

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, June 14, 2021**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, June 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Franklin Community Center to allow for social distancing. Council members present were: Gruendemann, Scharfencamp, R. Kokesch, Mumme and Wiese. Staff Department Heads present were: Radermacher, Wiese, K. Kokesch arriving late, and noting McCorquodale absent. Guests present were: Bill Helget, Andrew Hussman, Karen Hoffman-Distad, and Darren Prescott.

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

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the minutes of May 10, 2021. Scharfencamp motioned to approve the minutes as presented, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$57,303.52, cash receipts for May were \$33,302.53; there were 5 past due utility accounts; Two zoning permits issued; R. All Runner was issued a permit to remove an attached garage and build a housing addition in its place at 410 2nd St S; D. Munsell was issued a permit to add on 16'x24' to one of his accessory buildings at 540 1st St S. Approving the consent agenda was tabled until later in the meeting due to a summer recreational check needing to be approved before approving the consent agenda.

At 7:03 Mayor Gruendemann opened the public hearing for Karen Hoffman-Distad's request for a conditional use permit to construct a senior living housing unit at 551 2nd Ave, to be known as "Cedar Heart Homes". No comments were voiced. The planning commission met previously and recommended approval. Mayor Gruendemann closed the public hearing at 7:05 for the conditional use permit request.

Karen Hoffman-Distad and Darren Prescott spoke with the council about tax abatement for Cedar Heart Homes. They requested five years of their property taxes from the city abated. The council asked if they had a business plan and financing in order as they would like to see a formal proposal with estimated projections of what the property taxes would be. After a little discussion on the process and expectations, the council asked for the business owners to come back to the regular July council meeting with the necessary documents. **Mumme motioned to table the discussion on tax abatement for Cedar Heart Homes, Second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0-No.**

Deputy Andrew Hussman addressed the council about properties in town in need of attention. Hussman made his final rounds through town after clean-up day, allowing property owners the use of this day to clean up their properties, and is ready to hand out notice letters to the properties in need of attention. One property was discussed that has had on going complaints, ideas were discussed to address the problem. Structural blight properties will receive a letter stating that the city council will vote on property abatement at the regular July meeting if no progress is made. Mayor Gruendemann requested to ride along with Deputy Hussman to review the properties and speak to the owners that are to receive a letter. Hussman to send copies of the documentation to Clerk Radermacher for reference and record keeping. Mayor Gruendemann received a citizen complaint about tire burn outs on main street and asked Deputy Hussman to watch for this and take action.

R. Kokesch motioned to approve Resolution 2021-8, approving the conditional use permit request to construct an assisted living facility at 551 2nd Ave E, Second by Wiese, RCV-5 yes, 0 No.

Scharfencamp motioned to approve Resolution 2021-9, Accepting ARPA funds, Second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 yes, 0 No.

Department heads reported. Wiese requested to use Fire Department money held with the city to purchase a 10x20 covered tent to use for staging, rehab, fundraisers, etc. The cost is approximately \$1500. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the purchase, Second by Mumme, RCV-5 Yes, 0-No.** A list of fire department property that is no longer in use was brought before the council. **R. Kokesch motioned to declare the items as surplus property and advertise the items for bidding, bids are to be turned in to City Hall by 4pm August 9th, Second by Mumme, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.** K. Kokesch reported having an issue with the SCADA system while away on vacation- Radermacher was able to aid in a fix; the pumps at the Nursing Home lift station have both been fixed or replaced this spring- the first pump went down and was repaired, the second pump was broken due to a foreign body breaking the impellers, an insurance claim was made for replacement; K. Kokesch has been spraying weeds throughout town; a couple of citizens have spoken to K. Kokesch to expressed their want for a second dust seal treatment to the gravel roads; road patching bid was turned in by Mike Neisen to patch seven areas of road in town needing repair, each area broke down into a separate charged amount totaling \$5,760.00. **R. Kokesch motioned to accept the repair bid to patch all 7 areas, Second by Mumme, RCV- 5 Yes, 0-No.** Radermacher reported that the request portal for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is now open for non-entitlement cities, Radermacher to submit the application for the City of Franklin; the oldest house in town has been demolished, Radermacher shared the story with the local news paper for if they wish to publish for local history; Radermacher is waiting on a quote from Mediacom for possible internet service to pair with a possible camera security system, Radermacher to look into options with RS Fiber as well; first run with the new meter reading hardware and software went well; the TV in City Hall for the public access channel broke and a new one is needed, council made suggestions on where to look for a replacement.

Mayor Gruendemann read a public statement summarizing the probationary review of Clerk Radermacher from the closed session at the May meeting. Summary statement included the purpose of the closed review session and a statement telling of the administrative department heads recognizing Radermacher's ability to perform the necessary duties associated with the clerk/treasurer position. Probationary employment term has ended.

Updates on the storm sewer wash out was discussed; various individuals have look at and assessed the area and are working on gathering all the information to make a plan. The area has been photographed by an arial drone to get an idea at how large of an area is being affected, a summary of this information was sent to K. Kokesch, Mumme requests the information be shared with the rest of the council for review. At this time, more conversations are to happen in order to make plans for mitigation and/or a fix. More updates to come.

Cedar Mountain has approached the City of Franklin requesting help funding the summer rec program. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve \$3000 to help the Cedar Mountain summer rec program, Second by Wiese, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.**

Scharfencamp motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

The council was presented with the information for the workers compensation insurance renewal. No decisions need be made, information was only presented to the council.

The community center lease agreement between the city and Cedar Mountain school was presented to the council. Radermacher to contact Cedar Mountain to initiate contact to begin looking into the current agreement and negotiate amendments as needed.

A camera security system proposal was presented to the council. Radermacher is still looking into internet options to be able to live view the camera feed at the parks. A decision on the camera system is tabled until the regular July council meeting when further research is completed and ARPA funds are secured.

Recent rounds of park vandalism were discussed. Five local juveniles have been identified in relation to the vandalism. Each juvenile received a letter from the Renville County Sheriff's Department informing them of being trespassed from the parks unless under parental supervision. Deputy Hussman spoke with the council about the possibility of the individuals working community service hours to regain their park privileges. The council discussed options and decided that the individuals would work a total of 12 hours each during Catfish Derby Days. Mayor Gruendemann to supervise and keep track of the hours worked.

Miscellaneous topics were discussed. Lumber is needed for benches during Catfish Derby Days as it has been hard to get them donated like in the past due to the high lumber prices, an ad is to be made and posted online in hopes of receiving donated lumber for the benches. The road patching as discussed earlier in the meeting is expected to start within two weeks and completed before Catfish Derby Days. K. Kokesch asked a question for advice/knowledge on a new sewer and water connection to the city. Bill Helget from Bolten & Menk and Council member Wiese offered their knowledge on the topic of best practices for when this new connection is made to the City's system.

At 21:28 p.m., Wiese motioned for adjournment, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting will be July 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer