

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, May 13, 2019**

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council were held on Monday, May 13, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin Community Center. Council members present: Deming, Gruendemann, R. Kokesch, Scharfencamp and Sherman. Staff Department Heads present: Kokesch, Pederson and Wiese. Guests present: Dennis Oberloh, John Clobes, Lori Phillipp, Janice Childs, Bill Helget, Matt and Trista Radermacher, and Myron Gehrke.

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 8, 2019; Scharfencamp motioned to approve the minutes as presented, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Mayor Sherman called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$46,948.33, cash receipts for April were \$24,485.96; there are 5 past due utility accounts approved for disconnection, zoning permits were issued to Katie Fox to install a 10' x 16' storage shed at 231 7th St. S.; to William Wiese to install a 16' x 24' storage shed at 420 3rd St. S.; to David Munsell to install a 8' x 8' storage shed and 6' x 10' front steps addition at 281 4th St. S.; and to Amanda and Ryan Hall to install a 12' x 12' x 3' wood/chain link garden fence at 490 2nd St. S. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Sherman opened the Public Hearing on the Amendment to Ordinance 35.02, Rural Services District, and asked for public comments. Paul Woods sent a note stating that their property has been residential since 1995 when they combined their property and they cannot afford a big increase all at once. Matt Radermacher explained the history of their property, it was a farmstead and about 10 years ago it was connected to city water and sewer at their expense; they checked with the county and their taxes would nearly double since they bought the property. It was noted that the city taxes are only a portion of their entire property taxes. Radermacher stated that it is not an urban setting and they do not receive the benefits that most properties do like paved roads, mosquito spraying or street lights, and recommended delaying the amendment adoption. The city discussed their property at length when making the amendment, noting their small parcel includes the water and sewer lines. Radermacher's have tillable acres plus a wooded area and would consider splitting their parcel, at their cost, with the house being classified as urban and the acreage rural. Sherman motioned to accept the house and building site as urban and then rescinded his motion. There is a 30 day appeal period upon approval of the ordinance amendment; Radermacher's will work with the city and the county auditor on splitting the parcel prior to the June 10th meeting. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the amendments to Ordinance 35.02, to include Radermacher's appeal; second by Sherman, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** The public hearing was closed at 7:35 p.m.

Citizens were addressed. Janice Childs requested an extension on her utility bill, stating she would pay the full balance due on May 26th. **Gruendemann motioned to allow Childs an extension until May 26th provided the entire balance due is paid in full, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Dennis Oberloh presented the city's 2018 Audit and Financial Statements, stating it was a clean opinion and the only deficiencies are segregation of duties and no internal controls, which is typical of most of their clients. The legal compliance checklist was completed with no issues. In the three years of their auditing the city, the city's financial position remains consistent with prior years and the net position increased slightly by \$10,170. The financials will be reviewed prior to the next meeting for formal approval.

John Clobes questioned the city clean up noting that the landfill has changed its prices for large furniture items and mattresses to \$45. **R. Kokesch motioned to hold the city clean up on June 5th and to charge for large items which are to be prepaid, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Bill Helget, Bolton & Menk, Inc., is the city's primary contact since Andy Kehren's retirement. Helget provided a list of resource contacts for their firm. The water tower project is scheduled to begin late this summer with a late October completion.

Lori Phillip, administrator of the Franklin Rehab. Health Care Center, stated that Superior Management has a 99 year lease, so they plan to be in business for a long time. Phillip questioned the future of the road, noting this year was exceptionally bad, and wants to be assured monies will be budgeted to fix the road. She added that they were unable to receive deliveries, staff could not drive to work, and ambulances could not transport for appointments. The city received an estimate of nearly \$725,000 to pave the road and update the infrastructure, which is simply unaffordable. It was noted that this was an exceptionally bad year, the road hasn't been this bad in nearly 27 years and many area roads have been damaged. The city did what it could to keep the road passible. Deming and Gruendemann will meet with the facility and get a professional opinion on repair options.

Department Heads reported. Pederson reported that the software and meter support will end Dec. 31, 2021, MN Rural Water will be contacted on what direction to go; the Fire Relief SC-18 and financial reports were received and their assets are

sufficient; Renville Co. HRA/EDA is working on possibly setting up grants for blight removal; pet licensing is very slow. Pederson reported for Wortham who questioned noncompliant houses; second notices will be sent noting the city clean up and that if not compliant by June 10th, citations will be issued; discussed house with dumpster, Clobes is working on it. Pederson reported that McCorquodale questioned the recent purchase of radios and why none were for the ambulance; Wiese stated that what they purchased was for the fire department; Wiese and McCorquodale are to inventory the radios/pagers and report to the council in June. The ambulance is planning to switch to electronic trip sheets, Scharfencamp noted that the county recommended a specific computer/tablet that would cost close to \$1000. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve purchasing the recommended computer/tablet for electronic trip sheets, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Wiese questioned officer wages, this was tabled until budget time; fire hall leaks and needed repairs were discussed; some money had been budgeted for repairs but determining where the leak is coming from is the issue; Wiese will have a contractor look into it. K. Kokesch reported that K. Forsyth had fixed the alley by his rental house and the grader undid it, the city grades the alleys twice per year and it would be difficult to have to pick and choose where to grade, if Forsyth wants to maintain the alley, he will need to do it from his property line and west all the way west to the road. The parks have been opened up, bathrooms will be unlocked unless vandalism occurs; there is a dumpster at the boatlanding and sand has been moved along the landing; Creeping Charlie is abundant and getting worse in the parks, the consensus is to spray it.

P. Woods' engine braking sign request was discussed. The city would have to pass a resolution, pay for the signs and installation, and provide a letter from the police that it would be enforced. In speaking with the county, they questioned where the signs would be placed, stating they would be most effective outside of the city limits, they would charge \$300 per installation; DOT signs would cost \$800 per sign. The council consensus is to enforce the city noise ordinance.

The council discussed this winter's damage to the roads, many city's roads have been damaged to greater extents. MR Paving provided a quote of \$11,543.00 to patch the worst damaged spots. It was decided to use some the money that had been allocated to park improvements to pay for this expense and possibly for options for Third St. repairs. **Gruendemann motioned to accept the MR Paving quote to be paid for with park funds, second by Deming, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Bolton and Menk will survey city lots for \$800 each. As there is no cost savings to doing more at the same time, only the water tower lot will be surveyed at this time.

Myron Gehrke requested the city install a snow fence on the north side of his property in hopes of keeping snow off of Hwy. 19 and out of the city. The city has no money budgeted for this and recommended Gehrke check with other agencies or possibly having J. Goelz leave some rows of corn to block the snow.

Gruendemann motioned to approve the liquor license applications of Amstar, Franklin Depot, and Longbranch Saloon, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

There were no councilor requests.

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 10, 2019, at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer