

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, September 11, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Franklin City Hall. Council members present were: Gruendemann, R. Kokesch, Mumme, and Wiese. Staff Department Heads present were: Radermacher, K. Kokesch, and Wiese. Guests present were: T. Sullivan, S. Oberloh, S. Traulich.

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

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the minutes of the regular council meeting on August 14, 2023. R. Kokesch motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Second by Mumme, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$36,020.27, Cash receipts for August were \$42,065.70; there were 12 past due utility accounts; one new zoning permit issued; a 12' x 24" garage/car port at 351 half street. Mayor Gruendemann called for an amendment to the agenda to add the community center agreement, and park equipment purchase to unfinished portion on the agenda. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Mumme, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

R. Kokesch addressed the council as a citizen asking about receiving a sewer credit for when she filled her pool. Council discussed adding a policy to credit homeowners for the sewer portion of the water used for filling a pool once a season if the city is notified beforehand to ensure honesty. Property owners without a second outdoor water meter would then only have to pay for the water used to fill a pool and not have to pay for the sewer charges. **Wiese motioned to add a policy to credit sewer charges once per season for pool filling but only when city is notified ahead of time, Second by Gruendemann, RCV- 3 Yes, 0 No, R. Kokesch abstained, motion passed.**

S. Traulich, Bolton and Menk, spoke to the council about the LRIP grant. A question was asked about adding on to the scope of work on the application for the grant to include mill and overlay for city streets. Traulich went over examples of times it could be of benefit and when it could hinder the possibility of receiving the grant. It was recommended that since this is the second time this grant has been tried for, that the scope of work not be changed with the thought of it making for a stronger application. Traulich also reported that results for the drinking water revolving fund should be coming out soon for the PPL on the 2nd avenue project.

Department heads reported: K. Kokesch reported keeping busier than normal with water and sewer locates with the fiber optic lines getting installed in town as well as some locating for solar along highway 19. K. Kokesch hauled water to help with the Legion's flag pole project. K. Kokesch reported that many fire hydrants in town need to be painted and asked the council if property owners could be allowed to paint the hydrants on their properties, council approved as long as correct paint colors are used. K. Kokesch asked the county engineer would assess the streets of Franklin and give his opinion on the current state of the city streets and what could be done to fix them; it was suggested that the city engineer provide this service. LMCIT has been trying to settle the insurance claim for Franklin's pellet building, but has been having a hard time finding an expert to give an estimate on repairs. Kokesch also reported to council there has been many campers at the boat landing recently and some have been utilizing the showers and bathrooms at the ballfield. There have been recent citizen complaints of dogs running on the streets. A property owner in town had a water line break and has set up a temporary solution to have water at the property by borrowing water from a neighbor until the repair can be made. Radermacher reported no progress on adopting the new MN code of ordinances but has reached out to the city attorney on the matter.

S. Oberloh presented the 2022 audit and financial reports. Oberloh pointed out with charts in the financial report that in recent years there have been some purchases made with grant money that skew the financials in the general fund. Oberloh suggested that a new "project" fund be created and set up to track funds earmarked for special projects/purchases which will make the general fund financials more uniform. **R. Kokesch motioned to accept the 2022 audit and financial report as presented, Second by Wiese, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

Fire Relief pensions were discussed; 2021 pension amounts for all of the cities in Renville County were presented. The Franklin Fire Relief has requested increases to their pension payout amounts for 2024 to be \$2200/year served and 2025 to be \$2400/year served. **Gruendemann motioned to approve the request, Second by R. Kokesch, RCV- 2 Yes, 0 No, Wiese and Gruendemann abstained.**

Mumme, Radermacher, and K. Kokesch met to discuss the details of the MN DNR Releaf grant and plan to meet again to gather all the information needed to submit the grant application. The plan would be to remove 6 diseased trees on city properties and replant 12 new trees, a tree inventory to be completed, update the city ordinance on trees, and make an Emerald Ash Bore maintenance plan. Council members approved submitting the grant application.

2024 salaries and fees were discussed: The beginning pay for the part time summer public works assistant position was added to the pay-scale at a grade 6 beginning at \$17.33/hr. Fire and MRU runs for EMT and EMRs was set at \$13/hr. Minimum wage will be increased to \$10.85/hr. Radermacher and K. Kokesch will both move onto step 4 of the pay scale. Water and Sewer fees were discussed as council was trying to; council agreed to increase base rates .50 cents; water user rates will increase .25 cents and sewer user rates will increase .50 cents.

The community center agreement with Cougar Cub daycare was discussed. Earlier this year new terms were agreed upon and a representative from Cedar Mountain school board agreed to have new agreement document drawn up with their attorney. Follow up attempts have been made to wrap up this matter and no document was ever signed by either entity. Council talked about writing up the agreed upon terms and possibly attend a school board meeting to get signatures. Gruendemann chose to abstain from the conversation as he is employed by Cedar Mountain.

Council discussed finalizing the park equipment purchases while the approved equipment is still on sale. Radermacher is applying for the Renville County Community Impact Grant which could award the park equipment project \$1000 and must be expensed in 2023. Council approved purchasing the main playset, the carousel, and three spring riders.

Wiese motioned to approve holding the City of Franklin's Truth in Taxation public hearing during the regular council meeting in December 2023, Second by R. Kokesch, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.

Gruendemann motioned to approve the 2024 health insurance renewal, Second by Wiese, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.

2024 preliminary budget was discussed. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve 2024 preliminary budget amounts and Resolution 2023-6 setting the preliminary Levy at \$189,679, Second by Wiese, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Gruendemann extended thanks to K. Kokesch and Mumme for the help in hanging banners in town as well as a thank you to CPAC and Franklin Industries for purchasing and donating the banners.

At 9:48 P.M., Wiese motioned for adjournment, Second by Mumme, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting will be November 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer