

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, May 14, 2018**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, May 14, 2018, 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 and Pederson. Guests present were: Dennis Oberloh, Jim and Amy Koupal, and Jim Nelson.

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 April 9, 2018 minutes with R. Kokesch motioning to approve the minutes as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Mayor Sherman called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented for approval in the amount of \$67,452.41; cash receipts for April were \$30,129.42; there was one past-due utility account approved for disconnection, no new zoning permits were issued **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Citizens were addressed. The Koupal's reported that they have had issues with water in their basement, even in the winter, since the street project and their sump pump is running continuously. K. Kokesch explained that the project tightened up the system and the storm water that used to enter the leaky pipes no longer does, and he added that this is an engineering issue. Nelson reported that he had water issues and remedied them by fixing the grade around his house. The council directed K. Kokesch to have Bolton and Menk look into this.

D. Oberloh presented the city's 2017 audit and financial statements. Oberloh noted that this is a clean opinion, the city is doing well with everything considered. Also noted was that the city had higher than budgeted expenditures due to the fire truck down payment (which will be partially reimbursed by the townships) and that the city is working on lowering the debt fund balance. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the 2017 Audit and Financial Statements as presented, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Pederson reported that the current animal ordinance has a limit of 2 dogs per household, but no limit on cats. Pederson provided several examples of the animal limits of other cities. It was noted that some cities do not license cats. **R. Kokesch motioned to amend the animal ordinance to limit households to 2 dogs or 3 cats, and no household shall exceed any combination of 4 animals; second by Heibel, RCV-4 Yes, 1-No, Scharfencamp.**

R. Kokesch motioned to approve Resolution 2018-4, Resolution Approving Election Judges, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Department Heads reported. K. Kokesch received a recommendation and quote of \$300 to thatch and bag the grass at the Veteran's and Tennis Court parks. **Although it has never been done before, Gruendemann motioned to approve trying it for this year, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** K. Kokesch noted that the swing set at the tennis court park is in rough shape, the cement is protruding, and it has been cited as a hazard by LMCIT. **As it is felt that it is still used, Sherman motioned to approve getting dirt and wood chips for the swing set, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** B. McCorquodale would like to sell approximately 10 loads of millings to the city; per T. Kerkhoff this would be comparable to \$1700 worth of gravel; the council questioned the need for the millings and where they would be stored with the consensus to not purchase the millings. A proposed estimate of \$6595 to subcut and repair a block of alley was received; alleys were discussed at length regarding costs and potential vacations noting there is no easy way to maintain alleys and there is no clear-cut means for vacation. Scharfencamp and K. Kokesch will review and recommend 2-5 alleys they feel should be vacated and present their recommendations next month. K. Kokesch was approached about the tough condition of the boatlanding water access; the DNR denies owning any part of it but historically has assisted with it; Kokesch is to try to do some maintenance on it. The south (nursing home) lift station has been alarming again and noted that this has been an ongoing issue and feels it is time to resolve it; K. Kokesch met with the new administrator explaining the city's ordinances and the ongoing issues with the pumps failing due to improper discharges from

the nursing home; the cost of two pumps (that are supposed to grind their typical discharges) is \$15,464 (not including labor and freight) with a 20 year life expectancy; it was felt that the nursing home would consider paying for part of the cost to replace the pumps rather than being served a notice of violation. **Scharfencamp motioned to allow K. Kokesch to negotiate a cost share with the nursing home and if it is not acceptable to serve them a notice of violation; second by Sherman, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** K. Kokesch also noted the main lift station pumps are in need of repair and received a bid of \$10,059 to repair the pumps (which are over 17 years old) and a bid for new pumps of \$18,059 (not installed). **R. Kokesch motioned to order new lift station pumps, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Pederson reported that the county purchased new ballot tabulators and the city's obligation is \$227.50/year for maintenance; letters of support were sent for TC&W; the AED from Monsanto has been installed at the Community Center; LMC Salary survey is available; received approval to order a new weatherproof bulletin board at approximate cost of \$400; the council declined participating in the State Auditor Performance Measurement as it would only be \$.14/capita (about \$71); Community Center manuals are done; will be traveling to Washington D.C. with MAOSC in September, and received vacation approval for October. **Gruendemann motioned to pay K. Valentin \$175 for sidewalk snow removal, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Pederson reported for B. McCorqudale that the EMS is doing a meet and greet at the elementary dance. Also discussed was that there was no progress report or contact made by the Fire Dept. regarding Batdorf's training schedule; R. Kokesch and Scharfencamp will contact the department heads and have them report at the June meeting or dismissal actions will begin. Also discussed was the lack of responses from department heads; email and texting options will be looked into.

The community center was discussed, Swedebro sent two quotes and options and noted the floor was in good shape and could wait until winter to be repaired at likely a lesser cost. Nelson questioned grinding the cement and their application process. Gruendemann and J. Nelson contact Swedebro with further questions.

The chlorination project is in progress, the new pumps have been ordered and will use gas vs. liquid which will be cheaper in the long run; grant money will be used to offset the costs and close out the USDA funds.

The water tower rehab. project has been let for bids to be opened on May 17th at which time a special meeting may need to be scheduled.

Approved the Renville County Assessment Agreement for 2019-2020 at the same rate as previous with a motion by Scharfencamp, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Gruendemann motioned to approve the Sacred Heart Church Calendar Raffle; second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

R. Kokesch motioned to approve the liquor license renewals of the Franklin Depot and Longbranch, and to approve the pending 3.2 Off Sale license application of SHIV, LLC for the Franklin Amstar; second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

A proposal from ReneSola Power Holdings, LLC for the city to subscribe to their solar garden was reviewed; as it proposed an estimated \$292,000 savings over 25 years, and the Novel Energy/DEED project has expired, Pederson will request a draft contract for LMC to review (at no cost to the city).

Councilor requests included: Pederson and R. Kokesch attended the public hearing on the Christensen Farms Swine Feedlot noting there was little the city could do, but did request conditions of adding trees to the site and that they provide 24 hours' notice before pumping. Franklin Wellness Center requested the city consider taking over the business; the city is not interested and feels the community center should be paid off first. There were no council recommendations regarding noncompliant properties; discussed only acting on properties that receive formal complaints.

At 9:20 p.m., Mayor Sherman called for a motion to adjourn, with Scharfencamp motioning for adjournment, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting will be June 11, 2018, at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer