

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, May 11, 2020**

A Virtual/Live Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, May 11, 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, McCorquodale, and Menk. Guest present was Sara Beavers, Oberloh & Oberloh, Ltd.

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 April 13, 2020; Gruendemann motioned to approve the minutes as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Sara Beavers, Oberloh & Oberloh, Ltd., presented the city's 2019 Financial Statements and Financial Analysis. Beaver's highlighted the year noting the spending in the general fund for the lease buy out of the community center and in the water fund for the water tower rehabilitation and new well, and the closing out of the capital projects fund. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the 2019 Financial Statements and Analysis, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Mayor Sherman called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$61,820.62, Pederson will hold the payment to Automatic Systems until the work is completed; cash receipts for April were \$93,721.52, including \$50,000 USDA grant for the Bobcat; there are 3 past due utility accounts, city staff attempted to contact previously disconnected customer, left a notice on the door, it appeared no one was living in the home so the water was shut off, there has been no contact from the property owner; there were no new zoning permits. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

No citizens were present. Letters were received from David Madsen, Franklin Depot and Mandi Hall, Longbranch Saloon, requesting the city consider pro-rating their on sale liquor license renewal fees for the months they have been shut down due to the pandemic. While being sympathetic to the bars being shut down, it was noted that there are other businesses that have been shut down and lost revenue and have expenses that aren't getting any "breaks." They discussed delaying their license fees and possibly pro-rating them for the months they had to be closed; this was tabled until June. Herb Nelson contacted the city stating the storm sewer on his block was damaged by the 2004 project causing drainage issues; K. Kokesch ran a snake through the tile last year and there is no patch on the street where the tile line would connect to the storm sewer on Third Ave. so the project couldn't have damaged it, it was noted that tiles wear out and that there had been water issues in this area prior to the 2004 project. Bolton and Menk will be contacted to get a cost estimate on draining this area. A request for "slow children" signs to be placed on 5<sup>th</sup> St. was received; the council had varying opinions on the effectiveness of signs but agreed that more enforcement is needed. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the sign request, second by Deming, RCV-4 Yes, 1-No, Gruendemann.**

Pederson proposed a resolution for holding elections by mail in 2020. Pederson was contacted by election judges stating they will not be judges if the pandemic is still in effect. Pederson noted that the approved judges are higher risk and some are unable to perform these duties due to underlying health issues; just one judge stated they wanted to work in the elections regardless, the rest felt elections by mail was the best alternative. Sherman motioned to hold the elections by mail just for this year, the motion failed for lack of a second. Scharfencamp and Deming opposed this, Scharfencamp offered to be an election judge, the council stated they would find additional judges for this year's elections to maintain voting in person.

Department Heads reported. Pederson reported that a \$500 grant/donation was received from Renville-Sibley Cooperative toward the purchase of a blood pressure/pulse/oxygen machine for the ambulance; Pederson also applied for a grant from the Bayer Foundation but hasn't had a response; the machine costs \$2300 and a donation of \$100 resulting at \$1700 short, McCorquodale added that the current machine is old and badly needs to be replaced; the future of the ambulance was questioned and it was noted that there are 7 people ready to take the EMR class but it can't be held due to COVID. **Scharfencamp motioned to purchase the blood pressure/pulse/oxygen machine, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** A grant of \$8837 was received from the Dept. of Health for a well monitoring system. **The city has an old woods mower and Adam's road grader no longer needed, R. Kokesch motioned to list them as surplus property, second by Deming, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** K. Kokesch reported that the Bobcat had an electrical problem with the 3' ponytail that is being repaired. The water access area of the boatlanding was opened in time for the fishing opener, people are using the shelter as a bathroom, the county EOC was asked about installing a portable toilet there and they felt it was a better option than using the shelter, Vosika will be contacted about toilet options. K. Kokesch is to get bids for the planned replacement of two fire hydrants. The water tower should be finished very soon. Streets are in need of 5-6 loads of gravel or granite, council recommended checking with J. Mettling on which is preferable and then proceed. There have been two DNR representatives meeting at the boatlanding with differing opinions on who is responsible for maintenance, the DNR will supply planks. McCorquodale reported that the ambulance has 30 days of PPE and feel prepared for COVID cases. Menk reported 2 rural grass fires last month; they need harnesses and will spend up to \$3000 of invested funds on them; the old pumper and tanker are having emergency light issues; the kitchenette cabinets sustained a leak and need repair and recommended installation of gutter helmets at the Fire Hall.

The COVID-19 pandemic situation was discussed. Scharfencamp presented letters and resolutions from other cities to the governor stating the pandemic is hurting our livelihood more than our health and feels the state is taking our constitutional rights away; the rules made for the metro area don't necessarily apply here. The consensus is to send the governor a letter similar to Wood Lake's letter. Sherman did not support this, but agreed to have the letter signed by the Franklin City Council. The next council meeting will be held at the Community Center and be open to the public keeping social distancing in effect.

The list of noncompliant notices sent by Deputy Peterson was discussed with some additions recommended, including the city's tax forfeited property. This will be revisited in June.

Because MN Revenue Recapture was unsuccessful for collecting on delinquent ambulance bills, collection agencies were research. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the RBC Collections Service Agreement, second by Deming, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The Lion's plan to make a decision about Catfish Days on June 1<sup>st</sup>; currently the county will not issue food licenses and no camping is allowed statewide; also questioned was insurance and the possibility of having the fishing contest.

Councilor requests included: R. Kokesch met with the DNR and said there will be an agreement of some sort drawn up to determine who is responsible for what at the boatlanding and added it is an asset to the area located on the Scenic Byway.

**At 9:40 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 June 8, 2020, at the Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer