

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, January 9, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, January 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Franklin City Hall. Council members present were: Gruendemann, R. Kokesch, Mumme, and Lund. Staff Department Heads present were: Radermacher, and K. Kokesch. Guests present were: S. Traulich.

At 7:00 p.m., Acting Mayor R. Kokesch called the meeting to order. Roll called showed Wiese present. Gruendemann recited the Oath of Office followed by Mumme and Lund reciting the Oath of Office. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the minutes of regular meeting on December 13, 2022. An error was addressed and corrected to the December minutes to include 1 no vote on the budget and levy votes, previously written as 0 no votes. Mumme motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$54,020.84, Cash receipts for December were \$126,721.17; there were 11 past due utility accounts, including 2 accounts given their last notice before disconnection; No new zoning permits issued. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Lund, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

S. Traulich presented the council with the scope of work for the second avenue project that includes moving the location of the water line on second avenue, looping the water main from second avenue to third avenue, new curb and gutter to replace the old, and bituminous to cover all of second avenue. The project needs approval from the council to get on the project priority list for funding through the Public Funding Authority. A question was discussed over how much debt the city can handle if other projects come up that require city funds; the city's financial advisors, Ehlers, to be contacted to discuss. Traulich informed the council that additional funding opportunities may become available if any part of this project has any lead or copper piping as the State of Minnesota has recently made a requirement for any lead piping to be replaced; a lead and copper inventory must be taken within the entire town to determine if any will need to be replaced in upcoming projects. Since there are questions that still need to be answered, the council tabled approving the project.

Mumme asked if citizen have ever been considered to be on a council commission to avoid any conflicts; the League of MN Cities will be asked if this can happen. **Mumme motioned to approve Resolution 2023-1: approving official designations and annual appointments, with an amendment of David Anderson from Kennedy and Graven to be the appointed city attorney, Second by Lund, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

R. Kokesch motioned to approve Resolution 2023-2: approving 2022 contributions, Second by Lund, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.

R. Kokesch motioned to approve Resolution 2023-3: re-establish polling place, Second by Mumme, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.

Department heads reported: K. Kokesch reported that there has been a lot of snow removal budget and expects the snow removal budget to be higher than normal. R. Kokesch expressed gratitude for K. Kokesch, McGowans, Renville County Public works and the Sheriff's Department for all their efforts in the winter storms. One citizen complained of the snow plow plowing snow into their driveway. K. Kokesch plans to remove the old park equipment this spring. All fire hydrants have been cleared of snow. Two florescent light fixtures in City Hall have light bulbs going out, K. Kokesch would like to change them to LED lights, council approved. K. Kokesch also spoke to council about enforcing keeping the boulevards cleared as well as around fire hydrants as things left in these areas have made snow removal difficult. Radermacher brought back an answer to a question from last month in regards possible liability issues with fire personnel on military leave responding to fire calls, there are no issues with them responding as they are still covered under the insurance policy.

The 2022 Ambulance Report was presented. Total 2022 income was \$19,551.62 and largely from insurance payments from runs made before the MRU transition. Expenses totaled \$14,461.46. The Franklin MRU Department had an income of \$4,963.63 to be transferred into their savings account. **Mumme motioned to approve the 2022 Ambulance/MRU financial report and approve the transfer of funds the MRU department's account, Second by Lund, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

The 2022 Ambulance Association financials were presented. Total cash on hand is \$111,359.19. Council asked if details of what the Ambulance Association funds are allowed to be used for could be looked into.

The 2022 fire/rural fire report was presented with a total income of \$161,460.07 and total expenses of \$205,080.18 with the difference being \$43,620.11 to be split between the City of Franklin and Rural Fire Association. Noted changes on the report include noting the net difference to be noted as a negative number and the Rural Fire Association reimbursement to be \$21,810.05. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the 2022 Fire/Rural Fire financial report with the noted corrections, Second by Mumme, RCV- 4 yes, 0 No.**

Personnel Policy amendments were discussed. Changes discussed include clarification of 8 Holiday hours to be paid for all holidays; City Hall hours of operation to be amended to be Monday- Thursday 8am-4pm to match hours posted; Required City Hall hours to be researched through LMC ensure City Hall can continue with no open hours on Fridays with the public works department also closed through the summer; Juneteenth was discussed to be added as a Holiday for full time city employees. Amendments to be presented to council at the regular council meeting in February.

R. Kokesch reported the DNR grant portal to be open to accepting grant applications and asks for council support in applying for grants for the park equipment, council agrees.

At 8:50 P.M., Mumme motioned for adjournment, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting will be February 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer