

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, November 13, 2018**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin City Hall. Council members present were: C. Gruendemann, M. Heibel, R. Kokesch, C. Scharfencamp, and T. Sherman. Staff Department Heads present were: K. Kokesch, Pederson, and Menk. Guests present were: D. Turbes, D. Lund, and B. Pederson.

At 7:00 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 October 8, 2018 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting, motion for approval by R. Kokesch, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Consent agenda items were presented. Bills were presented in the amount of \$26,621.61, cash receipts for October were \$38,135.10. There were three past due utility bills approved for disconnection; one had nonsufficient funds; Sherman questioned the Cold Weather Rule and it was noted that the resident must have hot water heat to avoid disconnection. No new zoning permits were issued. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Citizens were addressed. D. Menk planted a memorial tree near the water tower and was not certain where the property line is; the city's concern is the tree possibly impeding the water tower project and that it may be damaged. The council consensus is to leave the tree there for now and if it needs to be moved it will be at Menk's expense.

Darv Turbes and Doug Lund of United Farmer's Cooperative/United Natural Gas presented information on their current natural gas systems in Brownnton, Courtland, and Lafayette and potentially to the Lower Sioux. Ideally, they could loop the system and include Franklin provided there would be enough customers for it to be cost effective. The current cost for connection is an initial \$100 fee, plus \$8.50/month, plus usage for residences, plus the cost to convert the furnace. They explained that they are regulated by the Public Utilities Commission; there are three service technicians on call 24 hours/day; the local board sets the rates and the city would have a board member if they belong to the franchise. **R. Kokesch motioned to move forward with the feasibility study with UFC/UNG; second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The draft amendments to Ordinance 71.08 Prohibiting Parking in Residential Zones was tabled for further council review.

Department Heads reported. Menk: hose testing has been postponed until next year. Gruendemann stated that the leak detection in the fire hall is more difficult than anticipated, it will be looked at in the spring; Fire Hall cameras have not been purchased; Gruendemann is to get two trail cameras and both the Fire and Ambulance Departments will be responsible for maintenance of the cameras. K. Kokesch: sump pumps discharging into the street are already causing ice issues; the council questioned what other cities do, some allow discharging into the sanitary system during winter months; K. Kokesch is to research this and perhaps the city's ordinance will need to be changed. **Scharfencamp motioned to allow sump pumps to discharge into the sanitary sewer from November 15-April 15th; second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** There are a lot of yards with leaves on them, he has dumped 70 sweeper loads so far; the organizations are raising funds for new Christmas lights and the estimated cost to put new wiring on the non-distribution light poles is \$350/pole for a total cost of \$2100. **Scharfencamp motioned to move forward with securing funding for the Christmas lights; second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** The water tower storage building has a broken window, plywood will be installed for now and options for window replacement will be researched. MRWA will be holding a conference in the community center in 2019. The ceiling fans in the community center need to be rewired, one fan has been removed; Klabunde is to do the repairs. The water department received a fluoridation award from the Dept. of Health. Pederson: a refund of \$11,715.64 was received from the SWWC health insurance pool; the December newsletter will be the last bulk mail newsletter and some information will double-up in the January newsletter; MAOSC meeting in Payneville on Nov. 15th; Franklin was chosen for an election audit again, Pederson recommended the council consider elections by mail as a cost savings; the solar agreement has been completed, Pederson will be taking training for this system on Friday.

New Business included canvassing of the 2018 election with the following results: Mayor, Todd Sherman; City Council, Curt Scharfencamp and Halley Morlock. **Gruendemann motioned to approve the 2018 election canvass, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Per the Wellhead Protection Plan, the city has received permission to cap the well on the Menk farmsite that is located within the DWMSA as well as to apply for funding for static monitors for the SCADA system. **Scharfencamp motioned to apply for the Source Water Protection Grant, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Councilor Requests: discussed the need to have some of the city property surveyed; a list of properties in question will be compiled. **Mayor Sherman motioned to have Bolton and Menk survey the water property; second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Gruendemann recommended removal of the "No U Turn" sign before snow removal. The uneven lip of the sidewalk of the community center is to be ground down.

At 8:45 p.m., Mayor Sherman called for adjournment, with Gruendemann motioning for adjournment, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting and Truth in Taxation Public Hearing will be Monday, December 10, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer