

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, April 10, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, April 10, 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: C. Larson.

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 regular council meeting on March 13, 2023. R. Kokesch noted that the discussion about looking into an emergency cot for placement at the community center was not included in the minutes and requested they be added. Wiese motioned to approve the minutes with the added information, Second by Mumme, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$50,700.37, Cash receipts for March were \$28,189.04; there were 8 past due utility accounts; No new zoning permits issued. A zoning application was filed for a cement pad for a addition to a playground at the Cougar Cub Daycare; however, zoning regulations do not require permits for cement pads. Radermacher asked council if they would like to refund the fee paid or if she should continue with issuing the permit. Council deliberated and decided to continue with issuing the permit and have the application details brought to the next regular council meeting in May for formal approval. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Christie Larson spoke to council about plans for the empty lot by the fitness center. Franklin State Bank, along with Friends for the Future, have applied for a SHIP grant to make a community garden that would promote healthy eating and Ag in the classroom Curriculum. This year the plan would be to build a number of raised bed gardens for the elementary and daycare use. There would also be designated beds made for the Franklin nursing home residents and the residents of Cedar Heart Homes. The SHIP grant is a reimbursable grant up to \$3000 that is to be used to establish the gardens. Ten raised beds are being budgeted for. A shed with gardening equipment and tools is being donated to this project by the Morton community garden that no longer exists. Additional plans for the future would include a compost bin, and a rain barrel collection system. This year they hope to plant raspberries, strawberries, sweet corn, 2 apple trees, pumpkins, and watermelons. The next "phase" of the project may include a butterfly garden or some wildflowers to promote good mental health. Larson asked for feedback from the council on the plan and asked if any permits or anything would need to be completed. Council spoke about a zoning permit for the shed and approved waiving the fee. When more information is available, the city agreed to help promote the community garden project in their monthly newsletter.

Department heads reported: Wiese reported a Fire Relief Gambling check written to the city at the end of 2022 did not get processed through the bank by the end of 2022 and the Relief had to pay about \$6000 in extra taxes for the mishap; The Fire Dept. bylaw amendments have not been typed up and turned into City Hall yet; Lockers have been ordered for the fire hall; the south lock on the Fire Hall was not buffed out and cleaned up at the last fire meeting and will be done in April. C. Minkel was not present for the council meeting but reported not in possession of the MRU Chief tablet; McCorquodale to be contacted to turn it in by April 21st. K. Kokesch requested council permission to purchase gravel to fix alleys and streets in town; council discussed and approved 10 loads. K. Kokesch asked for permission to line up the rental of a porta potty for the boat landing for the 2023 summer, approved. Discussion to add signage welcoming donations to help with upkeep of the boat landing was discussed and approved. Kokesch asked about plans for the park equipment as the new fire truck piece is set to arrive soon; will wood chips need to be ordered and who is to put the new equipment together. K. Kokesch spoke about a Loss Control workshop that he and Radermacher attended where he learned the value of adding an "employees only" sign to city buildings to decrease liability risks. Kokesch told council there are a couple dead elm trees that have not been taken down yet and asks for direction on getting the property owners to comply with the request to remove them; council feels like personal contact should be attempted again before certified letters are sent. Council also discussed talking to excel about assisting in tree removal as one of the dead elms would affect the power lines if it falls. Kokesch reported the wastewater plant needing fuel but with the conditions of the road out to the building, large equipment cannot get out there to refill the tank and a local citizen assisted in filling with his smaller farm pick-up, Kokesch requested paying for this before next month's meeting, approved. Kokesch notified the council he will be taking vacation mid May. Kokesch also asked for some clarification on wording on funeral leave in the personnel policy; council discussed approving new wording for easier understanding. **Wiese motioned to approve new wording for funeral leave as presented, Second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No, Lund absent for vote.** R. Kokesch extending compliments on all the hard work on snow removal for the 2022-2023 winter as it did not go un-noticed. Radermacher and K. Kokesch reported a insurance claim made for water damage to the floor of the Longbranch due to water being used to clean out snow that was blocked City Hall's Fire exist. Insurance will pay for the damages and the City will pay for the deductible. Radermacher reported that the open work comp claim has been settled and closed by insurance but the city would need to pay an extra \$100 for an employment release form, if desired; council approved expense. Radermacher was questioned on the lack of updates to city website, Radermacher is having issues with figuring out uploading a new calendar and figuring out how to work some of the areas of the website, but will spend more time on getting this completed in the near future.

R. Kokesch brought up a discussion over removing the outlet covers at the community center as they are damaging the tamper resistant outlets. Since the outlet covers are used by the daycare for health inspection and safety reasons, J. Rose inquired to her current inspector about removing the covers and it was agreed they could be removed with a signed letter from a certifies electrician that all the outlets are tamper resistant. Council requested this inspection be done by All- Phase electric.

Wiese motioned to approve new ACH agreement with Franklin State Bank, Second by Mumme, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.

R. Kokesch motioned to approved liquor license renewals for the Longbranch and the Depot, Second by Wiese, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.

R. Kokesch motioned to approve 2023 dust sealing to 1st Ave and 3rd St, Second by Wiese. Lund questioned why the city does not to 3rd Ave; 3rd ave is a township road that is maintained by the township. **RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.**

Spring park dethatching was discussed and not approved as there is too big of an area with fresh seeding and council does not feel it to be worth spending the funds on the remaining parts of the parks just yet this season. Over seeding of the ball field was discussed, Mumme agreed to reach out to see if this was still going to happen.

R. Kokesch motion not to waive tort liability limits to LMCIT property/casualty coverage, Second by Mumme, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 NO.

Lund asked for council permission to speak to the railroad about removing the stop signs at the rail road crossing on 1st street and replacing with a stop arm, council agreed. R. Kokesch asked about getting cold patch for the pot holes in town and asked if it could also be used to fix the basketball courts; cold patch will be used to fix pothole in town but was agreed that it would not help the basketball court. R. Kokesch also reported that the park grant she was going for required the park to become fully ADA compliant so she did not continue on for the grand as funds needed would be too high for the City's budget for the park

At 8:32 P.M., Wiese motioned for adjournment, second by Lund, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting will be May 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer