

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, April 13, 2020**

A Virtual Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, April 13, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. due to the COVID-19 Pandemic; the meeting access information was listed on the agenda and posted on the city's website. Council members present were: Deming, Gruendemann, R. Kokesch, Scharfencamp and Sherman. Staff Department Heads present were: Kokesch, Pederson, and McCorquodale. There were no guests that presented themselves.

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

**Mayor Sherman called for approval of the minutes of March 9, 2020 and March 19, 2020; Gruendemann motioned to approve the minutes as presented, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Sherman called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$115,812.87, cash receipts for March were \$26,559.85; there are 8 past due utility accounts, discussed payment options, people will be given the option to set up payment plan that will be reviewed at the next meeting if need be; **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

No citizens were present. A letter was received from Paul and Elaine Woods. Woods stated their property taxes were too high; the city corrected their classification and removed their property and other nonagricultural properties out of the Rural Service District, so their taxes did increase; it was also noted that 2020 is the final year of their assessment for city sewer. The Woods also stated: there is no work in the area, old houses around, junk across the street, trucks running all hours, poor home resale, and that only old names get breaks/favors. The Woods had been notified about the change in classification and have the option to split their parcel between residential and rural (like Radermacher's did last year) which could offer them some cost savings.

Department Heads reported. McCorquodale: it has been a very busy month looking for personal protective equipment and preparing for the pandemic, some necessary supplies are arriving tomorrow; the ambulance computer is getting programed and should be up and running by the end of this month. K. Kokesch: social distancing has been working so far; the SCADA system desktop computer is installed and running, the panel view still needs to be installed, there should be no more shutdowns and data is being logged; the Bobcat Toolcat is to be delivered tomorrow; questioned the boatlanding being locked up, they haven't been able to meet with the DNR due to the high water levels, it will remain locked and no portable toilet will be installed through the state of emergency; McGowan's removed some dead and dying elm trees from the boatlanding park area; a letter was sent regarding the stumps that were hit by the payloader, the ownership is in question, it could be both property owners or maybe the city. **Sherman motioned for the city to get the alleyway stumps removed, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** K. Kokesch is to look into costs for a flammable storage cabinet and replacing the grate at the ponds, all of which may be eligible for an OSHA safety matching grant. Osseo Construction plans to finish the water tower once the weather cooperates, they will not be staying in town. Pederson: questioned licenses and permits, she has been signing and sending burn permits noting COVID-19 on the applicant signature line, pet licenses expire on April 30<sup>th</sup> and require paperwork and copying. Sherman motioned to waive licensing for one year, the motion failed for lack of a second. **Scharfencamp motioned to extend the pet license expiration date until June 30th and allow until July 31<sup>st</sup> to renew without penalty, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 1-No, Sherman.** Bolton and Menk suggested the council think about any projects that could be done with potential stimulus funding; Board of Appeal had two people call in, it was felt their market value increases were justified based on sales and the lack of houses available. Gruendemann explained the gas vent system needed for the fire hall, Pederson noted that a donation was received for this as well. The council noted that no one from the fire department has been present at a council meeting for three months and they are to have representation at the next meeting. **Gruendemann motioned to approve the purchase of the gas vent system with the invested fire funds, second by Deming, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about a number of changes. Pederson was directed to look into purchasing a "sneeze guard" for City Hall. The Webex meeting format worked for this meeting so the next meeting may follow the same format depending on the situation at that time.

The council received information from previous tax forfeiture sales done by the city. With the pandemic, no one will be touring or cleaning out the building. **R. Kokesch motioned table actions on parcel 32-00665-00 until post COVID-19; second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 no.**

SW Dust Treatment proposal for dust sealing is the same price as last year, \$.84/foot, for a total cost of \$2625. **Gruendemann motioned to approve the same dust sealing application as last year, second by Sherman, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

**R. Kokesch motioned to approve the liquor license applications for the Franklin Depot and Longbranch Saloon; second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

A complaint was received stating that "Franklin looks like a junk town", some agreed that things are looking bad. Typically letters are sent to noncompliant properties. Discussed what is considered noncompliant, unlicensed and inoperable vehicles, boats, etc. Deming will assist deputy with locating noncompliant properties and notices will sent. The council felt this needs to be followed up on better than it has been.

Councilor requests included: Sherman questioned if the money from FEMA has been received (it has not) and would like the park fund money reimbursed when it is received. R. Kokesch wanted to thank everyone for doing their part in social distancing and questioned if road restrictions have been removed (they have not.)

**At 8:25 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 May 11, 2020, at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer