

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, June 8, 2020**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, June 8, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin Community Center as well as virtually 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 Wiese. Guests present were: Sheriff Scott Hable and Deputy Tom Swyter.

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 May 11, 2020; Gruendemann motioned to approve the minutes as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Mayor Sherman called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$35,873.57, cash receipts for May were \$27,190.88; there are 3 past due utility accounts; a zoning permit was issued to J. Harmoning to build a 48' x 54' x 16' storage shed at 39771 St. Hwy. 19, a public hearing will be held on July 13, 2020 regarding T. Sherman's variance request. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Deming, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

No citizens were present.

Department Heads reported. K. Kokesch had to special order the "watch for children" signs, the county doesn't use them; discussed the "no U-turn" street sign, enforcement is needed for it to be effective; one estimate was received for the fire hydrants and the cost is higher than budgeted, he is waiting on the other estimate; J. Deming has been working while T. Miller has been off; questioned the tax forfeited property, noting there is a meter socket and line that should be disconnected; the Fire Dept. sprayed the playground/park equipment, signs will be reposted regarding the bathrooms are closed and equipment is not disinfected; there have been some minor rust issues with the chlorination of the water; discussed pool fills, people need to install a second meter if they want to avoid sewer charges; the water tower storage building looks great. Pederson received an estimate of \$758.60 for windows for the water tower building, the Lions will pay half of the cost and the Civic Club will pay \$100-\$150, the Legion paid for the paint. **Scharfencamp motioned for the city to order and install the windows for the building, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** There are currently three election judges beside Pederson; Metering Technologies is no longer supported by Itron, so the new radio and meter reading software was not installed, a new "ping" test will be done to test for possible cellular readings; the blood pressure/pulse/oxygen machine that was ordered for the ambulance is a discontinued model that will still serve its purpose and a demo model is being donated free of cost, only a new battery will need to be purchased; the LMC salary and benefits survey is available; summer recreation will be done virtually this year. **The city must develop a COVID preparedness plan by June 29th; Sherman motioned for Pederson to prepare the plan and for R. Kokesch, Emergency Manager, to approve it, second by Deming, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. Wiese reported the grass rig needs new tires, estimated replacement cost of \$1200, which Gruendemann motioned to approve, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** R. Kokesch will contact P. Bengston to look at the Fire Hall building. McCorquodale reported a need for a training officer, J. Scharfencamp will be appointed as K. Joehnck is unable to at this time; hopefully EMT/EMR training will be held in the fall. Deputy Peterson sent a list of properties that remain noncompliant and took pictures of the noncompliant properties; a second notice is to be sent to the noncompliant properties detailing what is not compliant and if still noncompliant after 30 days, citations will be issued.

Discussed liquor license fees, the fees offset criminal attorney fees, several cities have offered some relief because the bars have been shut down throughout the pandemic. **Deming motioned to approve a \$300 reduction in the On Sale license fee due in July, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

R. Kokesch motioned to approve the surplus property ad as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Renville County Assessor, Doug Bruns presented an assessment agreement for years 2021-2022, with no increase in fees. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the assessment agreement with Renville County, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Sheriff Hable presented information on the Renville County Law Enforcement Agreement, noting the contract had not changed, just the costs, noting the increases 0.95% for 2021; and 2.5% in 2022 and 2023, which may be reduced if expenses are less than anticipated. All agreed that the contract is mutually beneficial and has been working well. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the Renville County Law Enforcement Agreement as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Sacred Heart Church questioned what the city's interest is in the land. Tentatively there will be an auction in August and then the building will be demolished in the fall and the hole will be filled in. The city would prefer the foundation to be completely removed and then made into a green space.

Due to COVID-19 and all of the compliance and licensing issues, the Lion's decided to cancel their events for Catfish Days except possibly the fishing contest. The bars can hold their own events, but city will not be involved and the street will not be closed for their events.

Gruendemann motioned to approve the LMCIT Workers' Compensation Plan, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Councilor requests included: R. Kokesch questioned if the city would be vacating any more alleys and possibly entertain vacating the platted north portion of Sixth Street by the church; questioned and will look into city business incentives.

At 8:51 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 July 13, 2020, at the Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer