

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, May 8, 2017**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, May 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin 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: S. Palmer, S. Beavers.

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 the April 10, 2017 Regular and Special Meetings and April 11, 2017 Special Meeting, which were motioned for approval by Scharfencamp, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Consent agenda items were presented. Bills were presented in the amount of \$34,253.13, cash receipts for April were \$36,649.57;. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the bills as presented, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Sara Beavers, of Oberloh and Associates, presented the 2016 Audit and Financial Statements, noting they were clean and fairly presented; detailed reporting is required with the pension fund liability, this is state-wide; Beavers also noted that the Debt Fund is being handled differently with water and sewer paying their portions; the usual deficiencies of internal control and lack of segregation of duties were noted and are common for small cities; there were no legal compliance issues. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the 2016 Audit and Financial Statement as presented, second by Heibel, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.** The contract for the new pumper truck has been signed in the amount of \$301,478.00. Bandon, Eden, Norfolk and Palmyra will pay their portions up front; three townships (Birch Cooley, Camp, and Sherman) requested to loan their portions of the truck; the city will hold the loan and bill the townships for portion. The city's portion is \$48,295.60 if no other funding is obtained. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the city request a loan with USDA for the fire truck, of which \$48,000 is the city's portion, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** There are three past due utility bills approved for disconnection. There were no new zoning permits; Pederson reported that Renville County is working on updating the city's zoning map.

No citizens requested to be addressed.

The city clean-up was discussed. There are five vacant homes that are in disrepair and several properties with junk in their yards. Letters will be sent to these properties to let them know they are non-compliant. The list of properties sent letters will be reviewed in June and citations will be issued accordingly. The council directed city staff to send Notices of Destruction Orders as needed to properties whose lawns need mowing per city ordinance.

R. Kokesch motioned to approve the liquor license renewals of Franklin Depot-On Sale, Off Sale, and Sunday; Aj's Longbranch Saloon-On Sale, Off Sale, and Sunday; and Tej, LLC-3.2 Off Sale; second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

R. Kokesch motioned to approve Resolution 2017-6, Donations, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Department Heads reported. **K. Kokesch requested approval to purchase a new 20 volt tool kit, with Gruendemann motioning to approve the purchase, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Kokesch reported the Emil Huwe is moving so he will need to hire someone new to help with snow removal; the boatlanding is full weeds, of concern is the Creeping Charlie, the council directed Kokesch to spray; tar patches are needed, 7th St. and 3rd Ave. area is really bad; there have been wastewater pump issues and back-ups occurring at the nursing home lift station, Kokesch has discussed the issues with the nursing home and they are meeting to discuss a remedy as he has had to replace pumps and have the pit pumped, so either the nursing home needs to voluntarily install a grinder or a screen or we make them do it. Kokesch also reported that the induction pumps went down and need to be replaced, he is looking for a different alternative. Kokesch and Pederson have completed the WINS (Wastewater Infrastructure Needs Survey) report and have been working on Wellhead Protection which should be completed by 2018. Pederson was again approached by Geronimo to request the city subscribe to a solar garden, the council declined; a community center brochure will be started as picture opportunities present themselves; Pederson and Kokesch attended GIS training; pet licensing has been slow; Morgan is working on swimming lessons and will be in contact; Sarah Sullivan provided information on the summer recreation through community education. **Gruendemann motioned to accept the fire department resignations of Wesley Lund and Jordan Lyon, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** It was questioned whether the pagers have been obtained for the ambulance crew, Gruendemann noted that they are working on it.

The personnel policy discussion was tabled.

Park door replacement was discussed, Gruendemann reported that cement work needs to be done and Ron Degner is not available; the council wants the work completed, so Gruendemann is to look outside of Franklin to get someone to do the work.

Policing was again discussed. Sherman noted a survey had been done and people felt no policing was needed; Scharfencamp countered that the survey was split with about half wanting police coverage of some type and half did not want coverage. Heibel noted that she had been against contracting with the sheriff, but has since changed her mind and doesn't want to give up their contract. The majority felt that police presence is necessary. It was also noted that starting up our own department is not an option, so the only other alternative is to try to contract with a neighboring city. Some concerns with the sheriff's office staffing levels and response times to a recent incident were discussed as well as considering a 15 hour per week contract vs. 20 hours. Pederson will contact the sheriff with these issues and invite them to discuss them with the council in June.

Alley discussion was tabled for further review.

Per the recommendation of LMCIT, Pederson drafted the following policies: Social Media Use Policy, Computer Use Policy, and Data Practices Policy. **R. Kokesch motioned to accept the LMCIT recommendation and approve the policies as presented, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Councilor requests included: Kurt Valentin did sidewalk snow removal for the city, the council directed Pederson to pay him whatever we paid him last year. Heibel reported that Franklin is the only city in Renville County that has not adopted the social host ordinance.

At 8:53 p.m., Mayor Sherman called for adjournment, with Scharfencamp motioning for adjournment, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting will be June 12, 2017, at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer