

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, November 9, 2020**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, November 9, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin Community Center to allow for social distancing. Council members present were: Deming, Gruendemann, Scharfencamp and Sherman. Staff Department Heads present were: K. Kokesch, Pederson, and Wiese. Guests present were: Trista Radermacher, Shelly Eldridge, Bill Helget, Tim Sullivan, Joel Harmoning.

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor Sherman called the meeting to order. Roll called showed four council present with R. Kokesch absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Sherman called for approval of the minutes of October 12 and 19, 2020. Sherman motioned to approve the minutes as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.

Mayor Sherman called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$32,200.46, cash receipts for October were \$101,087.37; there are 11 past due utility accounts; no new zoning permits were issued. **Gruendemann motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Noncompliant properties were discussed. The council felt 171 First St. has made some progress; 380 2nd Ave. was to have met with K. Peterson; these properties will be reviewed with K. Peterson on their progress. A Summary Enforcement was certified and received by the owners of 440 4th St., to date there has been no progress or communication from the owners. **Deming motioned to proceed with the Summary Enforcement to District Court, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

No citizens requested to be addressed.

Shelly Eldridge, with Ehlers, presented information on refinancing the USDA loan by selling a bond on the open market, potentially shortening the term of the loan and estimated cost savings of \$535,000 with a call date of 2030. Eldridge questioned the council as to what their minimum threshold of savings allowable would be to pursue the bond sale. Following discussion and options for the sale, the council felt the lowest target for savings is \$500,000. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve Resolution 2020-10 (corrected to 2020-12) second by Gruendemann, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Bill Helget with Bolton & Menk reported the final pay estimate on the water tower project is \$43,566.25 (total project cost of \$218,200) but Osseo is waiting on forms to complete the project documents. Helget also presented the Local Road Improvement grant program which requires no city match, but engineering fees are not an eligible expense. The maximum grant amount is \$750,000. The proposed roads to be improved are Third St. S. and two blocks of Fourth Ave. E. The council directed Helget to submit the preliminary application.

R/S Fiber requested the city allow them to install a whip on the water tower. The council questioned the electrical costs and how the electricity would be metered. K. Kokesch questioned their access and how water tower maintenance would be affected. These questions will be directed to R/S Fiber and their request will be revisited in December.

The sixth street vacation request was discussed, noting that once a street is vacated it is permanent. K. Hoffmann-Distad owns the land abutting the street and requested the council move forward with vacating it. The council felt it would be ok to proceed with the public hearing notices but will wait to do the actual vacation until the project is ready to break ground. Other potential vacations were discussed. The alley west of D. Menk's was suggested, but felt Menk should complete the legal documentation, abstract updating and recording fees allowing the city easement and his use of the city's land; Menk will be sent a reminder to complete this by the end of the year. Also questioned was MN Valley Telephone Co. using city land by the Fire Hall, they will be sent a reminder to correct the legal as well. K. Kokesch requested the city vacate a city owned parcel in the valley that was used to access to the old bridge; Pederson obtained a copy of the deed and it is a .5 acre parcel of land, not a street or alley, so will need to research land sale options. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve Resolution 2020-11, Proposal to Vacate a Street and Alley, second by Deming, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

T. Sullivan reported that the Franklin Fire Relief Association will be getting their state aid. Due to their assets exceeding \$500,000 their reporting dates and requirements changed. The departments benefit levels are \$1600 in 2020 and \$1700 in 2021, with the maximum allowable benefit level of \$2800.

Department Heads reported. Wiese reported that the Fire Dept. did not receive the FEMA grant for turn-out gear; the department is in need of this equipment and will have to start purchasing it and budgeting for 3-5 sets each year. K. Kokesch will be on vacation the remainder of the week; sweeping streets has gone well with over 51 loads accumulated. The static level reporting equipment has been installed and will be paid for with the Wellhead Protection grant funds. Pederson submitted the revised DNR Cooperative Agreement but has not had any response from the DNR.

The council discussed options for CRF dollars; turn-out gear is not COVID protective equipment, suggested purchasing more soap dispensers. Final CRF decisions will be made at the Special Meeting on Nov. 12th.

The city's personnel policy was completed and sent to the council for review. Those that worked on it were thanked for their efforts. **Gruendemann motioned to approve the Personnel Policy, second by Scharfencamp, RCV 4 Yes, 0 No.** Also discussed was implementing a Drug Testing Policy; Pederson researched other city's policies, some have them and most do not; this was tabled until Nov. 12th.

No bids were received for the Community Center cleaning. The ad will be placed on area public access channels and professional cleaning services will be contacted.

Trista Radermacher was offered the Clerk/Treasurer position, pending the background check, and has accepted the offer. **Mayor Sherman motioned to appoint T. Radermacher as City Clerk/Treasurer, second by Deming; discussion included request to close the meeting to discuss the background check, Sherman felt there were no issues from the background check; RCV-3 Yes, Scharfencamp abstained.**

Councilor requests included Gruendemann questioning his need to pay a deposit for the EMR class since Jackpot is paying for half of his \$495 class fees; Sherman motioned to waive Gruendemann's \$100 fee, second by Deming, RCV- 3 Yes, Gruendemann abstained.

At 9:55 p.m., Scharfencamp motioned for adjournment, second by Gruendemann, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No. The next meeting will be November 12, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center and the next regular meeting will be December 14, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer