

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, March 13, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Franklin City Hall. Council members present were: Gruendemann, R. Kokesch, Mumme, Wiese and Lund. Staff Department Heads present were: Radermacher, Wiese, and K. Kokesch. Guests present were: S. Traulich, J. Sullivan, C. Minkel, J. Mathwig, B. Deming, T. Johnson.

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor Gruendemann called the meeting to order. Roll called showed Lund absent but planned to arrive late. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the minutes of the annual Rural Fire/ Ambulance Association meetings on February 6, 2023 and the regular council meeting on February 13, 2023. Mumme motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Second by Wiese, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$39,305.34, Cash receipts for February were \$43,657.34; there were 8 past due utility accounts; No new zoning permits issued. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Wiese, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

J. Sullivan spoke with council about the community center agreement with Cedar Mountain/Cougar Cub Daycare that has been in review for over a year. Earlier in the month, representatives from the school district and the city met to discuss proposed changes to the terms of the agreement. One change discussed and tentatively agreed upon was building maintenance: the city is to purchase supplies for building maintenance and the school district/daycare will provide the labor. Other terms that were discussed included snow removal, mowing, weed spraying, and water utility bill payments. As the water bill is only being paid for by the citizens of Franklin and not levied over the whole district or the families that use that daycare, it was discussed to have the water utility payment no longer paid 100% by the city. There was 131,150 gallons of water used by the daycare and 3,550 gallons used in the community center in 2022 to have a sum total payment of \$2,845.82. J. Sullivan spoke to the council about what the potential negative impact of adding the cost of utilities onto the weekly cost of daycare expenses for the 31 families that utilize the daycare. Other discussion on agreement terms included information regarding what other annual maintenance duties and bills are taken care of by each entity as well as discussion on the original agreement terms that were put in place before the buildings were established. **Mumme motioned to tentatively approve The City of Franklin to continue paying 100% of the water bill and each entity to handle their own snow removal and yard maintenance-pending school board approval, Second by Wiese, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.** Sullivan volunteered to have the new legal agreement drawn up by a lawyer for signing.

S. Traulich spoke with council about the 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue project; updating new council person, Lund, with what potential assessment might look like. Traulich told council that approval of plans is needed to get on the project priority list (PPL) and look for funding; he stated that once on the PPL the scope of work cannot change or the process would restart but the council could decide not to do the project and they would take the project off the PPL. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve plans for 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave improvements, Second by Lund, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.** Traulich also spoke to council about the Ravine project large group meeting that was held March 9<sup>th</sup>. This was a gathering of multiple entities to discuss the scope of the project and brainstorm ideas of how to get this project funded. In 2022 a grant was applied for and was not awarded funds, feedback was not given other than an assumption on the scope of work to be so large and intense. Many thoughts and ideas were discussed and it was decided to break the project into 3 phases and attempt to get funding for each phase instead of the project as a whole. Direct appropriation of funds was an idea that was discussed, the group hopes to get in contact with Dean Urdahl to pursue this idea. The group plans to meet again in the summer of 2023 to visit the site of the project personally and discuss the phases before funds are applied for again.

Department heads reported: Mathwig spoke about the Sheriff's dept monthly report that shows their average hours in February were higher than normal, somewhat due to the adverse weather as well as an emergency medical situation that the Sheriff's department had to investigate. Mathwig reported staying in the Franklin area for two nights over a storm event to assist in any emergency situation. Radermacher expressed gratitude toward Mathwig for his time spend here in case of an emergency situation and reported he used the Fire Hall for shelter for one of those nights; Radermacher showed a picture of the south lock on the Fire Hall to show how badly scratched and damaged it is making it nearly impossible to get in the Fire Hall if a fingerprint is not programmed. Attempts to buffer and fix the screen will be tried before a replacement is looked into. Radermacher reported having a USDA compliance review coming up on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, they will review compliance at City Hall, Fire Hall as well as the water and wastewater plants. K. Kokesch reported that it is the time of year to put road posting signs on the gravel roads in town as the county has just begun this as well; council discussed posted for a maximum of 5 or 7 tons, 7 ton weight max was approved. K. Kokesch informed council that gravel will be needed soon to patch roads and alleys, this will be brought up again in April. K. Kokesch is also happy to report another marked Elm tree has been taken down. Wiese reported newly appointed officers for the Fire Dept: Jake Olson- assistant chief, Dan Batdorf- 1t Lieutenant, Matt Olson- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, and Wes Lund as the Secretary. The MRU Department appointed Cynthia Minkel as the Chief. R. Kokesch asked about local organizations holding meetings at the Fire Hall as it should be encouraged for them to utilize the community center. Radermacher asked for clarification on what should be used as an emergency shelter for stranded motorists as one instance this winter a person was brought to the Community Center and moved to the Fire Hall as there are emergency cots and blankets there; the emergency shelter should be the community center and emergency equipment will be looked into to place there. Radermacher would also like to add a storage shelf to the Community Center Maintenance room to assist in keeping items organized, approved.

Fire Department bylaws were discussed to have been voted on for changes but never officially changed and updated at City Hall. This to be completed before interviews will be given for new hires.

**R. Kokesch motioned to approve the newly appointed Fire Dept officers and MRU Chief, Second by Mumme, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.**

Personnel Policy amendments were presented to unify city hall hours, paid meal breaks, and clarification of holidays being paid out up to 8 hours max. Also added is the recognition of Juneteenth (June 19<sup>th</sup>) as a Holiday. **Wiese motioned to approve the personnel policy amendments-including the paid meal breaks for full time employees, Second by Lund, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.**

Walking at the Community Center was discussed. R. Kokesch suggested that the citizens need a place to walk and move around and suggests opening the community center doors for this purpose. Council discussed a "trial run" April through May to see if the community has any interest in utilizing this service. Council would like for a sign up sheet to be placed in the entry way to keep track of how many people use this service. The sign-up sheet will have a place to add comments and suggestions to improve the quality of this service being offered. Rules in place will include: no pets and clean up after yourself. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve walking at the Community Center April through May; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6:00 am – 10 am, Second by Mumme, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.**

R. Kokesch reported speaking with J. Rose from the daycare and getting the approval from the daycare licensing agent to remove the outlet covers if a certified electrician will certify that all the outlets are tamper proof outlets. Council agreed to have All- Phase electric check the outlets.

**At 8:32 P.M., Wiese motioned for adjournment, second by Mumme, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** The next regular meeting will be May 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer