

**MINUTES OF THE  
TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, December 10, 2019**

A Truth in Taxation Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council were held on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Council members present were: Deming, Gruendemann, R. Kokesch, Scharfencamp, and Sherman. Staff Department Heads present were: K. Kokesch, Pederson, McCorquodale, Menk, and Wiese. Guest present was Bill McCorquodale.

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor Sherman called the meeting to order with roll call showing all council present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. **Mayor Sherman called for approval of the minutes of November 12, 2019; R. Kokesch motioned to approve the minutes as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Sherman called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$149,885.24 and cash receipts for November were \$111,307.97. Because the Renville-Sibley Cooperative electric bill is due by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of each month and is not received in time for council approval, Pederson requested council approve for automatic payment of their invoices. **Deming motioned to authorize automatic payment of the Renville-Sibley Coop. electric bills, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** There are 3 past due utility accounts, 2 approved for disconnection, 1 cold weather rule. There were no new zoning permits; Dan Menk will be deeded 15' on the west side of the city's parcel 32-00806-00 with city retaining a permanent easement, there will be no permanent construction allowed on this piece of land; Menk to pay for all costs for easement, recording, and abstract updates; an easement had been granted in 1984 to MN Valley Telephone for their tower, but appears that it had never been recorded, Pederson will research this. **Gruendemann motioned to approve the consent agenda items, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

At 7:10 p.m. Mayor Sherman opened the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing; McCorquodale's questioned their tax increase and noted their market value increase, they were referred to the city assessor and Board of Review, and the county and school district and it was noted that the city's tax levy increased 2%. McCorquodale's also requested the city install a fire hydrant near their house. As there were no other comments received, Mayor Sherman closed the public hearing.

No citizens were present.

**R. Kokesch motioned to adopt the Amendments to Ordinance 30.11, Charges for Services and Fees, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The 2020 Budget and Levy were presented for approval. The 2020 Budget was presented as follows: General Fund income of \$113,741, expenses of \$432,089; Water Fund income of \$140,450 and expenses of \$156,200; Sewer Fund income of \$167,420, expenses of \$174,800; LGA of \$166,281; for a net 2020 Levy of \$175,197, an increase of 2.002% over 2019. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the 2020 Budget and Levy and Resolution 2019-9 Notice of Property Taxes, second by Gruendemann, RCV-4 Yes, 1 No, Scharfencamp. Gruendemann motioned to approve the 2020 Summary Budget for Publication, second by Deming, RCV-5 Yes, 1 No.**

**Scharfencamp motioned to approve Resolution 2019-10, Approval of Election Judges for the 2020 Elections, second by Deming, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Department Heads were addressed. Pederson reported that there is an HRA/EDA Meeting in Fairfax on January 14<sup>th</sup>, they have a number of programs including a rental rehab. program; Omega Rail invoiced the city for the utility crossings, this will not be paid as they had been notified that the city would not pay any more per state statute; Mediacom is increasing their rates; CentraCare completed the contract for ALS coverage; the Community Facilities grant application is complete and was submitted to USDA; the Christmas decorations are up and working, the net cost to the city is \$107. McCorquodale reported that Hailiy Okins works for North Ambulance out of Marshall, Okins listed a Marshall address on her employment forms and stated that she would not be able to attend ambulance meetings due to work conflicts. **Sherman motioned for the city to not extend an offer of employment to her at this time, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. The ambulance department requested that the EMT agreement be amended to have the applicant agree to refund their training costs to the city if they do not fulfill a year of service to the ambulance department, which was motioned for approval by Gruendemann, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Pederson presented the Ambulance and Fire Department Annual Payroll, gross amount of \$12,137.16; the extra hours of Menk and Wiese were questioned, with them stating they put in a lot of extra time with the FEMA grant, doors, setting up training, etc. and it shouldn't occur again. Some of the council felt that these duties are included in the chief's salaries and it was noted that any extra time needs to be documented. **Sherman motioned to approve the 2019 Ambulance and Fire Wages as presented, second by Deming, RCV-3 Yes, 1 No, R. Kokesch, 1 abstained, Gruendemann.** Wiese and Menk reported that the in-house FFI training was to have begun but did not because they needed a minimum of 11 people to hold the class and they only had 6, other departments were contacted but no one replied; Wiese will research online training and other options. K. Kokesch reported on the water treatment plant computer situation, there are two computers that automate the system and they are six years old, one of the computers malfunctioned and was able to be repaired for now; an estimate was received to upgrade and replace the computer systems for about \$32,000; options will be researched. Osseo Constr. left the baskets, etc. on the water tower and the engineer wants them down, the council felt that if they aren't causing any damage or safety concerns to just leave them there in hope that this will help to complete everything in early spring.

In unfinished business, the water tower project could have had liquidated damages, but it would likely have resulted in poor workmanship just to finish on time; there is just a small amount of painting left. It was also noted that unexpectedly, some of the original welds that were done poorly were repaired and the overall the quality of the work has been good.

The Renville County Commissioners set the price of the tax forfeited parcel 32-00665-00 at \$100 so it will cost the city a total of \$175.65 to obtain and record the deed and have clear title to the property. **R. Kokesch motioned to purchase parcel 32-00665-00 for \$175.65, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Pederson presented an estimate from USTI to remotely back up her computer, this will be taken into consideration.

A tentative 2020 Meeting Schedule was presented and discussed, the December meeting date typically conflicts with the CMES Christmas program; it was decided to keep all of the meetings on the second Mondays and the December meeting could be adjusted if needed. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the 2020 City Council Meeting Schedule, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Counselor requests included: R. Kokesch questioned using time clocks or Google Doc's for Fire and Ambulance; also suggested providing a health savings account or something comparable for the full-time employees and that the sick time needs addressed; the personnel policy needs updating.

**At 8:50 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 January 13, 2020, at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer