

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, July 11, 2016**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, July 11, 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: Johanna Jutes, Joel Harmoning, 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 all council present.

Mayor Degner called for approval of the agenda. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the agenda, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Degner called for approval of the minutes of June 13, 2016. Scharfencamp motioned to approve the minutes as presented, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

There were no citizens requesting to be addressed.

There was no one present for the hearing on the delinquent utility account, totaling \$355.31 to be assessed to the property taxes. **Wiese motioned to approve Resolution 2016-6, Assessment of Delinquent Utility Account, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The Franklin Fire Relief Association submitted an application for a Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for Catfish Days. They will be insured by LMCIT for \$1,000,000. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the Temporary On-Sale Liquor application of the Franklin Fire Relief Association, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The financial status of the city was reviewed. June receipts totaled \$179,985.37; current bills were presented for payment in the amount of \$197,736.48. **Wiese motioned for approval of the bills and financial report as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Department Heads were addressed. Kokesch reported there was a concern regarding stop sign visibility on 7th Street, noting that although it is DOT responsibility it has been taken care of; everything should be set for Catfish Days; utilities have been dug in at the Franklin Industries property; when the water levels are lower the boatlanding repairs will be completed. Bob and Julie Hall requested to trench in an LP tank line through the alley between their property and their newly acquired property, most felt it would be a liability for the city since it is a private line it would not show up on a locate; **R. Kokesch motioned to table Hall's request until further research could be done, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Discussed flag replacement at the Veteran's Park, after much discussion it was decided to replace all of the flags, the American flag pole will be lit and that flag will be kept up throughout the park season, the other flags will be put up by volunteers and only be up for special holidays and occasions. Approved dust sealing on 1st Ave. if it can be done as quoted. A request for limited parking by the post office was discussed, noting it is a public street and there are retro-reflectivity issues to consider. Pederson recommended the council consider 2017 budget items; the 2015 audit and financial statements draft is to be completed by July 22, the extension is until August 15th; Pederson will inquire with Uhlenkamp as to expectations for the 2016 audit and financials; discussed the new family health care dwelling law, the council felt it would not have a significant affect here; Itron unexpectedly announced the end of sale of the F300 Handheld Meter Reader, it will be supported through Dec. 31, 2021, also the Itron technical support has expired; the council consensus is to renew the technical support but not the hardware support; park improvement expenses to date are \$13,821.37, with Lions commitment of \$3000, and a \$4100 budget remaining, Kokesch recommended replacing the doors of the bathroom building, Gruendemann will get prices; election training has been completed and all precincts will need to budget for new election equipment; Rich Beltz has the farmland listed; the council declined Renville County Historical Society and Museum membership request as it was felt it was for businesses and tax dollars already fund it; LMC is increasing their annual dues; the city clean-up total costs was \$2,684.99; **R. Kokesch motioned to approve Pederson's vacation request (for 6 days), second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

There are two utility accounts that are unpaid, one requested a payment plan which the council approved, the other had mailing address issues and is setting up automatic payment.

There were no new zoning permits issued.

The LMCIT Worker's Compensation renewal was presented; Pederson noted that volunteer insurance and elected official insurance is automatically included in the renewal, Kokesch's hours have been split between departments. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the LMCIT Worker's Compensation renewal as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The proposed Amendment to the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 91 Animals, allowing for chickens within the city limits was sent to the requesting parties and presented for council approval. No comments were received. **Wiese motioned to approve the Amendment to City Ordinance Chapter 91, Animals, Regulating Chickens, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. Wiese motioned to approve the Ordinance Summary for Publication, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No (passed with required 4/5 vote).**

Wiese reported that Morton has signed mutual aid agreement with Renville County and Fairfax has not; Bird Island's mutual aid agreement is the same as the county's agreement. It will be more work for the fire department to breakdown costs. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the mutual aid agreement with Bird Island and with Renville County, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Kokesch requested the council list the Ford tractor as surplus property along with the squad car. The tractor doesn't meet the needs of the city and has undergone numerous repairs. **Wiese motioned to include the Ford Tractor as surplus property and to sell it with sealed bids to be opened at the August meeting; second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The solar energy contract proposals are being reviewed by the city and LMCIT attorneys. Pederson met with MN Community Solar and found that the city would be subscribing to the solar garden in Hector. The proposed Franklin solar garden is on hold as there have been some issues with Xcel Energy. The council tabled this until a response from the city attorney is received.

The sheriff's office suggested the city consider adopting a penalty fee schedule for ordinance violations; Morton and Bird Island both do this. It was decided to do more research on how Morton and Bird Island implemented them.

Catfish Days preparations are underway. Degner asked if the city would be sponsoring a trophy again this year. **Scharfencamp motioned to contribute \$100 for a trophy sponsorship, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** It was also noted that more volunteers are needed.

Councilor requests included: Scharfencamp would like speed limit signs; R. Kokesch would like the sheriff's office to be present at meetings, at least for these first few months; questioned if there is a limit on parked cars. The council would all like yards, etc. to be cleaned up before Catfish Days.

At 8:12 p.m., Mayor Degner called for adjournment, with Scharfencamp motioning for adjournment, second by Wiese, 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