

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, August 14, 2017**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, August 14, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. at the Franklin City Hall. Council members present were: C. Gruendemann, M. Heibel, R. Kokesch, Scharfencamp, and Sherman. Staff Department Heads present were: K. Kokesch, Pederson, and Wiese. Guests present were: J. Clobes, R. Hempel, S. Palmer, M. Forsyth, J. Gustafson, D. Batdorf, T. Sullivan, J. Harmoning, M. Gehrke.

At 8:00 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 July 10, 2017 Regular Meeting, motion for approval by Scharfencamp, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Consent agenda items were presented. Bills were presented in the amount of \$44,160.16, cash receipts for July were \$116,297.34. There are two past due utility bills approved for disconnection. There was one zoning permit issued: J. Gustafson to build a 24' x 48' addition and install a 16' x 16' cement slab at 160 First St. N. The Planning Commission will be allowed until the next meeting to review the proposed solar ordinance. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Citizens were addressed. R. Hempel requested council permission to have a DJ on the patio of the Longbranch from 7:00 p.m.-12:30 a.m. on Sept. 16th for his wedding; **Gruendemann motioned to approve, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** The Depot will have music on their deck from 6-10 p.m. on Aug. 19th.

Forsyth and Gustafson requested permission to allow campers on their private lot, noting they weren't aware of the ordinance violation and that the campers are working construction for another month. **Gruendemann motioned to approve a temporary dwelling permit, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

J. Clobes requested to extend his sanitation services contract for two more years at the same rate, which was motioned for approval by R. Kokesch, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Sullivan and Harmoning provided the annual update on the Fire Relief Association, noting there are 16 active members and \$373,000 in assets; they requested a pension increase from \$1400 to \$1500 per year of service effective Jan. 1, 2018; it was noted that their schedule says up to \$2700 would be allowable. **R. Kokesch moved to increase the Fire Relief pension to \$1500/year of service effective 1-1-18, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-3 Yes, Gruendemann and Heibel abstained.**

Ordinance Violation citations sent to three properties were discussed. Buchanan's cleaned up, the council waived the fine, however a letter will be sent noting the title issue is theirs to correct and future requests must be made in person. Second letters of violation will be sent to Kennedy and Childs. Abatement by the city will take place after 3 citations have been issued within a year.

Department Heads reported. Wiese reported: Matt Minkel has been interviewed and recommended to be hired to the Fire Department. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve hiring Matt Minkel on the Fire Department, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** D. Batdorf was present, stating that he will be finishing his Firefighter I & II training online but is unable to complete the hands-on portion until it is offered in March/April of 2018. The council expects a progress report from Batdorf at the April 9, 2018 meeting. Wiese noted that internet service is poor at the Fire Hall, Gruendemann will follow up on alternatives with MN Valley Telephone. Wiese noted that K. Trotter has finished EMT classes and the ambulance department is working to complete the bylaw amendments. K. Kokesch reported that the county is allowing the city to paint the intersections on main street, the council advised him to paint 20' in hopes to improve visibility at intersections; Sherman spoke to the DayCare Center about parking issues; the city pick up needs new tires; K. Kokesch met with KLM about the water tower project; the county has no planned improvements for Co. Rd. 5 within the next ten years; noted there have been mixed reviews about mosquito spraying, the council consensus is that most like it; the Monsanto bench was delivered and will be mounted at the Veteran's park by the memorials; wastewater pumps are out, Kokesch is looking at alternative means for treatment that may require a heated building to store chemicals. Pederson reported the city's ISO ranking has improved; received approval to attend LMC workshop in Hutchinson and regional meeting in New Ulm; council approved writing off uncollectable ambulance claim; K. Kokesch will attend a buffer law meeting regarding the city's farm land; MRWA ServLine insurance meeting was interesting, Pederson will research if other cities are participating; the workers' compensation premium renewal was received. **Gruendemann moved to approve the LMCIT workers' compensation renewal with the regular premium option, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The personnel policy discussion was tabled.

The city attorney sent a purchase agreement to Novel Energy for review, there has been no response from Novel Energy.

An estimate of \$44,808.50 was received from Sport Court for the tennis court restoration. The council would like to start a park fund for tennis court repairs and hope to solicit additional funding for repairs.

LP contracting was discussed. Scharfencamp feels competition is good and we are supporting two neighboring towns by keeping both providers. **Gruendemann motioned to contract LP the same as was done last year, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Pederson presented a draft letter for nonsufficient funds, a fee of \$30 will be implemented in January and those with NSF fines will be removed from automatic payment for a period of one year.

R. Kokesch motioned to approve the Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest Policy (as required by USDA), second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

The proposed 2018 fee schedule was reviewed. Water and sewer rates will be adjusted per the three-year plan; Community Center rental rates currently below \$100 will be increased \$5 to cover cleaning costs. Discussed salaries at length. The assistant ambulance chief salary will be increased to \$400 per year. The administrative councilors, Sherman and Gruendemann, will work on the personnel policy revisions. Gruendemann motioned to approve a 3% increase for full-time salaries, second by Scharfencamp. R. Kokesch presented salary survey information from LMC noting Franklin's salaries are below average for cities with populations of 0-500 and feels the increase should be greater to get the salaries in line and noted most cities have more than one person doing their jobs. Gruendemann's motion failed for lack of a second. R. Kokesch motioned for a preliminary increase of 5%, then rescinded her motion. **Sherman moved to approve a 4.5% increase for full-time employees, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Pederson will put together a preliminary 2018 budget and have the auditor review it and the proposed levy before the September meeting.

There were no Councilor requests.

At 10:18 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 September 11, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer