

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, October 12, 2020**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, October 12, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin Community Center to allow for social distancing. Council members present were: Deming, Gruendemann, R. Kokesch, Scharfencamp and Sherman. Staff Department Heads present were: K. Kokesch, Pederson, and K. Peterson. Guests present were: R. Degner, J. Rebstock, J. Hansen, N. Shultz.

At 7:00 p.m., Acting Mayor Sherman called the meeting to order. Roll called showed four council present with Scharfencamp arriving late. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Mayor Sherman called for approval of the minutes of September 14, 2020, October 1, 5, and 9, 2020; R. Kokesch motioned to approve the minutes as presented, second by Gruendemann, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Sherman called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$48,014.04, cash receipts for September were \$48,217.26; there are 4 past due utility accounts; no new zoning permits were issued. **Gruendemann motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Deming, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Noncompliant notices had been sent to three property owners inviting them to be heard by the council. J. Rebstock (171 1<sup>st</sup> St. N.) explained his confusion of commercial vs. residential property, regarding junk and nuisances it doesn't matter if you are commercial or residential; he was told he had made some progress on cleaning up but needed to do more to organize it so it doesn't look like a junk yard. **R. Kokesch motioned to address Rebstock's property at the November meeting, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** R. Degner (380 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E.) explained that his business is 90% restoration and he needs to buy over 500 brick when he buys for a project and may only use part of them so he needs to store them for future use, pallets are returned when he has a trailer full; he was told he has made some progress but needs to organize the loose items and get rid of the weeds; Degner and Deputy Peterson will meet at the property to address what needs correcting. There were no verbal or written responses from the notices sent to the owners of 440 4<sup>th</sup> St. S., despite attempts via MN Valley Telephone. **Scharfencamp motioned proceed with the abatement process and send the Order to Correct to Remove a Nuisance or Hazardous Condition, second by Deming, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

No citizens requested to be addressed.

**R. Kokesch motioned to approve Resolution 2020-9, Declaring Parcel 32-00665-00 as Surplus Property, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** The property was advertised in the city newsletter, the city's website, and will also be posted and published in the newspaper. Resolution 2020-10, Allocating CARES Act Funds was presented for approval. Gruendemann recommended that all fire and ambulance people receive hazard pay. R. Kokesch felt they should be compensated for their hours worked at the same rate and time frame as the full-time employees were compensated. It was decided that only those that actually worked will receive compensation provided department heads submit their department hours by October 30<sup>th</sup>. Two businesses will be receiving grant money from Renville County and the city plans to also give grant money (proposed \$1000 each) to them once formally approved. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve Resolution 2020-10, Allocating CARES Act Funds and to pay hazard pay to the fire and ambulance personnel for worked hours as discussed, second by Gruendemann, RCV-4 Yes, Scharfencamp abstained.**

Department Heads reported. McCorquodale had a family emergency and nothing to report. The Fire Dept. was not present. K. Kokesch reported that the BobCat has been working well and is due to have the fluids changed, etc., and questioned how to proceed. The council directed him to have UFC pick it up and bring it to Lafayette to be worked on. The tennis courts are in really bad shape, there is a large, dangerous sink hole, and the basketball court is getting bad, so they have been locked up and will be dealt with in the spring. **The fence on the north side of the tennis court park is in disrepair; Scharfencamp motioned to remove this fence, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** The fence around the softball park needs repair, it was suggested that a group of volunteers work to get it back in shape; Gruendemann will arrange this. There were trees causing concerns with the school busses and some shrubs on 1<sup>st</sup> St. and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. that reduced visibility, all property owners took care of the issues. The trees at the boatlanding need to be thinned, K. Kokesch will mark them and people can arrange with him to take them down for fire wood provided they clean up and remove the stumps and debris. Pederson reported that the Fire Relief Association may not receive their state fire aid due to late reporting, Harmoning stated they are working with their accountant to get this remedied. Ed Nelson Inc. has resigned from cleaning the community center as of November 30<sup>th</sup>; the city will advertise for a new cleaner.

The council considered other options for CRF dollars; Pederson will provide a new expense report for the remaining CARES fund dollars at the November meeting.

The city attorney reviewed the proposed DNR agreement and his suggested edits were incorporated. K. Kokesch questioned the city's requirement to maintain the facilities, to which the council amended the definition of facilities to exclude "and Public Area." **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the Public Water Access Cooperative Agreement as amended, second by Sherman, RCV-3 Yes, 2 No, Gruendemann and Scharfencamp.**

The city's personnel policy has been reviewed but needs further revisions and should be completed prior to hiring the new clerk. It was decided that a special meeting will be necessary. **R. Kokesch motioned to hold a special meeting to work on the personnel policy and finalize an offer for the clerk/treasurer position; second by Deming, RCV-3 Yes, 2 abstained, Gruendemann and Scharfencamp.**

Pederson drafted a new clerk/treasurer job description clarifying the job duties. Gruendemann suggested that becoming a notary be included as a job requirement. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the Clerk/Treasurer Job Description including becoming a notary, second by Deming, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The technology upgrades are in progress: Kindle Fire Tablets have been distributed to the council; the public access is updated. It was determined that only laptops in the same network can be on the Asyst system so Pederson will need to purchase a program for remote access at the cost of about \$200/year. **Gruendemann motioned to approve the remote access, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

MN Rural Water met with city staff and the recommendation is to upgrade the current software and radio to be able to continue to read the current meters; the cost to upgrade are: software installation \$1050; training estimate of up to \$2800 (max); mobile App \$1125 (one-time purchase) and Mobile Radio \$2095, for a total of \$7070. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the meter reading upgrade, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Ehler's opinion on the potential refinance is to keep the loan payments the same but to shorten the length of the loan by 7 years, thereby producing a cost savings of nearly \$1,000,000. **R. Kokesch motioned to proceed with the Ehler's refinancing of the existing debt, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

**R. Kokesch motioned to hold a special meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 7 PM to canvass the election and approve final CARES/COVID funding, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

There were no Councilor requests.

**At 9:20 p.m., Scharfencamp motioned for adjournment, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** The next regular meeting will be November 9, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer