

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, March 14, 2016**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, March 14, 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: Joe Sullivan, Lee Bjerk, Missy Forsyth, John Gustafson, Tonja Miller, Brian Pederson, Scott Nissen, Joel Harmoning, Corey Gruendemann, Beth McCorquodale, Denise Bonsack, 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. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the agenda, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Degner called for approval of the minutes. Wiese motioned to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2016 Regular Meeting as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Citizens were addressed. Forsyth questioned the electric pole located on their property adjacent to the Depot used and paid for by the city; the Depot would like to take ownership of the pole and would allow it to be used on Catfish Days; the city will contact Xcel Energy and see how to transfer its ownership.

Lee Bjerk, Geronimo Energy, gave a history of Geronimo Energy and its multiple projects and proposed the city participate in the community solar garden which will provide a credit on the city's electric costs from Xcel Energy, guaranteed to be a minimum of 1 cent per kilowatt hour with a first year estimated savings of \$2350 or about 10% of the electric bill. There is no cost, no investment, and no insurance required of the city to participate but it is a 25 year commitment with a guarantee of 90% of production. **Wiese motioned to move forward and to send the proposed contract to the city attorney, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Franklin Industries, Inc. has been established to benefit the community and was set up the same way as Redwood Industries. Franklin Industries is purchasing land, has applied for a Conditional Use Permit and intends to construct a daycare facility to be leased (with the option to own) to the Cedar Mt. School District and proposed the city add a community room onto the daycare center with the same lease to buy option. The daycare is an eminent need and the school is unable to do it on its own in a short amount of time. The building(s) would be ADA compliant, meet fire code, and share a parking area. Generally the council was receptive to the idea, noting the Fire Hall is too small for many civic events and the Fire Department needs more room for equipment, this would solve both issues. Forsyth noted the intent for their empty 3050 square foot building is to become rentable space with a commercial kitchen for events and private parties. The council does not want to compete with any entity, and following discussion, it was noted that the spaces would serve different purposes as the community room would be used primarily for civic functions. **Degner motioned to proceed with the community room project and work out the details later, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Degner and Wiese will serve on the community building committee and a Special Meeting of the council will be held on March 28, 2016 at 7:00 at City Hall to further discuss this project. The city will be obtaining deeded farm land in 2017 and a decision will be needed as to what direction to go with it; SWCD has been contacted about possibly putting the acreage into RIM land, but has not yet responded. **R. Kokesch motioned that if the city decides to rent to land, Eugene Longstrom will be hired to market and manage the land, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The city of Olivia invited cities to partner with them on their seal coat project again this year. The city budgeted for seal coating. **Wiese motioned to approve collaborating with the city of Olivia on seal coating, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The financial status of the city was reviewed. February receipts totaled \$32,506.94; current bills were presented for payment in the amount of \$51,769.86. **Scharfencamp motioned for approval of the bills and financial report as presented, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The disconnection policy will be adhered to beginning in April with disconnections in May. Pederson will place a large sticker on the April billing cards further explaining the monthly billing policies.

Department Heads were addressed. Kokesch reported costs for a portable toilet went from \$90-\$95 per month, he is to arrange for its use at the boatlanding. Mosquito spraying was budgeted for and will be applied 8 times throughout the season and especially before Catfish Days. Boulevard trees are the responsibility of property owners, but are not being maintained; Ryan Tree Service will trim these trees for \$4500; the council approved them to do the trimming. Dog excrement is a problem and Kokesch questioned providing bags for people to use; the council didn't feel people would make use of them even if provided. The culvert on 3rd Street needs some maintenance; street sweeping is going well. Cameron Maurer is looking into costs and options of bringing water to his property and wondered if the city would consider partnering with him and bring water to the boatlanding; the council would like some cost estimates. The Army Corps of Engineers is still working on permitting requirements for the boatlanding. Summer help will be hired, the same as last year. Some of the sidewalks were not shoveled and maintained throughout the winter. Wiggin reported on 17 calls for service. The police commissions met, Morgan is not sure about the future contract terms, but seemed more receptive to a longer contract than they had been; the new squad car is still undecided. **Wiese presented Tammy Sather's resignation from the Fire Department and Ambulance Service, which was motioned to accept by R. Kokesch, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** There have been some issues with miscommunication with the rural for fire call billings, there is now more documentation; Expert T does offer fire call billing and that could be an option to present to the rural. In April there will be only 6 EMT's on the Ambulance Department. There are only 2 potential future EMT's. Something needs to be done to get more people trained or the ambulance will not be able to operate. McCorquodale and Pederson will send out a mailing explaining this to the community and McCorquodale will research how other departments have recruited new members. Gruendemann reported that there is a new proposed mutual aid agreement coming. Pederson reported that Board of Review will be held on April 4th at 11:30 a.m.; a request for funding from Central Community Transit was denied; was questioned regarding the old siren no longer sounding, this will be looked into; city clean up will tentatively be held in early June in conjunction with the county hazardous waste collection; a utility rate study was recently completed by MRWA and rates will need to be adjusted (increased); discussed a city Facebook page and twitter account, R. Kokesch will arrange for it to be set up.

There were no new Zoning Permits issued.

There was no new activity regarding the back up well.

Kokesch contacted 3 entities about a new mower and the Kibble Equipment one fit the need; the cost is \$7,400 with the trade. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the mower trade, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Bolton and Menk did a water tower inspection and advised waiting until next year to do any work on the tower.

An estimate of \$4330 to remove the tennis courts was presented. Following discussion, Kokesch is to get an estimate to completely remove the courts, dig out the buried debris, and replace the basketball court.

There is interest in the Franklin Depot hosting a volleyball league on their grass area and they questioned if there would be any issues with this, especially alcohol and possible balls in the street. It was noted that a former council required a fence be place when alcohol would be consumed outside of the bar, but this is not law.

The city ordinance recodification is still pending.

There were no councilor requests.

At 9:38 p.m., Mayor Degner called for adjournment, with Scharfencamp motioning for adjournment, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. A special meeting will be held on March 28, 2016, Board of Review will be held on April 4, 2016, and the next regular meeting will be April 11, 2016, at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, March 28, 2016**

A Special Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, March 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Council members present were: Degner, Heibel, R. Kokesch, Scharfencamp, and Wiese. Staff present: Pederson. Guests present were: Joe Sullivan, Brian Pederson, Scott Nissen, Joel Harmoning, Corey Gruendemann, and Tim Joehnck.

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

The conditional use permit application of Franklin Industries, Inc. was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission at the public hearing held on March 23, 2016. As there was no dissention and a daycare facility meets the needs of the community, per the Planning Commission's recommendation the council was in favor of approval. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the Conditional Use Permit of Franklin Industries, Inc. to construct a daycare facility at 215 Second Ave. E., second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Sullivan presented sample plans for the proposed community center, stating that tentative bids were at \$100/square foot and a public building requires 15 square feet per occupant. Sullivan noted the occupancies of various meeting areas within the city: library 160, Sacred Heart Church 140, St. Luke's Church 107, Fire Hall 45, former Senior Center 56. The council consensus was that this area needs to be larger than these existing meeting areas. R. Kokesch stated that the city should not be in direct competition with a tax payer, it was noted that the Franklin Depot's proposed area was 3050' which could occupy 200 people, the building uses are most likely not going to be the same and that their property may at some point be sold, whereas the city's property would most likely be around for a long time. The council discussed financing to include city reserves and farmland rent; options for payment include leasing (which would be taxable) or contract for deed (which would not be taxable) but must be passed by a published resolution and the public could petition for an election of the proposition, the maximum term is 5 years. **R. Kokesch motioned for the building expenses not to exceed \$350,000, second by Wiese. Discussion included that \$350,000 should allow the occupancy of 200-205; Scharfencamp noted he likes the 200 people size and hopes it will be big enough; it was also noted that the public was in favor of the project when presented at the public meeting of Franklin Industries and comments received have been favorable but included that they should be certain the room is built large enough. Mayor Degner polled the council, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Sullivan noted that the lots will be surveyed and soil borings will be completed this week, the plans should be back from the architect by mid-April.

Gruendemann presents quotes on repairs at the Veteran's Park, shingling the kitchen shelter roof, the bathroom roof, and dugout roofs, as well as replacing the windows in the kitchen area. Steel roofing costs were also presented, noting the steel is slightly cheaper, but the labor costs are slightly higher, so steel and asphalt shingling would cost about the same. Gruendemann is donating half of his labor costs, so the total project costs would be about \$6000. It was recommended to replace the soffit and fascia on the bathroom as well, bringing the estimated total costs to about \$6500. The Lion's club has committed up to \$3000 toward this project. It was recommended to install glass block in the bathroom shelter, Degner will look into it and do it for free if standard glass block works. **Scharfencamp motioned to proceed with the park renovations, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Wiggin resigned from the Morgan Police Department and Chief of Police, Bostyn Thompson, stated that Morgan will not be able to fulfill the contracted police hours. The council was happy with Wiggin and disappointed that Morgan did not work out a deal with him. The council discussed options with the contract and noted that they could hold Morgan accountable for the hours, but weren't sure how this would be done or enforced. The Renville County Sheriff's office is aware of the situation and will cover Franklin in the interim, they requested to be kept informed. Morton and Fairfax will be notified that Franklin is researching options and see if there is any interest. The council consensus is to wait and see what Morgan plans to do and further discuss this at the April meeting.

At 8:10 p.m., Mayor Degner called for adjournment, with Wiese motioning for adjournment, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. Board of Review will be held on April 4, 2016, and the next regular meeting will be April 11, 2016, at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer