

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, June 13, 2016**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, June 13, 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 and Pederson. Guests present were: Joe Sullivan, Scott Nissen, Brian Pederson, Corey Gruendemann, and Myron Gehrke.

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

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

Mayor Degner called for approval of the minutes of May 9, 2016. Scharfencamp motioned to approve the minutes as presented, second by Heibel, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.

There were no citizens requesting to be addressed.

Wiese's residency issue was discussed. Wiese provided written documentation that he will be closing on a house in Franklin on June 30, 2016 and plans to be residing there by July 23, 2016. The council felt this was sufficient intent.

Franklin Industries presented a draft lease agreement which the city attorney reviewed, his changes will be incorporated into the agreement, but the final draft could not be put together without definite numbers. The bids were favorable, the total project bid came in at \$780,000, with the added upfront costs of the architect, legal, etc., actual total costs are around \$910,000. The city will get a 200 capacity, furnished (except tables and chairs), building for \$350,000, amounting to \$87.50 per square foot, vs. the school's building being about \$120-\$125 per square foot. The lease includes a clause of a 2% increase per year with up to a 15 year term; there is no penalty for prepayment. The city will need to pay the property taxes during the lease periods so it would be beneficial to pay it off as soon as possible. It was confirmed to R. Kokesch that the community center was not constructed for a fine motor skills room. Pederson presented a spreadsheet of cost variations with different down-payment amounts. **Wiese motioned to approve entering into the lease agreement with a \$150,000 down-payment and for Mayor Degner to sign the lease agreement when finalized; second by Heibel, RCV-5 yes, 0 No.** The city water regulations state that council approval is needed for more than one housing unit or building to be supplied by one service connection. **R. Kokesch motioned to allow the Franklin Industries' (Cedar Mountain School and the City of Franklin) building to have one service connection, second by Degner, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The Franklin Depot submitted an application for Sunday liquor, along with proof of insurance and proof of a Small Establishment Food License, as required for Sunday liquor. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the Sunday Liquor application of the Franklin Depot, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The financial status of the city was reviewed. May receipts totaled \$25,254.57; current bills were presented for payment in the amount of \$52,502.85. **Wiese motioned for approval of the bills and financial report as presented, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Department Heads were addressed. Kokesch received a request for dust sealing on 1st Ave., the consensus is to leave it until all of the construction and mess are done, noting it hasn't been that bad with the recent rains. The flags in the outfield need to be replaced and it had previously been approved to split the costs with the Friends of Brent Koch who will be out of funds after this; the council should consider if this is something the city wants to maintain in the future; R. Kokesch will check on flags for replacement. Kokesch reported that there is a stainless steel area in the park kitchen that needs attention to prevent an injury; Terry Childs will maintain bathrooms during Catfish Days; Ron Degner installed glass block windows in the bathrooms at the park. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve Kokesch's vacation request, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Discussed the cars parked along First Street, many citizens have expressed concern, Pederson will discuss this with the sheriff's office and Redwood Dev. Corp. Pederson contacted Bolton and Menk and neither are able to locate the cost estimate of bringing water to the boatlanding; LMCIT made loss control recommendations which Kokesch and Harmoning are addressing; LMC Salary Survey is available; the sheriff took the police radio and will trade it for a fire/ambulance one; the sheriff's contract (approved at the last meeting) is ready for signatures; Pederson is working on a grant for police hiring, but unlikely with the very limited time frame; G. Wendinger contacted the city attorney regarding a conflict of interest matter, the council feels Wendinger should pay for the legal fees; Novel Energy is still working on the annexation and a solar agreement. The Morgan Fire Dept. would like to purchase Tammy Sather's turn-out gear; as it is a very small size, it wouldn't likely be used by a future fire person; it is fairly new and cost the city \$1403.39. Wiese felt getting something for the gear is better than leaving it unused. **Wiese motioned to allow Morgan Fire to make an offer for the gear purchase, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Pederson clarified the counselor request for suicide prevention signs, no signs will be purchased. Kurt Valentin removed sidewalk snow regularly for the city without invoicing. **Scharfencamp motioned to pay Valentin \$125 for snow removal, second by Degner, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Mike Uhlenkamp has been having health issues and recently notified the city that he has filed for an extension with the State Auditor's office but still hopes to complete the audit and financial statements prior to June 30, 2016 deadline.

There are three utility accounts scheduled for disconnection for nonpayment and three zoning permits issued this year.

Bird Island requested the city agree to and sign a new mutual aid agreement with them. Nothing has been heard from the county regarding the county-wide mutual aid agreement. Wiese suggested discussing what the Hwy. 19 cities plan to do. **Wiese motioned to table the mutual aid agreement with Bird Island until next month, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Pederson and Degner contacted several realtors about managing the farmland rental for the city. Pederson also received information on Redwood County doing their own lease which would also be an option. **R. Kokesch motioned to hire Rich Beltz to manage the rental of the city's farmland (his estimated fee of \$250-\$300) for a one year lease; second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Discussed the tennis courts. TNT did not provide a "worst case" cost estimate yet. Heibel had someone inquire about removing the tar. There are so many unknowns about the condition of the subsurface. R. Kokesch motioned to take down the fencing and poles, the motion failed for lack of a second. This will be revisited in August.

Degner reviewed the chicken ordinances and felt Bird Island's was the best, Pederson will prepare it for approval at the next meeting. Pederson attended a solar energy conference learning about solar energy systems and received several sample ordinances regulating solar farms and systems which the council will review. The code of ordinances revisions are still in progress.

The 2006 squad car is fully depreciated and taking up space in the city shop. All police decals and equipment must be removed before selling it. **R. Kokesch motioned to list the 2006 squad car as surplus property and to sell it with sealed bids to be opened at the August meeting; second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Fairfax Veterinary Clinic no longer accepts impounded animals. Redwood Area Animal Shelter has agreed to accept the city's strays, their fees are \$40/cat and \$75/dog no matter how long an animal stays. Pederson signed an agreement with them. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the Redwood Area Animal Shelter Agreement and to amend the fee schedule to reflect their fees, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Pederson noted that there have been only 50 animal licenses issued this year.

Councilor requests included R. Kokesch wanting some sort of public clarification as to why the city is going ahead with the community center, perhaps in the newsletter and on the public access; other council felt there has been enough information provided; Pederson questioned specifically what should be written; it was decided to note that people should speak to council members or city staff directly with questions and there will be more information provided at the July 13th community volunteer drive; Kokesch also thanked the city staff for the extra work they do. Degner received a request to consider sharing a city administrator and public works director with another city and hire part-time people for the city office and city maintenance; the council said no.

At 9:02 p.m., Mayor Degner called for adjournment, with Scharfencamp motioning for adjournment, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting will be June 13, 2016, at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer