

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, August 14, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, August 14, 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: T. Sullivan, J. Harmoning, J. Clobes

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor Gruendemann called the meeting to order. Roll called showed Wiese absent and R. Kokesch set to arrive late. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the minutes of the regular council meeting on July 10, 2023. Mumme motioned to approve the minutes with the added information, Second by Lund, RCV-3 Yes, 0 No.

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$37,826.08, Cash receipts for July were \$119,249.49; there were 8 past due utility accounts; No new zoning permits issue. **Mumme motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Lund, RCV-3 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Gruendemann opened the public hearing for Rhonda Lyon's variance request to put a park mobile home on her lot. The variance was requested due to city ordinance requirements not being met; ordinances outline a minimum size requirement for the principal dwelling and must be placed on a permanent perimeter foundation. In addition, a park mobile home is categorized as a "temporary" living structure or a camper and Franklin Ordinance prohibits living in such a structure without approval. The planning and zoning committee previously met and discussed; the park mobile home would be deemed taxable upon council approval. Mumme suggested that wording be added to Resolution 2023-5 to require skirting around the base. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve Resolution 2023-5: Approving the variance request by R. Lyon at 311 4th street, with no additional wording added for skirting, Second by Lund;** Kokesch felt that as a property owner in MN that the skirting would be in their best interest and they would do it on their own, Mumme felt that it would be in the cities best interest to require it just as they would a trailer house. **RCV- 3 Yes, 1- No (Mumme); variance approved.** Public hearing was closed.

J. Clobes addressed the council, requesting a 4-year contract renewal with all the same terms as previous and no current increase to the rates. Council discussed. **Mumme motioned to approve the request for a 4-year garbage contract renewal with Clobes, Second by R. Kokesch, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

T. Sullivan and J. Harmoning presented the annual Fire Relief financial report and requested an increase to their pension payouts. Currently the payout is at \$2000 per year; they requested that in 2024 the payout increases to \$2200/year and in 2025 the payout increase to \$2400/year. Council discussion included how many calls are averaged annually and how much other cities in Renville County pay out. R. Kokesch questioned voting procedures due to the fact that there are 2 members of the council on the Fire Dept. and 1 council member with an application in to join the fire dept. The concern is to ensure that council voting procedures are followed correctly. **R. Kokesch motioned to table a decision until next month, Second by Mumme, RCV 3-yes, 1 No (Lund).**

Department heads reported: K. Kokesch put up a few Cedar Mountain banners on power poles around the school and discussed with council the placement of the remaining City of Franklin Banners; banners were brought into City Hall for viewing. Lead and Copper testing in the water is soon to be done for the MN Dept of health. Playground equipment has been removed and expenses are being tracked for reimbursement through insurance. R. Kokesch asked about mill and overlay for the city streets, K. Kokesch to look into partnering with Morton and rates to be looked into for budgeting. Radermacher reported a public safety aid that is to be disbursed to cities in December of 2023. Radermacher spoke with council about blighted properties and council approved the Sheriff's department to hand out citations to anyone not in compliance by September 1st. Radermacher asked council if they would like to implement a Marijuana ordinance, council discussed and decided not to implement a city ordinance at this time as the County will be setting out an ordinance that will cover all public spaces. Radermacher reported receiving the \$2500 park equipment donation from Apex Clean Energy and other donation requests were sent out. R. Kokesch is looking into a possible partnership with BOLD and the YMCA for Operation Wellness where the school gym is open for activities; R. Kokesch will look into this for the area. Council would like Radermacher to follow up on the community center contract with Cedar Mountain to see if that can get completed.

Two blighted properties have been discussed at previous council meetings that have become a public safety hazard and an eyesore; legal measures have been discussed to push the property owners into taking action to resolve the issues. Council discussed and decided to allow the property owners a little more time before legal measures are taken. Information on Renville Counties blighted property removal grant is to be sent to the property owners; the grant is a matching grant that can help fund removing blight and the applications are due September 15th. Property owners will be given until then to take advantage of the program.

No updates for the Ravine project funding.

Mumme spoke about an Ash Bore tree grant to the council. The grant can aid in removing or replacing diseased ash trees, or it can help in paying to a tree inventory or implementing a tree ordinance. The application would be due September 18th; Mumme asked for council blessing to dig deeper into this and make an attempt at some funding to help with tree replacement, inventory, or changing the tree ordinance, council agreed.

Council discussed some possible changes to 2024 fees and salaries. Items discussed included paying the EMRs and EMTs the same hourly rate for runs, no decision made; Fire Dept job descriptions were reviewed to see if each paid position would be paid properly; Fire Dept salaries would need a higher budget set for 2024 as they are training more often; the 2024 pay scale step up for the two Full Time employees was presented; part time summer mowing pay rate was discussed. Council tabled the rest of the discussion on fees, salaries and budget until next month.

R. Kokesch requested that all fees, salaries, and budget items would be presented in paper copy at the September meeting for ease of paging back and forth for discussion.

At 9:09 P.M., Lund motioned for adjournment, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting will be October 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer