

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, August 13, 2018

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, August 13, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Council members present were: Gruendemann, Heibel, R. Kokesch, Scharfencamp and Sherman. Staff Department Heads present were: K. Kokesch, Pederson, McCorquodale, Menk, and Wiese. Guests present were: Brian Pederson, Tim Sullivan, Mandi Hall, Myron Gehrke, Joel Harmoning, Marc Iverson, and Mike Sullivan.

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor Sherman called the meeting to order with roll call showing all council present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Sherman called for approval of the July 9, 2018 minutes with Scharfencamp motioning to approve the minutes as presented, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Mayor Sherman presented the consent agenda items. Bills were presented for approval in the amount of \$80,233.40; cash receipts for July were \$208,304.18. There are four past-due utility accounts approved for disconnection. Zoning permits were issued to: J. Hall to install a 87' x 6' wood fence at 481 2nd St. S; G. Abrahamson to install a 10' x 20' wood storage shed at 100 Third Ave. W. Scharfencamp motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Citizens were addressed. M. Hall requested council approval to have an outside band at the Longbranch Saloon in late September, the music will end at 12:30 AM; R. Kokesch motioned to approve, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Four bids were received for the farmland for lease: \$205/acre, G. Wolling; \$210/acre C. Hacker; \$212/acre A. Rieke; and \$13,335 or \$229.99/acre, Birch Cooley Farms. R. Kokesch motioned to accept the Birch Cooley Farms bid; second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. Pederson presented a template of the Farm Lease which was moved to be approved as written by R. Kokesch, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Franklin Industries requested property tax abatement for the Community Center and Daycare Center buildings. Franklin Industries was set up as a for-profit corporation to expedite building the daycare center and later the community center was added to the construction plans. The city's portion of the taxes on the buildings is about \$11,000. These taxes are being paid by the city and school district (both nontaxable) to Franklin Industries with their leases. County Auditor, Marc Iverson, explained abatements and tax capacity and noted that there are currently 8-10 abatements in Renville County which are often offered as a development tool. R. Kokesch motioned to hold a public hearing on the proposed abatement on September 10, 2018; second by Sherman, RCV-4 Yes, 1-No, Scharfencamp.

Department Heads reported. McCorquodale recommended hiring Brent Anderson as an EMT once he completes his refresher course (which he is doing on his own). Scharfencamp motioned to approve Brent Anderson as an EMT as soon as he is approved by EMSRB, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. Ridgewater will be contracted for education once dates are set. Issues with law enforcement's response to an ambulance call will be addressed. K. Kokesch reported that Catfish clean up went well; he has received numerous calls on the boatlanding and noted that a permit is needed to remove sand and debris; the discount for LP with CRC was included in price given, Kokesch is to check for prices from other vendors. Pederson reported that filing for city offices closes at 5 PM on the 14th and she will be at the election all day; the MCFOA meeting held at the community center went well, discussed MPCA "salty discharge" regulations that affected Lakefield who needed \$22 million in wastewater plant renovations; Mediacom sent a rate increase notice; will be attending Finance During a Disaster workshop; will be in Washington D.C. in September so the agenda will be out early; received vacation approval for April 2019; there are 77 notices being sent for the alley vacation public hearing; the community center needs shelving, a dehumidifier and mop hooks; carpet cleaning in city hall will wait until next year. The sheriff's office offered signage to educate people regarding the double lines and no U-turns on 2nd Avenue, the city would like to utilize them. Wiese recommended hiring B. Anderson to the fire department noting he has had FFI, FFII, and Haz-Mat training. R. Kokesch motioned to approve hiring Anderson pending paperwork completion; second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. The fire department would like money in the budget for pagers, some minor issues with the new truck have been resolved; one township has not paid their portion of the truck and will be contacted again.

The ReneSola Power Holding sent a revised agreement noting Franklin will receive a higher rate of return than previously calculated; the city attorney has reviewed and accepted the revisions. R. Kokesch motioned to approve the agreement with Rene Sola, second by Heibel, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

SwedeBro offered a 5% discount on the community center floor bid provided the work be done sometime in Jan.-March, 2019. R. Kokesch motioned to approve the SwedeBro Bid with the discount, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

The lawn mower is due to be traded after this third mowing season; trade in cost for a new machine is \$7,900.00. Gruendemann motioned to trade the mower in 2019, as per the quote, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

The 2019 preliminary budget discussions began with salaries; Mayor Sherman requested the council consider setting rates for two years; the CPI is 1.8%; the council discussed neighboring cities having more employees doing similar work; Franklin's salaries are lower than the average; discussed the health insurance and options to be reviewed before renewal. R. Kokesch recommended a 6-8% increase. Sherman motioned to give the full-time employees a 5% raise, motion failed. Gruendemann motioned to give a 4.5% raise to the full-time employees, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 1-No, R. Kokesch. Part-time salaries were reviewed; the public works assistant salary hasn't been increased in 4 years; approved \$11/hour for experienced public works assistants. The remaining part-time salaries will be reviewed when the state's minimum wage is determined. Water and sewer rates will be raised, noting this is the first year the water system will cash flow: water rates were set at \$21.00 base and \$5.75/1000 usage; sewer rates were set at \$27.00 base and \$6.00/1000 usage. Community Center rental rates currently at \$55 will increase to \$65 to cover cleaning costs. The preliminary budget included: money for the lawn mower, community center floor, \$20,000 for tractor replacement (to be replaced in 2020) and \$10,000 toward future park equipment.

Gruendemann motioned to approve holding the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing on December 10, 2018 at 7 PM at City Hall, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.

Councilor requests: R. Kokesch questioned if plans for a one-way street by the school should be implemented before this school year, but it was felt it would be implemented with the Safe Routes to School directive. Scharfencamp received approval to extend his temporary dwelling for another month of home construction.

At 9:52 p.m., Mayor Sherman called for a motion to adjourn, with Scharfencamp motioning for adjournment, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting and public hearings will be September 10, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer