

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, September 14, 2020**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, September 14, 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 (remotely). Staff Department Head present was Pederson. Guest present: M. Gehrke.

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

**Acting Mayor R. Kokesch called for approval of the minutes of August 10, 2020 and August 24, 2020; Scharfencamp motioned to approve the minutes as presented, second by Sherman, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Acting Mayor R. Kokesch called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$64,625.83, cash receipts for August were \$32,390.79; there are 2 past due utility accounts; no new zoning permits were issued. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the consent agenda items as presented, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

No citizens requested to be addressed.

Department Heads reported. McCorquodale has the EMR class set up (beginning Nov. 24) and advertised. **Kylee Trotter submitted her resignation as an EMT as of October 5, 2020 which was motioned for approval by Gruendemann, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Deputy Peterson reported on the noncompliant properties. Deming noted that this is a problem in many other cities and he feels we have done very well by reducing the list from 33 down to 3 or 4 noncompliant properties. C. Kennedy has made a lot of progress; B. Davilla has made progress and is continuing his renovations; J. Nelson needs to license his vehicle and tarp his building supplies; Rebstock, R. Degner, and K. Larson have been given notices and are not compliant so will be sent a notice of a council hearing regarding their properties. Pederson reported that the city finally received \$20,920.38 reimbursement from FEMA; Franklin RHCC requested funding for an aviary; a fireperson had their license revoked, which was not reported and will be investigated; generous donations were received for the boatlanding, thank you's were sent; a kick-off for the Renville County Housing Study will be on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>; the city council will have to hold a special meeting to canvass the election results due to mail-in ballots.

The tax forfeited parcel was discussed and will be declared surplus property and sold with the following stipulations: sealed bids will be accepted until December 14, 2020 city council meeting, with the opportunity to raise their bid at that time; the council must approve the intended purpose for the building and the existing building may not be used as a storage building; the use/progress must be substantially completed within one year at which time the Deed will be transferred.

The CRF (Covid Relief Funds) are being utilized: the tablets, wifi boosters, battery back-ups and access connectors are here and need to be programmed; the access channel computer, the permanent drop box, and the slider windows are ordered; Renville County will be notifying which Franklin businesses qualified for funding.

The SWWC/BCBS health insurance renewal was presented and it was noted that a refund of \$4263.57 was received for 2019, there is no change in the premium costs for 2021. **Gruendemann motioned to approve the SWWC health insurance renewal, second by Sherman, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The salary schedules, 2021 fee schedule, and 2021 preliminary budget were presented with the recommended changes. Gruendemann questioned the ambulance training officer position which was clarified that the assistant chief/training officer is one position; also discussed was whether the fire department needs two lieutenants if the assistant chief is doing so many duties. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve the 2021 Salary Schedule, Fee Schedule and Preliminary Budget, second by Deming, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. Gruendemann motioned to approve Resolution 2020-7, Proposed 2021 Levy in the amount of \$179,584, a 2.5% increase over 2020, second by Sherman, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. Scharfencamp motioned to hold the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Community Center.**

R. Kokesch and K. Kokesch met with Colin Wright of the DNR at the boatlanding; R. Kokesch felt it was a good meeting. Wright sent a Joint Powers Agreement noting the DNR has several of these in place with other cities, townships and counties. It was noted that the problems at the boatlanding are being caused by what is happening upstream as well as the city's storm water and that needs to be fixed. The council felt the city attorney should review the proposed DNR agreement.

Pederson was approached by AMKO Advisors to buy out the USDA bonds with a potential cost savings of about \$130,000; Pederson contacted Ehler's and is waiting for their opinion about the potential refinance.

The city received 17 applications for the city clerk/treasurer position. Pederson received some hiring information from the city of Olivia that will be utilized. The hiring committee will review and grade the applications later this week and the council will plan to interview 5-8 of them.

There were no changes from the 2020 Ambulance Association Assessments, 180 residential units at \$30, \$5400 total. **Gruendemann motioned to approve Resolution 2020-8, Annual Ambulance Association Assessments, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

There were no Councilor requests.

**At 8:20 p.m., Scharfencamp motioned for adjournment, second by Gruendemann, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** The next regular meeting will be October 12, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer