

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, April 8, 2013**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, April 8, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Council members present were: Degner, Kokesch, Scharfencamp, and Wiese; Lyon was absent. Staff Department Heads present were: Degner, Kokesch and Pederson. Guests were present were: Wayne Olson, Ryan Radermacher, and Andy Kehren.

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor Degner called the meeting to order with roll call showing all council present.

Mayor Degner called for approval of the agenda. Wiese requested to table the Ambulance Assistant Chief discussion; Pederson requested Chief Degner's resignation be added to the agenda. **Wiese motioned to approve the agenda, amended as requested, second by Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Degner called for approval of the minutes of the March 11, 2013 Regular Meeting. Kokesch motioned to approve the minutes as presented, second by Wiese, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.

Citizens were addressed. Olson noted his police survey was mailed but not received. Radermacher questioned the need for a permit to shingle and was told he did not need one.

Andy Kehren reported that the project is going well and is more than half completed, they are waiting on the controls from Automatic Systems and another high service pump. Kehren also reported that the issues with First Avenue discussed last month are partially due to the project, but Dehncke's new building and driveway may need a culvert installed to drain the excess water. Kehren reported that plans have been submitted to Rural Development for the final phase of the 2013-2014 infrastructure improvements and requested the council authorize advertisement for bids with the bid date coordinated with Rural Development. **Wiese motioned to approve advertising for bids provided the bid date is coordinated with USDA Rural Development, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Partial Pay Estimate No. 4, to KHC Construction was presented for approval. **Wiese motioned to approve PPE #4 to KHC in the amount of \$273,437.03, second by Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Pay Draw No. 11 in the amount of \$298,152.82 was presented for approval, which was motioned for approval by Scharfencamp, second by Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.

The financial status of the city was reviewed. March receipts totaled \$90,163.17; current bills were presented for payment in the amount of \$333,002.58. **Kokesch motioned for approval of the bills and financial report as presented, second by Wiese, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Chief Degner withdrew his request to pay out his accumulated sick time and instead requested that he be able to take the accumulated days off, noting until the first of June he has 12 days of vacation, will be at the Chief's conference for a week, and some court and training days scheduled and this would not cost the city any more money. Degner went on to explain that he will be in town most of the days and will still carry a pager, but does not want to work regularly scheduled hours and just doesn't want to come into work anymore; he also requested that he would receive a good recommendation if he were to seek other employment. The council questioned who would cover police calls; Degner noted the sheriff's office would, and he would if he is in town. The council also questioned if Catfish Days and KMS would be covered; Degner will not be working these events, but will contact the four officers on the roster about working then. **Wiese motioned to approve Degner to use his sick time provided he respond to 911 calls; second by Kokesch, RCV-4Yes, 0 No.**

The council discussed at length policing options and issues. The survey responses were tabulated per taxable household resulting as follows: Full-time Police, 13; Part-time Police, 12, Sheriff's office, 5; No local police 30. Wiese reported that the Fire and Ambulance Department supported a full-time police department. Chief Degner noted that in Redwood County of the 17 cities, 13 do not have a police department or contract with the sheriff's office; he also noted that most of the citations that the sheriff's office issues are for traffic violations. Chief Degner added that if the city hires someone, they probably won't get someone to live here, especially if they are part-time and they are not going to work short shifts; he also added that a testing process and background checks are needed. K. Kokesch recommended going without for six months per the majority of the surveys. Discussion continued with questions of who would be the chief; what would be done with nuisance calls; etc. Wiese motioned to hire a full-time officer; the motion failed for lack of a second. Scharfencamp felt the city should look at all options, and suggested inviting the sheriff to meet with the council and felt a part-time officer would be the best solution, but the position would be hard to fill. Degner will contact the sheriff about meeting with the council. **Kokesch motioned to table the policing decision; second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Chief Degner submitted his resignation, effective June 30, 2013. He noted he still has firearms in his possession and all will be sold or destroyed by July 1, 2013; any that are tied up in paperwork will be stored at the sheriff's office and the sheriff will clear the city of ownership and liability prior to releasing them. **Kokesch motioned to accept Chief Roger Degner's resignation, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Notice was received from David Distad, Renville County Environmental Health, that the city will be required to apply for a special event permit for camping at the ballpark during Catfish Days and that the boatlanding area may need permitting as well. Although the costs are not huge, the council felt this was ridiculous and that it is just the beginning of further regulations and fees. This will ruin tourism in the

county. Pederson questioned how many sites would there be at the ballpark and will contact Brent Sandmann for an idea. **Scharfencamp recommended the city write a letter of protest to the county commissioners and the Environmental Health Department; second by Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Liquor license renewals were presented for approval: Longbranch Saloon-On Sale, Off Sale, and Sunday; Franklin Depot-On Sale, Off Sale; Franklin BP-3.2 Off Sale. **Wiese motioned to approve the liquor license renewals, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

SW Dust Treatment application cost this year is \$80.16 per 100 ft., down from \$85.50 in 2012. Due to project construction, only south Third Street (nursing home road) will be treated this year. **Scharfencamp motioned to approve dust treatment application to Third Street, second by Wiese, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Department Heads were addressed. Kokesch reported that there have been meter complaints, noting that meters do not read fast; some cities pass a resolution that allows for the testing of the meter with the user paying for the testing if the meter is not faulty, but questioned what to do with the meter that has been tested, since a new one would be installed during testing. There are still issues with the city water, the filter is off-line and will remain so until Well No. 5 is up and running. Kokesch noted that he will need some part-time help, noting PERA issues and not needing someone on a regular basis, but rather on an as-needed basis. Vosika was contacted about a portable toilet at the boatlanding, mid-June through mid-September, cost around \$225. **Wiese motioned to install a portable toilet at the boatlanding; second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** Chief Degner thanked the city for his 33 years of employment. Pederson presented council clarification on the term “user” in reference to Chapter 52 Water Regulations, noting the city bills the owner and sends a duplicate to the renter as a courtesy; the city will no longer bill any renters and the ordinance will be clarified; people will be asked to notify the city of property sales. Pederson reported that the clerk’s conference was very good this year; Mediacom is raising their rates; there are 5 potential utility disconnections.

There were no new zoning permit applications.

The MN Valley History Learning Center is offering Day Camp again this year and asked the city to contribute \$2,500 for the program and will charge the participants \$20 with city participation. Pederson is to contact the Morgan Pool about swimming lessons and get transportation costs to Morton and to Morgan. **Wiese motioned to contribute and participate in the MVHLC Day Camp and for swimming lessons to be at the Morgan Pool; second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes 0 No.**

There were no councilor requests.

At 9:55 p.m., Mayor Degner called for adjournment, with Scharfencamp motioning for adjournment, second by Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No. The next regular city council meeting will be held Monday, May 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer