

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, January 9, 2017**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Council members present were: Gruendemann, Heibel, R. Kokesch, and Scharfencamp. Staff Department Heads present were: K. Kokesch and Pederson. Guests present were: Steve Palmer, Sam Olson (briefly), Myron Gehrke, and Rebecca Peichel.

At 7:00 p.m., in the Mayor's absence, Clerk/Treasurer Pederson called the meeting to order. Roll call showed Sherman absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Oaths of Office were recited by Gruendemann and R. Kokesch, Acting Mayor.

**Acting Mayor R. Kokesch called for approval of the minutes. Scharfencamp motioned to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2016 Truth in Taxation Public Hearing, Code of Ordinances Public Hearing and Regular Meeting as presented, second by Heibel, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Acting Mayor R. Kokesch called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$258,856.94 and cash receipts for December were \$148,100.91; there are 3 past due utility accounts, 1 approved for disconnection (1 was already disconnected and 1 has the Cold Weather Rule); there were no new zoning permits; the 2017 Meeting Schedule was included for approval. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Gruendemann, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

No citizen present requested to be addressed.

Tabled the Novel Energy Solution presentation until arrival.

Resolution 2017-1, Official Designations and Annual Appointments was presented for approval, with councilor commission appointments discussed and filled. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve Resolution 2017-1, second by Heibel, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Resolution 2017-2, Approval of 2016 Contributions, was presented with contributions totaling \$16,626.98. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve Resolution 2017-2, 2016 Contributions, second by Heibel, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Department Heads reported. Kokesch stated that snow removal has been going well so far but ice has been a problem, he is looking at putting skids on the snow plow; there are a lot of branches down that will have to wait until spring to be removed; he has been working with the engineer and the water quality has improved; received vacation approval; stated the heated storage has been nice to have and is better for the equipment. Pederson presented the Community Impact Funds grant application, the council directed her to apply for it to replace bathroom doors in the parks; the farmland Quit Claim Deed arrived and needs to be recorded; LMC Legislative Conference is March 23<sup>rd</sup>; discussed letter from Mankato Mayor regarding MPCA phosphorous standards; two employee packets are still incomplete, Heibel will work on this; Pederson will meet with the city's legislators on the 18<sup>th</sup> with the Small Cities board, DNR fishing regulations will be brought up; received vacation approval and approval to attend the clerk's conference in March; audit is scheduled for March 1 and 2.

Chief Wiese was not present, but reviewed and approved the fire and ambulance reports. The 2016 Ambulance Department Report was presented for approval, with income of \$26,374.11, and total expenses of \$28,259.09, a net loss of \$1,884.98, and total cash of \$24,286.27 as of 12/31/16. **Gruendemann motioned to approve the 2016 Ambulance Report and expenses transfer as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** The Franklin Ambulance Association 2016 Financial Report was presented for approval, with the total income of \$9,420.57, no expenses, for total cash of \$66,212.70 **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the 2016 Franklin Ambulance Association Financial Report as presented, second by Gruendemann, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** The 2016 Fire Department/Rural Fire Association Report was presented, 2016 revenue of \$35,556.24, expenses of \$46,043.36 the net city and rural halves of the expenses being \$13,499.92 each. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the 2016 Fire Department/Rural Fire Association Report, second by Heibel, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the Fire Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Bird Island, second by Heibel, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** Pederson presented the Fire/Rescue accounts receivable, \$3,250.00 billed and \$2,750.00 received for fire calls billed, 2 notices have been sent; the council directed Pederson to send them a letter stating the unpaid charges will be assessed to their property taxes and to allow them the opportunity to pay their balance due in installments. Pederson also reported that the 2002 fire truck loan with USDA has been paid in full.

Rebecca Peichel of Novel Energy Solutions arrived late due to being stuck in the snow. Peichel gave an overview of the Made In Minnesota Solar Incentive Lottery Program provided by DEED, stating the city qualifies for this program and may apply for the lottery at no cost to the city, the only obligation is that they be interested in using solar energy to offset electric costs. Novel and third party owners would purchase, install, own, and insure the solar arrays for 20 years, the city would receive a 15% discount on their electric bill for 20 years; after 20 years, the city would own the array. The panels have a 25 year warranty, at year 20, a typical array has 85% efficiency. The council consensus is that it would save the city money and would be very feasible at the sewer ponds and the water treatment plant. **Heibel motioned to approve Novel Energy Solutions to submit the Made In Minnesota application, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

The community center was discussed: Kokesch, Pederson, and the sheriff's office have keys, the Legion will be given a key for week nights. Cleaning supplies have arrived. It was decided to hold an open house on February 4<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 in conjunction with Legion BINGO at 7:00. Cleaning will be arranged prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> and will occur following an event that pays a deposit.

A request to reaffirm support of the "Appleton Option" was received. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve support via Resolution 2017-3 as presented, second by Gruendemann, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Discussed city shop renovations. Gruendemann estimated the project costs to be less than \$50,000 and would have better numbers by the next meeting at which time the council can decide whether or not to procure bids.

Pederson noted that the city's personnel policy needs to be updated and she has the LMC sample policy that needs revisions. This will be tabled for further review.

Councilor requests included: R. Kokesch reported a theft to the sheriff's office, it took 3-4 days for an officer to respond, recommended to lock cars and homes.

**At 8:40 p.m., Acting Mayor Kokesch called for adjournment, with Scharfencamp motioning for adjournment, second by Gruendemann, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** The Franklin Ambulance Association and Rural Fire Association meetings will be held on February 6, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fire Hall; the next regular meeting will be February 13, 2017, at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer