

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, March 11, 2013**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, March 11, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Council members present were: Degner, Kokesch, Lyon, Scharfencamp, and Wiese. Staff Department Heads present were: Kokesch and Pederson. Guests were present were: Marilyn Wolter, Barb Tighe, Andy Kehren, Darris Dehncke, Sierra Dehncke, Stacey Heiling, Bob Ehlers, Bob Fox, Neil DeBlieck.

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. Pederson requested Change Order No. 1 be added to the agenda. **Wiese motioned to approve the agenda, with the addition of Change Order No. 1, second by Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Degner called for approval of the minutes of the February 11, 2013 Regular Meeting. Lyon motioned to approve the minutes as presented, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Citizens were addressed. Wolters requested city assistance with clearing the water and ice accumulation on 6th Street. It was noted that the storm sewer is frozen and felt to be due to the number of freeze/thaws we have had, noting this is the first time in 28 years that this has occurred. The only way to correct this problem is to install new curb and gutter. Kokesch has pushed the water with the payloader but does not have thawing equipment; the county may have a machine and Kokesch will contact them for possible assistance. Dehncke requested the installation of rock on 1st Avenue, noting the road is very mushy and he worries he will further damage the road or his truck will become damaged; Kehren reported that the problem is lack of adequate drainage and until the frost is out of the ground not much can be done and rocks won't correct it; this is a particularly bad year, but they will look into options.

Barb Tighe presented information on the CMHS Chapter of Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention, noting there have been two recent deaths of students in the area that has had an impact on the school and communities. Yellow Ribbon is focusing on education and awareness and will be holding a community outreach program on April 4th. Tighe requested city support of the program, the city will assist with advertising and awareness and Tighe was referred to civic organizations to assist with funding.

Stacey Heiling and Bob Ehlers presented information regarding the proposed Renville County Medical Center (David Dunn's position was eliminated), giving a detailed overview of the plans and funding and noted community open house meetings are being held.

Partial Pay Estimate No. 3, to KHC Construction was presented for approval. **Lyon motioned to approve PPE #3 to KHC in the amount of \$37,165.47, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Pay Draw No. 10 in the amount of \$82,979.97 was presented for approval, which was motioned for approval by Kokesch, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Kehren presented questions on the electric service to the new well and Change Order No. 1 for the council's consideration. There are two options to extend 3-Phase electrical service to the new well: the first requires 300' of underground wiring that the city would own and be responsible for (of concern was digging and locates being the city's responsibility) the cost being up to \$5,132.55; the second is to install a new power pole 15' east of the well and the city would own 15' of underground service and Xcel would own the rest, at the cost of \$6,452.91. **Wiese motioned to go with the overhead electrical installation of Well No. 5, not to exceed \$6,452.91, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Kehren presented the three issues included in Change Order No. 1: the raw water line from the old well to the new well had a broken fitting and corroded sleeve, replacement cost is \$3,494.95; the corroded nipple was replaced with a stainless steel one, replacement cost is \$355.74; when sandblasting holes were found on the inlet header requiring replacement with a stainless steel header at the cost of \$4,929.23, for a total of \$8,779.92. Lyon questioned the need for the electrical changes and thought this should have been included in the original plans. Kehren noted that most of the project is work is done so there shouldn't be many more changes and noted that Xcel Energy is not very easy to work with. **Kokesch motioned to approve Change Order No. 1 as indicated, contingent upon concurrence with USDA Rural Development, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** Kehren also reported that installing a catch basin will not help the problem with the ped ramps installed with the CSAH 29 project, an attempt to build the centerline crown up and divert the water to avoid the ped ramp is proposed; Lyon noted that the ped ramp on the corner of 3rd St. and 2nd Ave. by Wayne Miller's is cracked, this should be covered by the warranty.

The financial status of the city was reviewed. February receipts totaled \$57,236.45; current bills were presented for payment in the amount of \$141,147.30. **Wiese motioned for approval of the bills and financial report as presented, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Department Heads were addressed. Kokesch reported that several complaints about the water have been received due to the lack of a filtration system during renovations, the water is safe but there is a lot of rust in it and it is being treated with chemicals. Kokesch received three calls on a stray dog on Saturday in Chief Degner's absence and questioned what is to be done when he is absent. Pederson reported that Renville County has changed its burn permit requirements; LMCIT general insurance coverage went up 15%; Board of Appeal is scheduled for April 8, 2013, at 2:00, Lyon is the only council person trained (Hoffman was also trained but moved and is unable to attend, Degner had been trained but his certification is thought to have expired) so the city is unable to run the meeting. **Scharfencamp motioned that**

if Degner is not certified, the county will run the meeting and this will be re-evaluated next year, second by Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

There were no new zoning permit applications.

The Fire Department recommended the council appoint Bill Wiese as Fire Chief. **Kokesch motioned to approve Bill Wiese as Fire Chief, second by Scharfencamp, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No, Wiese abstained.**

Wiese motioned to approve the KMS Memorial Ride Application for Exemption Permit for a raffle, second by Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Chief Degner requested pay out of his accumulated sick time. There is no money budgeted for this as it is not a provision of the personnel policy. Pederson reported that the city's insurance agent suggested Degner use accrued vacation and or sick pay to pay COBRA premiums but Degner's health insurance intentions are unknown. **Wiese motioned to table this for another month, second by Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

The council discussed at length policing options and issues. Neil DeBleick was an interim Chief of Police for Wabasso (who now contracts 15 hours per week with Redwood County), has a full-time POST Board license, and is on the Franklin PD Roster. DeBleick has another day job and works part time up north, but would be willing to assist the city by being a chief and hiring help as he will not work all weekends and felt \$18/hour was an acceptable wage. The issue of dogs and the lack of someone being available most of the time would remain. The council requested Pederson draft a survey of what the citizens want and include it in the city newsletter. Pederson will check into requirements of hiring an interim police chief.

Councilor requests: Scharfencamp reported that people are not stopping when driving to/from the nursing home and by the school; Chief Degner is to patrol this area better. Mayor Degner requested approval to attend the Mayor's Conference in Moorhead. **Lyon motioned to approve Degner attending Mayor's Conference, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

At 10:13 p.m., Mayor Degner called for adjournment, with Scharfencamp motioning for adjournment, second by Lyon, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. The Board of Review meeting will be held on Monday, April 8, 2013, at 2:00-2:30 p.m. and the next regular city council meeting will be held Monday, April 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Wendy Pederson, City Clerk/Treasurer