

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, May 9, 2016**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, May 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Council members present were: Degner, Heibel, R. Kokesch, and Scharfencamp. Staff Department Heads present were: K. Kokesch and Pederson. Guests present were: John and Alice Goelz, Doug Pomplun, Travis Carlson, Roger Degner, Katie Joehneck, Wayne Lyon, Scott Nissen, Joes Sullivan, Duane Hebert, Joel Harmoning, and Myron Gehrke.

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

Mayor Degner called for approval of the agenda. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the agenda, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

**Mayor Degner called for approval of the minutes of April 11, 2016. Scharfencamp motioned to approve the minutes as presented, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Citizens were addressed. John Goelz and Duane Hebert of Novel Energy, requested council consideration to annex about 10-11 acres of Goelz's land near the Xcel substation for permitting purposes for the installation of solar panels which would pay commercial and production taxes providing a tax benefit to the city. Goelz also requested to detach current ag land in the city to Birch Cooley Township, probably a bit more than the amount to be annexed. Upon receipt of a petition to annex, the city and Birch Cooley Township would file a joint resolution with MN Boundary Adjustments; the detachment will be a separate process to follow. **As it would be a tax benefit to the city, Scharfencamp motioned to proceed with the annexation and detachment proceedings, second by Heibel, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

The financial status of the city was reviewed. April receipts totaled \$32,037.08; current bills were presented for payment in the amount of \$42,846.25. **R. Kokesch motioned for approval of the bills and financial report as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** The council decided to table designating funds to the community center until a later date.

Department Heads were addressed. Kokesch reported that wood chips are needed under the park equipment, Dennis McGowan will haul them, the council approved; the Army Corps of Engineers finally approved the boatlanding project which will be done when the water level is lower. Pederson reported: the city received a \$1000 grant from the Renv. Co. HRA/EDA Impact Funds for the Veteran's Park improvements; council authorized cancelling the Verizon air card; is still looking for information on water/sewer to the boatlanding; Mayor Degner will review sample chicken ordinances; D. Munsell has been contacted about televising meetings; a committee needs to be set up to review the rate study prior to setting the budget; East River/Renville Sibley Cooperative has zero interest loans available for fire trucks. **R. Kokesch motioned to authorize the city staff to send Notices of Destruction Orders to lawns exceeding 10", second by Scharfencamp, RCV 4 Yes, 0 No.** Wiese's residency question was discussed with the city attorney who advised the council to get a written statement from Weise and then determine the plausibility of his reestablishing his residency to be discussed at the June meeting.

There are 6 utility accounts scheduled for disconnection for nonpayment.

There were no new Zoning Permits issued. A letter was sent to J. Deming regarding his two accessory buildings installed without a permit.

Franklin Industries received the finished plans for the daycare facility and community center today; the new plans have added windows and the storage area has egress windows; the capacity of the community center is about 200; it will be put out for bids soon with construction to begin in early June. Nissen is working on the first draft of the lease agreement and questioned the city's contribution to the project. **Scharfencamp motioned to commit \$100,000 toward the lease; second by Heibel, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** R. Kokesch stated that the Depot is no longer continuing with their plans for their building and wondered if the city would buy it; the council declined. R. Kokesch also presented suggestions received for business expansion versus spending funds on a community center.

Policing was discussed at length. Travis Carlson, of Redwood Falls, offered to help the city by offering his police services part-time, noting the city has a lot of options for policing. Carlson asked the council to consider him and call him with any questions and acknowledged his pending application with Hill City and that the position is pending a background check. Doug Pomplun with the Renville County Sheriff's Office recommended the council do something with regard to policing whether or not it is with them. Pomplun noted that all city ordinances are enforced if under contract; the city would be obligated to contract for 18 months and if they terminate would be responsible for a share of unemployment costs of an officer whose hours would be cut. One officer would be the "face of the town" making usual day stops, there are 2 day cars patrolling and at night a maximum of 3 cars. The county would consider starting up the Cops and Kids program. R. Kokesch spoke with Wiggin who would consider policing provided a minimum of 32 hours at \$20.46/hour, his salary alone would cost the city over \$40,000. The consensus of most present is that it is preferred to have a single officer to offer familiarity, but could the costs be justified? Pederson presented a cost estimate to establish a police force and the minimum costs would be over \$80,000 not including the purchase of a new squad car. It was also noted that hiring someone part-time would not provide any longevity. The county contract would cost about \$50,000/year. R. Kokesch motioned to contract with the county for 20 hours, second by Scharfencamp; discussed the unemployment payment requirements should the city decide to opt out of contracting; the mayor called for a vote and no one responded. More discussion continued regarding hiring someone full-time and contracting out a portion of the hours, but there is no certainty of contracting. **Scharfencamp motioned to contract with the Renville County Sheriff's Office for 20 hours per week through December 31, 2017, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Seal Coat bids were received, the bids came in lower than the engineer's estimate. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the bid of \$38,185 from Allied Blacktop for Franklin's portion of the seal coating, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

TNT Construction will dig out the tennis courts and charge by the hour, the debris would be removed with various equipment ranging from \$85 to \$145 per hour; they will not bid it due to too many unknowns. The city will be responsible to take down the fencing. Heibel will try to find out a worst case scenario cost estimate so the council has some idea of the potential costs. **Scharfencamp motioned to table tennis court discussion until next month, second by Heibel, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

The Morgan Pool is offering swimming lessons at the same costs as last year, July 5-15. Transportation is being looked into. **Heibel motioned to continue with the swimming lessons program the same as last year, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

**Scharfencamp motioned to approve the lawful gaming application of Sacred Heart Church for their annual calendar raffle, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

**Resolution 2016-5, Approval of Election Judges for the 2016 State Primary and General Elections was motioned for approval by R. Kokesch, second by Heibel, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

The Renville County Assessor's Office presented a 2 year contract for assessing for the years of 2017 and 2018 at a cost of \$10 per real property and \$5 for mobile homes. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the Renville County Assessment Agreement, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Morgan Fire Chief Keith Hinrichs presented a draft SW MN Emergency Fire Coalition Mutual Aid Agreement for council review and comment. The new agreement addresses mutual aid that would be covered by FEMA. Gruendemann will check with Renville County on a countywide agreement.

The city's farmland will not qualify for CRP because it must be owned for a full year prior to qualifying. Eugene Longstrom recently passed away, so a new realtor will be needed to market the land for rental. Pederson will contact suggested realtors.

The city attorney and Geronimo Energy are still working on contract terms.

Councilor requests included Scharfencamp thanking the Fire and EMS people for their dedication noting good comments heard about their skills during the recent tragedies. Discussed recruiting efforts and if the department should consider using someone other than North Memorial for EMS and EMR training. Recommended future fire members become EMR's. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the installation of suicide prevention signs at the city's highway entrances, second by Heibel, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** Degner congratulated K. Kokesch on the receipt of a wastewater operational award.

**At 9:37 p.m., Mayor Degner called for adjournment, with Scharfencamp motioning for adjournment, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** The next regular meeting will be June 13, 2016, at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer