

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, August 10, 2020**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, August 10, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin Community Center to allow for social distancing. Council members present were: Deming, Gruendemann, R. Kokesch, Scharfencamp and Sherman. Staff Department Heads present were: Kokesch and Pederson. Guests present were: Bill Helget, Rodney Schmidt, Karen Hoffmann-Distad, Darren Prescott, Mike Brozich.

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 July 13, 2020; R. Kokesch 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 \$46,696.29, cash receipts for July were \$148,498.77; there are 2 past due utility accounts, a zoning permit was issued to T. Zieske to install a 10' x 16' storage shed at 415 Fourth St. S. **Gruendemann motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Sherman opened the council hearing on the noncompliant property notices sent. Brozich, 254 First Ave., stated that he has cleaned up a lot of the stuff that was left there by another individual and needs a little more time to get rid of the remaining tires and items. **Sherman motioned to allow him 30 days to remove the noncompliant items, second by Deming, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** There was no response from C. Kennedy, 470 3rd Ave. E. **R. Kokesch motioned to proceed with the Order to Correct or Remove the Nuisance, second by Deming, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Citizens were addressed. K. Hoffmann-Distad and D. Prescott informed the council that they hope to put up an eight unit assisted living facility (where the Sacred Heart Church currently stands) with two apartments and garages, similar to Southview in Gibbon. The facility would be staffed 24/7 and would provide 9 FTE's. They may request the city's assistance with vacating the street and alley abutting the property. The council is very receptive to this concept and will assist as they are able. The Longbranch requested approval for outdoor music on August 15th due to their being rained out on Catfish weekend and already had tickets sold. **Gruendemann motioned to approve outside music at the Longbranch until 12:30 a.m. on Aug. 15th, second by Sherman, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Kretzmann's, 361 3rd St. S., requested allowance for 3 dogs, one belonging to their son who had been ill and in an accident and is living with them temporarily. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the 3 dogs for up to 6 months, they will need to request an extension if needed; second by Sherman, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Department Heads reported. McCorquodale questioned whether or not to proceed with EMR training; we are short EMT's and only a couple are willing to commit to going on runs; the consensus is to try the EMR training in hopes that we get some more EMT's. **Gruendemann motioned to approve the EMR class, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** K. Kokesch reported that he still has only received one bid on the fire hydrants. **R. Kokesch motioned to get the hydrants done and proceed with the one bid, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** K. Kokesch noted that the sump pumps around town quit running when the ground was dry and now that we've had rain, they are running again, so the basement water is typically storm water; the parks will remain closed as the state of emergency continues; plans are in place to take vacation unless COVID is worse. Pederson reported that a recent community center rental requested a reduced rate because there wasn't someone to clean between back-to-back events, this rental left the floor dirty, so the council felt the full rate was justified; there are just 43 pets licensed to date. Pederson submitted her resignation as of the end of this year. **Scharfencamp motioned to accept Pederson's resignation, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes.** The council felt that replacing the position in the same capacity is best and they should try to get someone hired as soon as feasible. Deming and R. Kokesch will work on updating the personnel policy; Gruendemann and Sherman will work on updating job descriptions of both city clerk and public works. There will be a special meeting held on August 24th, at 7 pm at the community center to review the personnel policy, job descriptions, job posting, and the budget.

Two auction companies looked at the tax forfeited property and neither felt there was anything of value there, including the buildings and were not interested in selling any of it. R. Schmidt is interested in the building and would like to clean it up and rent out the back. There have been a couple of other interested parties. It was decided that the building will be listed as surplus property and stipulations for the sale will be set by the next council meeting.

The city received the CRF (Covid Relief Funds). Pederson has done some research and recommended hiring a technology firm to help with the technology changes, installing a permanent drop box, and granting money to the businesses that qualify with the county application. R. Kokesch felt the city should match \$1000 with the county. Pederson will get prices and try to put together a budget for the next meeting.

Renville County Hwy. submitted a maintenance agreement from 9/2020 through 5/2022 with no changes to the fees. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the Renville County Street Maintenance Agreement, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No,**

The farmland lease with Birch Cooley Farms will expire later this fall. T. Sullivan said they would like to renew the lease with the same terms. **R. Kokesch motioned to renew the lease with the same terms as the previous lease, second by Deming, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Pederson presented a draft 2021 budget with recommendations for utility rate increases since the 2004 assessments have been paid off and water and sewer still do not fully cash flow. The budget will be reviewed and further discussed at the special meeting.

Councilor requests included Deming questioning D. Smith's driveway being washed out and Smith is considering installing concrete, Smith is to talk to the county since it is on a county road.

At 9:10p.m., Scharfencamp motioned for adjournment, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. There will be a special meeting on Monday, August 24th and next regular meeting will be September 14, 2020, at the Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer