

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, July 8, 2019**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, July 8, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin City Hall. Council members present: Deming, Gruendemann, R. Kokesch, Scharfencamp and Sherman. Staff Department Heads present: K. Kokesch, Pederson, Menk and Wortham. Guests present: John Graupman, Deb Tonak, Ron Deming, Lee Martin 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 June 10, 2019; R. Kokesch 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 \$58,830.75, cash receipts for June were \$191,242.70; there are 3 past due utility accounts approved for disconnection, no new zoning permits were issued; **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Citizens were addressed. R. Deming inquired about the water tower building that is used for cold storage; the building roof leaks and needs new windows; Tonak is interested in painting the building, the Legion would provide the paint. The building's history will be researched prior to doing any improvements. Wes Lund requested mosquito spraying be continued the entire length of 3rd Ave. W. which is to be added.

Lee Martin, Metering Technology, explained meter reading software and hardware upgrade options. The city's current software and meter reader will not be serviced after Dec. 31, 2020; Itron is offering free software upgrades for cities that upgrade before the end of September, Metering Technology will do the implementation and training for \$1500. There is cloud-based reading options available and the city could begin phasing in this type of reading system. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve city to upgrade the meter reading software; second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

John Graupman, Bolton & Menk, explained that Well No. 4 (the city's back-up well) was recently inspected and found to be damaged beyond repair. With the pending water tower rehabilitation project it is imperative to have a back-up water source. It appears the city could dig a new well on the same site but will need Dept. of Health approval and a state of emergency declared. The estimated cost of the new well is \$120-\$140,000. Discussed was the short time frame and whether or not to use steel or PVC pipe; with the city's current SCADA system and soil type, it was decided that PVC was the best option. Pederson will research funding assistance. **Scharfencamp motioned to declare a state of emergency with the need of a new well, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Department Heads reported. Menk reported that the current "800" radios will be obsolete as of December and will no longer be able to be repaired; replacement radios will cost about \$2000 each and recommended budgeting for replacement radios; FFI training will be held in-house beginning Dec. 10th; July's Fire meeting will be on the 25th. Deputy Wortham reported on the blight citations and one property still has unregistered vehicles, the rest are making progress, the next step would be state citations, and without changing the city's ordinances there is not much more that can be done or enforced except the unregistered vehicles; patrolling is set up for Catfish Days. Pederson presented a funding request from Central Comm. Transit, which was declined due to lack of utilization; weed inspections are done by Soil and Water Conservation; Board of Appeal training is being offered; Winsted Solar has provided data on how the solar credits and billing works, there will be a ribbon cutting on July 17th. K. Kokesch reported that the mower continued to have issues, a bearing went out and is being repaired under warranty; K. Kokesch also feels PVC pipe is the best option for the new well; one of the Fire Dept. door locks isn't working, new weatherproof locks will be purchased and installed; the water tower staking has shown that Menk's garage is on city property, the city will work with them on a resolution.

FEMA has decided to allow frost damage to the roads as part of the disaster declaration so the patching and road work costs may be recoverable. Dust control has been paid for but not applied yet as repairs were pending. The council directed Kokesch to apply gravel to First Ave. E. and Third St. and then proceed with the dust sealing as soon as possible. Tiling costs and options are being researched hoping to alleviate some of the frost and water issues.

A construction schedule for the water tower project has been received, they plan to move in on July 27th and have the project completed by October.

The recent heavy rains (13.5" this past week) has caused numerous issues with flooding and the city's storm sewer outfall is likely damaged. Kokesch has been pumping at the ponds to keep them from overflowing and so far has been able to avoid bypassing. Another FEMA disaster is likely to be declared. Numerous citizens have requested the city resolve the water issues, which could be looked into, but costs would be 100% assessed to the affected properties. Fortunately, the flooding is ground water and not sewage.

Pederson requested direction with the preliminary 2020 budget. The two old fire hydrants will be replaced; other items to be considered are replacement of the city pick up; resolving safety issues at the ponds contact basin. The Dept. of Health notified cities that they are increasing their connection fees in 2020.

Councilor requests: Gruendemann will be purchasing a sand rake for the ballfield to be paid for with community funds; R. Kokesch questioned how leaking at the Fire Hall was with the recent rains, discussed gutter options; Danube received a DNR Grant for their parks and she would like to pursue park grants for the city.

At 9:32 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 August 12, 2019, at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer