

**MINUTES OF THE  
EMERGENCY FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Thursday, March 19, 2020**

An Emergency Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference. Council members present for roll call were: Deming, Gruendemann, R. Kokesch, Scharfencamp and Sherman. Staff Department Heads present were: Kokesch, Pederson, McCorquodale, Menk and Wiese.

On March 16, 2020, council persons R. Kokesch and Scharfencamp called for a special city council meeting to address the COVID-19 pandemic, scheduled for March 19, 2020. On March 18, 2020, Mayor Sherman declared a health emergency due to the pandemic and called for the special meeting to be declared an emergency meeting to be held via teleconference for the purpose of social distancing and to keep everyone from risk.

At 6:00 p.m., Mayor Sherman called the meeting to order.

McCorquodale stated that precautions are in place for the ambulance; dispatch has new regulations and screening plus they will do their own screening to be prepared for transfers. Both EMT's and patients will wear masks. There is a shortage of safety goggles and gowns; Pederson will notify area agency of this shortage. NREMT has extended EMT licensure renewals due March 31<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, she is hoping the EMSRB will follow suit because we have EMT's that need training and are unable to get training completed due to the pandemic.

Wiese and Menk questioned if the Fire Department could still hold meetings. Pederson explained that they are deemed essential and should still meet but they are to make safety a priority and use social distancing when at all possible.

Deming had someone willing to donate funds for hand sanitizer or other needs; the ambulance has already expended money for necessary supplies, so he will suggest they donate funds to the ambulance department.

Pederson was asked if the city will consider not shutting water off for unpaid utilities with people being unemployed due to the pandemic. The council consensus is that the city will conduct business as usual and since no one will be shut off before the next council meeting, the nonpayers will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, payment plans may be implemented; this will be addressed at the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Pederson presented Resolution 2020-04, Declaring a Local Emergency, to extend Mayor Sherman's emergency declaration throughout the pandemic. **Mayor Sherman motioned to pass Resolution 2020-04, Declaring a Local Emergency, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** County Assessor, Doug Bruns questioned holding the Board of Review at the City Hall on April 7, 2020, noting the door could remain locked and people with questions could phone in or be screened prior to the meeting, the council felt the meeting should remain in Franklin with the Assessor present as indicated. For now the city has put a "soft close" in place, but as time goes on may lock the door and screen people before allowing them in. R. Kokesch suggested following the Renville County lead and if needed we can adjust, safety is the number one concern. Finally, Pederson noted that if she should become ill for an extended period of time, she could try to do essential jobs like payroll and utility billings from home, or could try to walk someone through the process.

K. Kokesch commended the council for their forward thinking to address this issue before it becomes critical; he is following social distancing and questioned wearing a mask and gloves if this progresses; he was directed to get or use whatever personal protective equipment he needs. K. Kokesch will not be entering any homes for repairs unless it is deemed an emergency and will not put him at risk. If K. Kokesch becomes ill for an extended period of time, he has been in contact with neighboring cities, Bolton and Menk, MN Rural Water, Tonja Miller and others, and feels someone will step in and help if need be; he and Pederson will extend help to other neighboring cities should they be in need as well. Something he asked the council to consider is if this continues into spring and summer, would the city open the park bathrooms? R. Kokesch felt they should remain closed until the state of emergency has cleared; Scharfencamp felt we could address this at future meetings as we will know more as time goes on.

The meeting concluded with acknowledging that we do not know what this pandemic will bring, but we will do everything we can to support each other and to keep everyone safe.

**At 6:50 p.m., Mayor Sherman called for adjournment, with Scharfencamp motioning for adjournment, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Respectfully submitted by  
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer