

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, March 13, 2017**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, March 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Council members present were: Gruendemann, Heibel, R. Kokesch, Scharfencamp and Sherman. Staff Department Heads present were: K. Kokesch, Pederson and Wiese. Guests present were: Steve Palmer, Doug Pomplun, Dan Menk, Joel Harmoning, Scott Nissen, Brian Pederson and Myron Gehrke.

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

Mayor Sherman called for approval of the minutes of February 13, 2017, which was motioned for approval by R. Kokesch, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Mayor Sherman called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$47,140.29, cash receipts for February were \$22,921.91; there are four past due utility bills, three were approved for disconnection, one has the Cold Weather Rule; there were no new zoning permits. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

No citizens requested to be addressed.

The city clean-up was discussed. Renville County will no longer hold the countywide clean-up and there are a number of changes at the landfill. The council decided to table this discussion until next month and Clobes will be asked to provide a list of fees for typical items not accepted for free at the landfill.

Department Heads reported. Kokesch reported that there will be an MPCA inspection held on Wednesday; snow removal went well; the lift station that was damaged by a vehicle has been repaired and costs will be submitted to driver's insurance; the stolen copier from the water treatment plant has been recovered, the door lock has been changed and key pad locks will be considered. Fire Chief Wiese presented the Fire Dept. appointments of: Chief-Wiese, Asst. Chief-Menk, 1st Lt.-Joehnck, 2nd Lt.-Batdorf, Secretary-Kiecker; Wiese was questioned about the training of the appointed 2nd Lt. with Wiese noting Batdorf intends to complete the training online, the council would like it completed within a year and will follow up on his progress in 3-4 months. **Gruendemann motioned to approve the 2017 Fire Department Appointments, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Wiese reported that the ambulance has one EMT in training and a second to start training. Pederson presented the quote received from Gruendemann for the park door replacement, there was a noticeable cost difference between door types; Pederson is to research remaining budgeted dollars and apply for the Community Impact Grant. It was noted that the kitchen door must be replaced. **Scharfencamp motioned to replace the ballpark kitchen door, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Pederson also reported that the Legion will purchase U.S. and MN flags and stands for the Community Center; audit is nearly complete and went well, the auditor stated the mayor may use a signature stamp provided he is the only one that has access to it; the city declined Geronimo Energy's request to participate in their solar garden.

The city shop options were discussed. The old county shop is not an option. Shop options and/or renovations will continue to be researched and was tabled until budget time. The city will not rent Pat Crain's shed for another month.

The personnel policy was discussed. Pederson will make a draft policy incorporating LMC's policy information and the current policy. R. Kokesch, Heibel, and Gruendemann offered to review the templates.

The community center was discussed. Council members put together a punch list of needed repairs/corrections. Franklin Industries plans to repair the cracks in the floors, add outlets by the serving window, install a chair rail in the storage room area, fix the exposed wires on the conduits on the bathroom sinks, and move the thermostats so the bathrooms are not so warm. The city will install door stops. The issues with programming the doors is being resolved. Two other school districts are looking into doing the same type of program and renters have been pleased with the facility.

The Fire Department truck committee is working on truck specifications, noting the truck will be 4-wheel drive, can be operated by one person, and will be short enough to fit in the Fire Hall. The chassis would have to be paid for up front, at a cost of approximately \$110,000. The committee hopes to have specifications and costs to present to the Rural Fire Association by about March 27th.

Elections by mail were discussed and was very controversial, the public and the council have mixed feelings on switching. It was decided to table this until more information is known about the requirements and costs of new election equipment.

Mediacom requested a 10 year franchise renewal and sent a draft renewal nearly the same as the previous renewal; they also allowed adding verbiage regarding the free modem service to City Hall. Mediacom also provided rate schedules for numerous cities and the rates were all the same, however, specials can vary from city to city. The council felt the city should still contact our attorney. **Gruendemann motioned to discuss the renewal agreement with the city attorney, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The MVHLC program will no longer be an option for summer recreation. Pederson has been in contact with Sarah Sullivan about running a program through community education; the city of Morgan and Mr. Tews were also in favor of this. The only concerns were that enough programs will be held in Franklin and could swimming lessons be incorporated into this as well. **R. Kokesch motioned to follow through with summer recreation being run through community education in a joint program between Franklin and Morgan, second by Heibel.**

The contract with Renville County Sheriff for police protection will expire at the end of this year. Pomplun explained how the contract works and noted that before contracting with cities, they had 5 deputies and now have 8 and plan to hire another one soon, which provides better coverage for everyone. The hours of patrolling was discussed and will be included on future reports. Mayor Sherman questioned how Redwood County cities have protection without a contract. Pomplun explained that there are statutory requirements to cover all of the county, but that ordinances would not be enforced and the city would not get 20 hours of protection without the contract. Sheriff Hable and the new Chief Deputy Mathis plan to attend the April meeting.

Councilor requests included: Gruendemann reported that there will not be a tractor pull held during Catfish Days.

At 9:10 p.m., Mayor Sherman called for adjournment, with Scharfencamp motioning for adjournment, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting will be April 10, 2017, at City Hall; Board of Review will be April 4, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer