

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, July 13, 2020**

A Public Hearing and a Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, July 13, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin Community Center to allow for social distancing. Council members present were: Deming, Gruendemann, R. Kokesch, and Scharfencamp. Staff Department Heads present were: Kokesch, Pederson, McCorquodale, and Deputy Peterson. Guest present was Myron Gehrke.

At 7:00 p.m., Acting Mayor R. Kokesch called the meeting to order. Roll called showed Mayor Sherman absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Acting Mayor R. Kokesch called for approval of the minutes of June 8, 2020; Scharfencamp motioned to approve the minutes as presented, second by Gruendemann, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.

Acting Mayor R. Kokesch called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$65,122.09, cash receipts for June were \$169,038.09; there are 2 past due utility accounts, disconnected account paid past due plus fees and is reconnected; a zoning permit was issued to J. Koerner to build a 26' x 16' deck at 440 3rd Ave. E. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Deming, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Acting Mayor R. Kokesch opened the public hearing on the variance request of Todd and Peggy Sherman for parcel 32-000097-00, 920 Third St. S.; Sherman was present via phone. The variance request is for a house/foundation that will not meet the set-back requirements due to the slope of the land and trees. There were no objections received. The Planning Commission met and recommended approval of the variance request. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the Variance Request of T. Sherman, second by Deming, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No. Scharfencamp motioned to close the public hearing, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

No citizens were present for comments or requests.

Acting Mayor R. Kokesch opened the bids received for the surplus property. There were three bids received for the Brush Hog ranging from \$178-\$500; high bid was Kevin Helget for \$500. There were four bids received for the Road Grader ranging from \$50-\$553; high bid was Tim Joehnck for \$553. **Deming motioned to award the high bids for the items, second by Gruendemann, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Due to the COVID pandemic, there is a need for more election judges. **Gruendemann motioned to approve Resolution 2020-5, Approval of Election Judges, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** None of the new judges have election experience so Pederson will be required to be the head judge and work the entire day of the election. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve Pederson to receive overtime compensation (for hours over 8) on the days of the elections, second by Gruendemann, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Gruendemann motioned to approve Resolution 2020-6, Approval of Sherman Variance Request, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.

Department Heads reported. McCorquodale stated that she is getting overwhelmed with the ambulance situation; only two EMT's have been going on runs, she hesitates to train more EMR's because an EMT is still needed to go on runs with them; as of now the ambulance is still in compliance, but also needs to become electronic and she is offered no help with that either; Scharfencamp and R. Kokesch will attend the next ambulance meeting. K. Kokesch reported that the water is off and the meters have been pulled from the Catholic Church. People are using the shelter at the boatlanding as a bathroom. **Scharfencamp motioned to install a portable toilet there, second by Deming; Scharfencamp amended his motion to add that this would be for 4 months, Deming seconded, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** K. Kokesch reported he is planning a vacation for this fall unless COVID remains rampant; the water tower project will be closed and a final pay estimate will be submitted; he is still working on the fire hydrant cost estimates; there have been a lot of weeds and subsequently a lot of spraying; they have been flushing sewer mains; Deming has been working out well, Miller is out for the summer; the SCADA system is complete and the BobCat are both working well. Pederson reported that council filings open July 28th through August 11th; the Assessor's office overcharged on the number of assessments and will be refunding the city; the windows for the storage building came and installation will be set up, the net cost to the city is about \$180 plus installation costs; the ambulance will order some stethoscopes and a radio with the donations received; Renville County is requesting input on their Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan; work will begin on the preliminary budget, money is to be included for a street sweeper; the contract price for LP is \$1.12, the city will contract for the next heating season. USDA has Community Facilities funding available and is on a tight time schedule, Pederson suggested applying for turn-out gear for the fire dept. or a city pick-up. **R. Kokesch motioned to proceed with the pre-application for a pick-up truck and if approved to hold the public hearing in August, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Pederson researched what other city's do with tax forfeited properties and it was recommended to hire an auctioneer to sell the property and contents; concern of the building being forfeited again was raised and it was noted that stipulations could be added to the sale. Pederson is to contact auctioneers if this is an option or if there is even any interest.

Deputy Peterson provided an updated list of properties that are/were noncompliant, detailing those that have become compliant and those that remain noncompliant. It was felt that a lot of progress has been made. Three properties received two notices and have made no progress; he recommended the city proceed with the abatement process as citations are generally not effective. The council discussed giving three notices; it was felt that one particular property this has been going on far too long and it is time to do something. **R. Kokesch motioned to move forward with the abatement process and hold the hearing on August 10, 2020, second by Deming, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

The city has applied for the CRF (Covid Relief Funds) and should receive \$35,711. Eligible expenses include grants to businesses affected by the pandemic, economic development assistance, protective equipment, communication equipment, etc. The expenses cannot have been included in the current budget, unexpended dollars must be returned and will go to the county. Items discussed were: hazard pay for hours worked through COVID; computer and AV equipment, phone headsets, tablets for the council members, a permanent barrier for City Hall, and sanitization equipment. Pederson will get cost estimates.

The public access channel computer needs to be replaced. A new laptop will be obtained with CRF funds, the old computer will be used for the access channel.

The meter reading system research continues; a less expensive radio could work but needs customized software.

Councilor requests included: Gruendemann reported that the bars received county approval to close the street on Saturday, the 25th for the bean bag tournament. Scharfencamp inquired about garbage cans by the bars, there is one by the Depot.

At 9:30p.m., Scharfencamp motioned for adjournment, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting will be August 10, 2020, at the Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer