

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

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, June 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, K. Kokesch, and C. Minkel. Guests present were: J. Olson, G. Scharfencamp, D. Scharfencamp, J. Mathwig, B. Ortloff.

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 May 8, 2023. 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 \$36,296.61, Cash receipts for May were \$49,6007.20; there were 12 past due utility accounts; One new zoning permits issued- 12'x16' shed at 250 5<sup>th</sup> St. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

G. & D. Scharfencamp addressed the council on behalf of the Franklin Legion Post requesting permission from the council to add lights to illuminate the flags as it would add an expense to the electricity used.

Department heads reported: Mathwig and Ortloff discussed blighted properties and reported that Ortloff and Clerk Radermacher reviewed some of the properties earlier in the day and many properties showed improvement. It was brought up that Renville County has a matching grant opportunity for home owners to assist in paying for some home improvements. Council requested that information on how to find this be added to the newsletter for home owners that may need assistance. Mathwig went over the changes in the new contract with the Sheriff's department and showed an itemized list of expenses related to local policing to give a better understanding on the increases. Mathwig also reported that there are two cots that will be put at the Franklin Community Center along with some blankets for future emergency uses. J. Olson and B. Wiese reported that lockers are in and they are just waiting on the wood needed for installation. The lock on the south door of the fire hall has not been fixed. Clerk Radermacher requests that if time is needed for them to get that fixed, her fingerprint gets programmed into the door so she may more easily access the building to drop off mail and check for MRU run information. C. Minkel reported that the MRU has expired medications that she needs to order replacements for and only plans to order the medications that EMRs are able to give out as there is often not an EMT on the calls. The MRU AED machine recently replaced some pads and batteries and Radermacher also noted that she replaced the batteries on the AED machine at the community center and also noted that the daycare makes monthly checks on that machine to ensure it is in working order. Radermacher and K. Kokesch asked about getting an AED machine at City Hall or any future need; This will be looked into. K. Kokesch reported that the recent rain event that in the area, some areas reported getting up to 9 inches of rain, was hard on the town, and the storm sewer. K. Kokesch asked for assistance from the council to find a bathroom cleaner for Catfish days and it is getting increasingly harder to find someone willing to take on the task. A fire hydrant in town that was damaged during a fire call earlier in the year will be fixed in the next couple weeks. There is a water main leak on 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue, K. Kokesch has someone coming to repair it. K. Kokesch reported to council that Bolton and Menk has been approved by the state to assist in completing the Lead and Copper Line inventory that is due to the state in October 2024; once more information becomes available about this he will report to council. K. Kokesch reported to council about another area in town that does not have a shut off for each property and due to a recent leak to one of the properties, it may mean shut off to multiple properties for repair; this may be an area that needs focus on improvements to get water service and shut offs to each property to avoid issues in the future. K. Kokesch and Radermacher spoke to council about recent vandalism and break ins to the ball park shelter; video of the individuals was sent to the sheriff's department. Radermacher reported to the council that the budgeted donation to the summer rec program was not needed and those funds could be allocated elsewhere. Radermacher asked if council fielded any calls about any water damage from the recent rainfall the area got. There were no sign ins for walkers at the community, however, there were a few citizens that noted they liked the idea and may take advantage in the winter. Radermacher has continued to have issues getting into the fire hall and requests the lock be repaired or her fingerprint get programmed for better access. Radermacher noted that a citizen position to the planning and zoning committee needs to be filled and asked council about how that has been done in the past; a note will be put in the newsletter for any citizen interested to express their interest at City Hall. Radermacher also reported that one of the newer hires for the Fire Department recently completed Fire Fighter 1 and 2 courses and turned in their hours for the training; she asked if these hours should be paid out now or with annual payroll-council informed Radermacher that these hours are generally paid out with annual payroll. Radermacher spoke a little more about blighted properties and asked for approval to begin the abatement process on two properties in town that have been an ongoing issue, council approved. Council also discussed the idea that a committee should be formed to aid in addressing blight properties. They discussed setting up a date and time for blighted property owner to be able to come in to ask questions and have their comments heard; this year this will be added to the newsletter that property owners may come to the July council meeting to come and be heard.

R. Kokesch presented a new cost estimate and mock up drawing for the park equipment previously approved. The previously approved equipment is now available for a lower price. R. Kokesch broke down the expenses and approved funds to be spent to show that \$38,724.60 still needs to be raised in order to purchase the equipment. Council held discussion on possible grants available and ideas on how to raise the funds needed.

A fire call caused Lund and Wiese to leave abruptly from the meeting to respond to the call. Discussion on the new Sheriff's dept contract was tabled.

**Mumme motioned to approve the Fire Relief's request for a temporary liquor license for Catfish Days, Second by R. Kokesch, RCV- 3 Yes, 0 No.**

Radermacher asked the remaining council members if they would be interested in trying for a Local Road Improvement Grant (LRIP). This grant was attempted for in 2021 and was unsuccessful. This grant would assist in funds to pave 3<sup>rd</sup> street out to the cursing home as well as fix a portion of 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Bolton and Menk will provide a resolution to pass at a later if there is interest in doing this project again. Remaining council members expressed interest.

R. Kokesch requested that details be looked into regarding a juvenile that was charged with park vandalism in 2021 and moved away before they could complete their punishment. This individual has since moved back to the area and council would like to follow through with a punishment as the others involved had to.

**At 8:26 P.M., Mumme motioned for adjournment, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-3 Yes, 0 No.** The next regular meeting will be August 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer