

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, August 12, 2013**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, August 12, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Council members present were: Degner, R. Kokesch, Lyon, Scharfencamp, and Wiese. Staff Department Heads present were: DeBleick, Kokesch, and Pederson. Guests present were: Tim and Katie Joehnck, Corey Gruendemann, Roger Degner, and Joel Harmoning.

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, noting the Fire Relief will not present information and the closed session may have to be moved to accommodate the city attorney. Wiese motioned to approve the agenda with the changes indicated, second by Lyon, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Mayor Degner called for approval of the minutes of the July 8, 2013 Regular Meeting. Scharfencamp motioned to approve the minutes as presented, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

No citizens requested to be addressed.

The city council presented a plaque to retired Police Chief Roger Degner thanking him for his years of service to the city.

A draft ordinance regulating ATV's, Mini-Trucks, UTV's, and Golf Carts was presented and discussed. The ordinance allows for the use of these vehicles provided the driver is a licensed driver and the vehicle carries insurance. It was discussed whether or not these vehicles should be allowed only on designated routes and the consensus was not to restrict them to certain areas. R. Kokesch felt that owners of these vehicles should have to purchase a permit and provide proof of insurance and licensure. Because the DNR already requires this for licensure some felt it was not necessary. Also it was questioned was who will police these vehicles, noting that enforcement is essential. **R. Kokesch motioned to add a permit fee of \$15 per year to the draft ordinance, second by Lyon, RCV-2 Yes-R. Kokesch, W. Lyon; 3 No-Scharfencamp, Wiese, and Degner, motion failed. Wiese motioned to approve the draft ordinance as amended and discussed, second by Scharfencamp; RCV-4 Yes, 1 No-R. Kokesch.** It was decided that the ordinance will be reviewed by the city attorney.

R. Kokesch motioned to accept the resignation of Mike Sather from the Fire Department, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

The Fire Relief Association will present at the next meeting.

Gruendemann installed the new walk in doors at the fire hall and one of the new combination locks, noting the locks do not have a keyed access option, which is

needed for meetings and rentals. The remaining lock could be used at another location and the council agreed that Gruendemann could purchase and install a keyed lock on the south door.

Citizens were questioning the Fire Dept. pool fills as well as wondering if city water were used, could they receive a sewer credit on the amount used to fill their pools. It wasn't certain as to how the pool fills started, what the charges actually were, noting it was a donation and some going to the Fire Relief Association and some to the city. The council felt the revenue should go to the water department and people can install an outside meter if they do not want the sewer charge. **Lyon motioned that there be no more Fire Department pool fills, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Morton refused the city police proposal, stating they may consider it once a department is established. It was recommended that the city pursue discussions with Morgan and Fairfax. Comments by EMS and Fire people were that they would like a full-time police person for better response times to emergency situations; others felt a full-time police person is not necessary as was stated by the former police chief and was the consensus of the surveys. DeBlieck reported that there were 25 calls in July, 8 of which were ambulance pages and 2 fire pages. Also discussed were unemployment issues, possibly increasing the part-time hours, and costs. **Wiese motioned to hire a full-time officer off of the city's current roster for one year, second by Scharfencamp; RCV-2 Yes-Wiese, Scharfencamp; 3 No-R. Kokesch, Lyon, and Degner, motion failed. Scharfencamp motioned to discuss the possibility of sharing police with Morgan and Fairfax and then look at Wiese's original motion, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 1 No-Wiese.** Degner and R. Kokesch will talk with the other cities.

Kokesch reported that the water treatment plant issues have settled down; the new well water has a significant amount of iron in it requiring a large amount of chemical to treat it and almost daily backflushing. The final phase of construction is to begin this week, beginning with the alley between 2nd and 3rd Avenues.

Wiese motioned to approve the Certificate of Substantial Completion to Kuechle Underground for the CSAH 29 project, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Wiese motioned to approve Pay Draw No. 15, in the amount of \$13,930.05 (for engineering fees), pending USDA approval, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

The financial status of the city was reviewed. July receipts totaled \$402,526.33; current bills were presented for payment in the amount of \$81,539.84. **Wiese motioned for approval of the bills (with the removal of #51, Shirts Plus) and financial report as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Department Heads were addressed. Kokesch felt Catfish Days and KMS went well overall, more clean-up help is needed on Monday. Kokesch will be vacationing in September stating he will monitor the systems, but needs a smart phone application to

do so; the smart phone and data plan will replace three lift station land lines and autodialers and will be a cost savings. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the purchase of a smart phone, second by Lyon, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** The water quality is improving, there is a definite learning curve and it will take about six months to get it right; Kokesch spoke to the administrator of GoldenLiving Center who denied any intentional misuse of the sewer system, but is now aware of the issues with the lift station; the city payloaders were not at the burn yesterday. Pederson reported that Bird Island has a squad car for sale; the front door of City Hall is warped and should be repaired before winter; no mosquito spray donations have been received; questioned if the city wants representation at the Renville County HRA/EDA meetings, R. Kokesch will try to attend; the former Franklin Auto property is set for tax forfeiture and the city has the option to obtain it, with the tanks and abandoned well there are issues with the property, K. Kokesch will contact Tom Steffl regarding the well and Pederson will send a letter to the Renville County Commissioners. DeBlieck reported that Catfish Days and KMS went well, few incidents; the lights at the ballpark were shut off after the band finished downtown. Lyon questioned DeBlieck's hours and requested some type of schedule be followed and that a report be presented each month to the council; DeBlieck stated he works when he is able and does not follow a schedule with so few hours; DeBlieck questioned if he could hire more people to patrol, the council preferred to add to his hours rather than hire and he work as he is able. **Lyon motioned to increase DeBlieck's hours to average 15 per week, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** DeBlieck questioned hiring more part-time police with full-time licenses. **R. Kokesch motioned to continue with the policing as is and to evaluate what the next month brings, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes 0 No.**

The council went into closed session to discuss legal strategy in the case of Federal Court Summons Phyllis Schierioth v. City of Franklin. The closed session adjourned at 9:45 p.m. with a motion to close the closed session and continue the regular meeting made by Weise, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

A zoning permit has been issued to Matt Anderson to install an 8' x 12' building addition.

The council reviewed the full-time salary and benefit schedule. Pederson stated that she is going backward with health insurance costing her more and wages are not increasing with the cost of living, Pederson also presented the LMC salary survey results and her wages are below average. Kokesch added that the employees have worked with the city when finances were tight. Health insurance was discussed and it was felt it should be equal across the board. Everyone agreed that salary negotiations are difficult. **Wiese motioned for a 2% salary increase for full-time employees, and for Pederson to also receive the full health insurance benefit, effective 1-1-14, second by Lyon, RCV-3 Yes, Wiese, Lyon, Degner; 2 No, R. Kokesch and Scharfencamp.** It was questioned what type of health benefits would be offered if a police officer is hired full-time? The current sick and vacation time policy will be

reviewed. **Kokesch motioned to reinstate employee evaluations and reviews and to be creative with benefits, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The city fee schedule was reviewed. Increases included: facsimile \$2 first page, \$1 each additional page; summer recreation \$25 per season; swimming lessons \$15 per child, no private lessons; zoning permits \$15, conditional use/variance permits \$150; bulk water, \$20/1000 gallons; sewer base rate \$24/month or \$72/quarter; water base rate \$17/month or \$51/quarter; rural base rate \$31/month or \$93/quarter; water usage \$4.25/1000 gallons; unmetered water \$125/quarter.

A rough preliminary 2014 budget was presented. Pederson noted that there are many unknowns at this time, LGA was increased; money will be allocated for pellet building maintenance, full-time police, and seal coating. Water and sewer rates are still not sufficient to fully fund their debt, reserves will be used for painting the inside of the water tower.

Catfish Days and KMS were felt to have gone well.

Mediacom notified the city that as of August 1st, it will not support the personal web feature. Pederson looked in to the LMC website service, GovOffice, used by many cities, but felt it was expensive. Other options will be researched.

Councilor Requests included R. Kokesch received a request for more detail in the minutes posted on the website, the council consensus is that the minutes are fine; Pederson will check into Board of Review training. **Lyon noted election judge wages were overlooked, and motioned to increase election judge pay to \$9.00 hour, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

At 11:55 p.m., Mayor Degner called for adjournment, with Lyon motioning for adjournment, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. The next regular city council meeting will be held Monday, September 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer