Dept. of Health in Minneapolis within 30 hours of sampling – Kokesch will research costs at MVTL vs. shipping costs; there was a sewer back up at Valley View Apartments, it was not a city issue; received approval to attend the MRWA Technical Conference in St. Cloud in March; meters are in and working and Kokesch is looking into a solution for R. Thompson's meter; snow removal is going o.k., the alarms went off at the ponds and required the payloader to clear the road to get to the plant. Wiggin reported on 15 calls for service, nothing out of the ordinary; Morgan has approved purchasing a new squad car and will be seeking bids, it will be at least 4-6 months before it is operational. Pederson reported that a notice was received reminding of the need for Special Event Food Licenses; Mediacom notified the city of rate increases; Geronimo Energy is doing a rate study on the city's electrical costs; Xcel Energy is requesting to increase its rates in MN; the Renville County Landfill is increasing the tipping fees and the landfill will only be open for about 15 more months; Pederson will apply for Renville. Co. EDA Impact Funds for the park improvements; questioned the council on how to proceed with the rental of the farmland from the Engel estate; presented the Franklin State Bank ACH Program agreement, which will be at no charge for 6 months and then will be re-evaluated; received approval to attend the MCFOA Clerk's Conference in March, and is working on year end. Wiese reported that the ambulance received its licensure, EMT refresher course is set up, and the stair chair has been delivered.

There were no new Zoning Permits issued.

R. Kokesch motioned to approve the Renville County Public Works Maintenance Agreement for snow removal/grading for April 2016-April 2018, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

The city's back-up well, Well No. 4, has better water quality, but pumps sand and plugs the filter; Irvin Well proposed televising it to see what needs to be corrected and proceed from there; USDA will allow the city to use any remaining grant dollars for this project and the city also has the Renville-Sibley reserve funds available. The council would like to move forward with obtaining costs and options for upgrading this well.

Mid-MN Regional Development sent a draft of the first three chapters of the city's Code of Ordinances and hopes to have the rest completed by February. Pederson will review the drafts and suggested at least one or two council persons also review them. Missy Forsyth requested the council amend the liquor ordinance with regard to the city's definition of a restaurant. Pederson has been in contact with David Distad at Public Health, who has contacted County Attorney David Torgelson for assistance. The council consensus it to wait to hear from Distad and Torgelson before considering an amendment and to hopefully include any changes when the entire Code is amended.

Councilor requests included: Heibel questioned who is to plow the snow by the large recycling containers, to which Kokesch noted they are not located on city property and it is not a city run program, rather a county program, so the county should be keeping it plowed. R. Kokesch questioned why plowing has not been as close to the curb; which she was told is a judgement call and the council is pleased with the county snow removal.

At 7:50 p.m., Mayor Degner called for adjournment, with Scharfencamp motioning for adjournment, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. The Franklin Ambulance Association and Rural Fire Association meetings will be held on February 1, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fire Hall and the next regular meeting will be February 8, 2016, at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer