

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

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Council members present were: Deming, Gruendemann, R. Kokesch, and Scharfencamp. Staff Department Heads present were: K. Kokesch, McCorquodale, Pederson, and Deputy Peterson. Guest present: M. Gehrke.

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

Acting Mayor R. Kokesch called for approval of the minutes of February 3, 2020 and February 10, 2020. Gruendemann motioned to approve the minutes as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.

Acting Mayor R. Kokesch called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$28,928.58, cash receipts for February were \$40,093.48 and a revised February cash report was presented; there are seven past due utility accounts approved for disconnection; Pederson presented a revised Utility Billing Policy which changes when bills will be sent, the council approved proceeding with this amendment to the ordinance; there were no new zoning permits. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Deming, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

No citizens present requested to be addressed. A letter was received from Tonak's and Scharfencamp's regarding the tax forfeited parcel and the storage building by the water tower; they would like something done with the tax forfeited parcel, and not leaving it sit empty; they will paint the storage building but questioned the status of the windows, Gruendemann will get prices for plexiglass replacements.

Department Heads reported. Deputy Peterson is the city's go-to deputy, replacing Wortham. Peterson highlighted the sheriff's office recent happenings, has addressed the STOP sign complaint and will be acting on recent barking dog complaints. **Gruendemann motioned to accept the resignation of William Bucholz from the ambulance department, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** McCorquodale presented EMSRB recommended options for the ambulance service; being short-staffed has caused the ambulance to be on the EMSRB radar and something needs to be done; discussed at length the nursing home calls that are not emergency calls and are burning out the ambulance staff; a meeting will be held with CentraCare and also with Franklin Rehabilitation to try to resolve issues and more recruitment of EMR's is needed. K. Kokesch received approval to attend MN Dept. of Health training in Redwood Falls; a meeting with the DNR and Sheriff's Office was scheduled for Wednesday at the boatlanding, but the water levels have risen so the meeting would be ineffective, the boatlanding repairs are on hold for now; Automatic Systems has the computer and are doing some final preparations before the installation; the BobCat is being assembled and may be ready as early as the end of the week; discussed MPCA compliance and there is no way to meet the percentage removal standards, MPCA has not renewed the wastewater permit yet; met with LMCIT regarding safety compliance; gravel needs to be ordered, costs will be obtained; Kokesch hit a tree stump that is encroaching on the alleyway with the payload, a notice will be sent to the property owner. Pederson attended the HRA/EDA County Housing Study Meeting, noting maintenance-free housing for seniors is needed to open up homes for families; Xcel was contacted to install the light for the school, neighbors were ok with it; the city will receive a \$202 LGA increase; the PNP Election turnout was low, just 22 voters, the election costs are to be submitted to the state for reimbursement, the state will not reimburse staff regular wages but will reimburse overtime wages, the council authorized Pederson to pay herself overtime for the election; an assessment cost estimate was presented for the proposed 2nd Ave. W. project, the average cost per household would be over \$11,000 and the city's cost would be around \$170,000, no action taken; the city audit was completed last week, \$202,729.39 remains in the capital projects fund, USDA has closed the loans with the city and the city is putting away the required short-term asset dollars, the capital project fund money should be disbursed to the water and sewer funds. **Scharfencamp motioned to close the capital projects fund as of 12/31/2019 and transfer 55% (\$111,501.16) to the wastewater fund and 45% (\$91,228.23) to the water fund; second by Deming, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** Pederson thanked the council and Kokesch for their assistance and understanding while she was away with her son's sudden illness and noted she plans to take some time off to help him get settled back into his apartment when he is discharged from the hospital. No one from the Fire Department was present to explain their request to purchase a gas vent system, estimated cost of \$3200 so it was tabled.

The city discussed the tax forfeited property. Deming has been in it and it is full of junk and will require a major clean up; the building has been broken into and the doors have again been secured. Per state statute, no council member can purchase the building. The council consensus is that they want it to be a taxable property, not a parking lot, no action taken.

A quote for maintenance of the furnaces and boiler at the community center was received from MJ Mechanical. It was questioned what the actual warranty period is and does there need to be a maintenance agreement for the warranty? **Deming motioned to approve the quote of \$600 from MJ Mechanical provided it is the annual maintenance cost, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Sacred Heart Church is likely to be demolished after June 30th unless there is another viable option for the building; the council would be interested in the lot.

Gruendemann motioned to approve the \$3000 budgeted contribution to the Cedar Mt. Summer Recreation program to be run by Sarah Sullivan and would be similar to the past years, second by Deming, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.

In new business, the city would like to have a citywide clean up with resident's paying for items that are charged a fee at the landfills; Clobes Sanitation suggested June 3, 2020. **McGowan Lawn and Snow submitted a bid of \$480.96 to clean up and dethatch the two parks, which was motioned for approval by Gruendemann, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No. K. Kokesch is to arrange to have the trees at the tennis court park trimmed, which was motioned for approval by Scharfencamp, second by Gruendemann, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

With last year's frost damage to the roads, the council discussed and decided to post weight restrictions of seven (7) tons on First Avenue and Third St. S. Signs will be posted.

The city received notice that Renville County will be holding public hearings on ditch redeterminations. Commissioner Fox explained that the redetermination will include benefitted properties that haven't been paying for ditch improvements which will reduce the city's ditch cost ratios.

There were no councilor requests.

At 8:58 p.m., Acting Mayor R. Kokesch called for adjournment, with Scharfencamp motioning for adjournment, second by Gruendemann, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No. The Board of Review will be on April 7, 2020, and the next regular meeting will be April 13, 2020, both at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer