

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC HEARINGS AND REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, September 10, 2018**

Two Public Hearings and the Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council were held on Monday, September 10, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin Community Center. Council members present were: Gruendemann, R. Kokesch, Scharfencamp and Sherman. Staff Department Head present was: W. Pederson. Guests present were: B. Pederson, B. Fox, M. Sandmann, J. Harmoning and S. Nissen.

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor Sherman called the meeting to order with roll call showing Heibel absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Sherman called for approval of the August 13, 2018 minutes with R. Kokesch motioning to approve the minutes as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.

Mayor Sherman presented the consent agenda items. Bills were presented for approval in the amount of \$46,638.85; cash receipts for August were \$174,293.48. There are three past-due utility accounts approved for disconnection. Zoning permits were issued to: R. Hall to install a 12' x 16' pre-built shed and a 9' x 4' wood fence at 490 2nd St. S. **Gruendemann motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Sherman opened the public hearing on the proposed vacation of alleyways and called for questions or comments. Fox is looking for clarification regarding set-backs and if what has been in place will remain in place; it was not known if the tarred driveway is located in the center of the alley or not. The council stated that what is existing will remain in place; the city will just require utility easements; and that the alleys will be split evenly between property owners. Sandmann commented that he was told the alleys by his property had been vacated years ago. **Scharfencamp motioned to proceed with the formal vacation of the four alleyways as presented and to include grandfathering in what is existing; second by Gruendemann, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No. Scharfencamp motioned to close the public hearing on the vacation of the alleyways, second by Gruendemann, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Sherman opened the public hearing on the proposed tax abatement for Franklin Industries and called for questions or comments. B. Pederson spoke for Franklin Industries noting the corporation was set up as a for-profit in order to expedite the construction of the daycare center, but is really operating as a non-profit. Heibel told Pederson she was in favor of the abatement and intended to video-conference in for the meeting but was unable to due to her location. The daycare center employs 10-11 people and the community center is utilized regularly and both are assets to the community, Sherman concurred. Nissen added that he has found how important the daycare is for hiring people. Scharfencamp noted the cost of the abatement; that he doesn't like taxes; that the school is asking for a referendum; and that the school's portion of the taxes are paid by more than Franklin people. Harmoning noted that these are part of the services provided to citizens and services need to be paid for. R. Kokesch questioned the abatement process, how long the abatement would be, and the costs, Pederson provided clarification that it would be for 13 years and would be the full amount of the city taxes, \$11,243 per year; R. Kokesch suggested pushing it back a year. Franklin Industries could proceed with becoming a non-profit but were hoping not to have to go through the time and expense of having to do so. **Sherman motioned to approve the tax abatement as requested by Franklin Industries, second by Gruendemann, RCV-2 Yes-Sherman and Gruendemann; 2 No-R. Kokesch and Scharfencamp; motion failed. Scharfencamp motioned to close the public hearing on the tax abatement, second by Gruendemann, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

No citizens were present to be addressed.

W. Pederson reported for all department heads. McCorquodale requested cameras be installed at the fire hall as ambulance items have been missing; Sherman will look into cameras for the fire hall; training is being contracted with Ridgewater; there has been no contact from North Ambulance regarding mutual aid. The Fire Dept. requested listing the 1982 truck as surplus property; this was already listed and put out for bids in 2001 but was not sold as the highest bid was \$1750 so the truck was kept as a back-up; it was decided to advertise and put the truck up for bids again to be opened at the October meeting noting the rural already approved this and the proceeds will be split 80/20 accordingly. K. Kokesch received Lp prices from four area distributors; it was noted that Farmward was the lowest cost and was willing to change out the tank for free and that Farmward has contributed to the community. **R. Kokesch motioned to switch the fire hall/shop tank to Farmward Cooperative, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** Pederson reported on the disaster training; gave an update on the MAOSC visits in Washington DC; will be notifying citizens of the changes to the newsletter and utility billings beginning in January; council to review Pregnancy and Infant Loss proclamation request.

The 2019 Fee Schedule was reviewed and it was noted that there were no adjustments to the other water base rates. **It was motioned by R. Kokesch, second by Gruendemann to increase the other water base rates by \$1 per month.**

The SWWC COGA insurance pool renewal was discussed and alternate plans were researched noting the city received minimum increase for groups of 2-10. Sherman motioned to accept the 2019 proposal of SWWC, motion failed for lack of a second. Switching to a higher deductible insurance plan would provide a net savings of \$3756 with a minor pharmacy change. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the alternate higher deductible plan, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

The proposed 2019 budget and levy were discussed, noting that no money was added for fire department radios; no one from the fire department indicated how many radios were needed and at what cost; \$3000 will be added to the budget. With the changes approved, the proposed levy will be \$171,760. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the 2019 Preliminary Budget and Resolution 2018-6, the Proposed 2019 Levy of \$171,760, an increase of 2.527% over 2018.**

Councilor requests: Scharfencamp received approval to extend his temporary dwelling for another month of home construction.

At 8:45 p.m., Mayor Sherman called for a motion to adjourn, with Scharfencamp motioning for adjournment, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting will be October 8, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer