

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, May 8, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, May 8, 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: B. Ortloff, J. Mathwig, J. Deming, J. Kanne

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor Gruendemann called the meeting to order. Roll called showed all present. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the minutes of the regular council meeting on April 10, 2023. Wiese motioned to approve the minutes with the added information, Second by Lund, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$35,637.41, Cash receipts for April were \$26,756.41; there were 7 past due utility accounts; Two new zoning permits issued- a 24'x30' attached garage at 440 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave E and a 24'x24' concrete pad for playground at 215 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave E. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

J. Deming addressed the council with a request for a pay increase for part time mowing and summer help for the city. He reported that, on average, cities around our area pay between \$14-\$16 for a similar position. Deming is currently at \$12 per hour and is asking for \$15. **Wiese motioned to approve a pay increase for Deming to \$15 per hour, Second by Lund.** R. Kokesch suggested adding this summer mowing position to the pay scale that Radermacher and K. Kokesch were put on in 2021. Council reviewed the pay scale that was implemented, noting that it was an old version of a pay scale they thought had been updated. They reviewed the pay scale from 2021 and discussed putting Deming at a grade 6 level 3 that would put him at \$15.78 per hour. **Wiese motioned to adjust his previous motion to implement the pay scale for Deming and putting him at a grade 6 level 3 (\$15.78 per hour), Second by Lund, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.** J. Kanne informed the council that St. Lukes church has plans to add gravel to their parking lot. Because of the level of the parking lot compared to the alley and neighboring yards, there is concern that during rain events water will run into the neighboring yard and possibly cause flooding problems. St. Luke's church is asking for permission to add gravel to a portion of the alley and grade the gravel to direct the flow of water to the road. Council discussed and approved with the understanding that regrading may need to be done in spring as snow removal in the winter will most likely affect the grading done.

Department heads reported: Deputy Ortloff had to leave the meeting for a call so J. Mathwig reported for the Sheriff's department. He informed council that Ortloff is the newest contract deputy for the City of Franklin and spoke about Ortloff and his passion for youth involvement. In fact it was reported that Ortloff recently stopped a couple of Franklin kids in the street and challenged them to a sprint race, and lost. Mathwig went over the monthly sheriffs report and discussed the upcoming contract renewal with the Renville County Sheriff's department. Mathwig asked for council's input on things they would like to see in the new contract or do not like about the current one. Council discussed and responded by saying they would like to see community involvement and friendliness to the youth in town. Blight and ordinance enforcement is another area they would like to be focused on. Blighted properties within the city were discussed and council was informed that there are a couple properties that have been on the blight list for some time and council may need to use some funds to begin the abatement process to get the properties cleaned up. R. Kokesch asked about the language in the city ordinance about unlicensed vehicles as council would like to see this ordinance enforced. There was discussion on other ordinances and policing matters. Wiese reported the fire department is having a lawyer look over the bylaw amendments to ensure the language is done correctly and wont inadvertently affect the pension. Mayor Gruendemann was contacted by a youth baseball coach that inquired about using the ballfield for their summer league; council discussed it would be nice to see the field being used more. K. Kokesch reported his upcoming vacation which lead to a brief council discussion on thinking about hiring a part time public works person to train in with Kevin and work on their water and wastewater certifications before he retires. K. Kokesch talked about a possible frost boil on 2<sup>nd</sup> ave e. Kokesch also reported having to shut water off to a property due to a leak. K. Kokesch and council discussed the playground equipment as plans should be made for removal of the old damaged equipment and how the new equipment will get installed. There was discussion on McGowan's possibly not wanting to do snow removal services any further for the city because of a few citizens reporting to him of slow service. K. Kokesch and council discussed if the ravine wash out could qualify for funding through the Renville County emergency management for spring flood damages; Radermacher to inquire. Overseeding at the old tennis courts and the ball field was talked about. Radermacher reported getting the PPI for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave project submitted. Radermacher received an update to the MN basic code and will look into adopting. Radermacher showed council road signs to attempt the slow of traffic on CR5 that are available for free use; council agreed to post them. Radermacher reported the fire dept not picking up mail and asked who is supposed to do that as the mail box is reported to be getting full. Radermacher and council discussed the need to the website to get the updates completed.

R. Kokesch would like to get new bids and mock ups should be made for the new park equipment. Donation buckets that were set up by the Lion's club were collected over \$103 were collected. Council signed thank you cards to hand out to the businesses that set up buckets to collect the donations. Lund reported to have been informed the cost of a railroad arm to replace the stop signs is way too expensive to consider. Gruendemann would like to purchase new bases for the ball park as the old ones are in poor condition. Estimates will be brought in. R. Kokesch inquired about the signs for sponsorship as to what dates they are to be placed and taken down as well as if the city will be asked for permission to hang them up. **Wiese motioned to approve the sponsor signs up on the ball field fence to support Catfish Days, Second by Lund, RCV 4-Yes, 1 No (R. Kokesch).**

**At 8:57 P.M., Wiese motioned for adjournment, second by Lund, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** The next regular meeting will be June 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer