

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, February 11, 2019**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Council members present were: Deming, R. Kokesch, Scharfencamp, and Sherman. Staff Department Heads present were: K. Kokesch, and Pederson. Guests present were: Jason Mathwig, Frank Wortham, Nicholas Johnson, and Myron Gehrke.

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor Sherman called the meeting to order. Roll called showed Gruendemann absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Sherman called for approval of the minutes of January 14, 2019. R. Kokesch 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 \$197,819.85, cash receipts for January were \$45,234.77; there are 3 past due utility accounts; there were no new zoning permits. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

No citizens present requested to be addressed. The council discussed a request from Missy Forsyth to install a street light on the 400 block of Second Ave. E. by the ballpark; previously if additional lights were requested, the requestor paid all costs. It was noted that standard practice is for street lights to be located on the corners. If additional lighting mid-block would be approved, everyone would be wanting more lights. The council discussed possibly adding lighting to the ballpark either by the statues or the shelter which may brighten up that block. **R. Kokesch motioned to stay with city policy and no new street light will be installed by the city, second by Deming, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** R. Kokesch received a request to research options for slowing traffic on Hwy. 19; MNDOT was contacted and a speed study could be done, but that could result in raising the speed. MNDOT will be installing "Reduced Speed Ahead" signs this spring which may help and the sheriff's office will help monitor speeds there.

Nicholas Johnson, Fairfax City Administrator, reported that he has been working with UFC and the city engineer on the feasibility of bringing natural gas to Franklin via Fairfax. Johnson noted this would be an all-inclusive project, all lines, hookups, etc. would be included. If the Fairfax City Council approves it, they will move forward with finding out if it will be affordable.

Resolution 2019-1, Official Designations and Annual Appointments was amended to add Wellhead Protection positions. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the amended Resolution 2019-1, Official Designations and Annual Appointments, second by Deming, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Department Heads reported. Chief Deputy J. Mathwig: they have been working with the kids at the school, monitoring predatory offender requirements, knocking on doors during snow emergencies, plan to do snowmobile training, have an ATV and soon will have a boat to assist with rescues. Mathwig introduced Deputy Frank Wortham who will be the main deputy for Franklin and Morton. K. Kokesch: snow hauling with McGowan has been going well; vehicles impeding snow removal have been ticketed. It was noted that keeping fire hydrants clear is challenging and that landscaping, etc., could be damaged by the pay loader so people will be asked to clear the fire hydrants on their properties. Kibble will honor the August 2018 bid for a new mower. MPCA still hasn't issued a wastewater permit which was applied for in July 2016. Discussed what to do with the old Christmas decorations and the old snow truck; it was felt the truck would not be used enough to warrant the needed repairs and it is using valuable space. **Deming motioned to declare the snow truck and Christmas decorations as surplus property and to put them up for sale for 3 months, second by Sherman; in discussion it was felt 3 months was too long; Deming amended his motion to accept sealed bids for the surplus items until the April meeting; Sherman seconded, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** Pederson: GoDaddy stated that the city's website is not secure and should be secure for e-commerce, cost is \$317.74 for 2 years, council felt it was worth doing; D. Robertson's mailed packet was not received so she was unaware of invitation to come to the last meeting, Christmas Decorations are in and extra bulbs were ordered; audit will be March 5-6; will attend census meeting at Renville County; Expert T raised billing rates from \$27 to \$28 per run; will testify at a transportation hearing in March; received vacation approval. In researching fire billings, only Bird Island responded and they do not bill because insurance does not pay for rescue response; medical and auto insurance pay for ambulance response, home owner's insurance pays for fire response; we will research how the rural gets paid.

Pederson contacted the county auditor regarding amendments to Ordinance 35.02 and found that a parcel cannot be split, so it is either rural or not. The Radermacher parcels in question were discussed, it was noted that they have had city water for many years and hooked up to the sewer over 9 years ago. Also of question is the 7 to 1 ratio and if that is still valid today. Pederson will research what area cities ratios are and then a draft ordinance will be presented in March.

New business included the issues with the Community Center floor scratching. SwedeBro stated that they should not have sold us the current flooring as it does not work with the chairs we have. They recommended a Full Flake/Chip System and are willing to install it for the cost of materials which is an additional \$3500. The Lions Club has committed \$1000 toward the new floor if approved. **R. Kokesch motioned to proceed with the Full Flake/Chip system; second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Councilor requests included: R. Kokesch questioned what the city will do with blighted buildings especially in the downtown area; it was noted that there is really only one abandoned building on Main Street which should be up for forfeiture soon and there is someone interested in it.

At 8:48 p.m., Mayor Sherman called for adjournment, with Scharfencamp motioning for adjournment, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No. The Franklin Ambulance Association and Rural Fire Association meetings were postponed until February 12, 2019; the next regular meeting will be March 11, 2019, at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer