

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, October 9, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, October 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Franklin City Hall. Council members present were: R. Kokesch, Mumme, Lund, and Wiese. Staff Department Heads present were: Radermacher, K. Kokesch, and Wiese. Guests present were: P. Bengston, C. Wood

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

Acting Mayor R. Kokesch called for approval of the minutes of the regular council meeting on September 11, 2023. Wiese motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Second by Mumme, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.

Acting Mayor R. Kokesch called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$68,216.60, Cash receipts for September were \$33,202.46; there were 12 past due utility accounts; one new zoning permit issued; a 6'x3'x7' breezeway at 367 2nd Ave E.

Mumme motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Lund, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.

Department heads reported: Radermacher reported to council that, according to the city attorney, the new version of the MN Basic Code of Ordinance is not required to be adopted unless the new wording is preferred. The newly adopted sewer credit for utility customers when filling a pool was not put into the ordinance book and will be handled on a case-to-case basis. Radermacher reported the City of Franklin's criminal legal attorney took a new job and has kindly found a replacement to take over the criminal legal cases for the City of Franklin. The new attorney is Griffin Leitch from the Willmar Law office of Anderson Larson Saunders Klaassen Dahlager & Leitch PLLP and also handles criminal legal cases for the majority of the cities in Renville County, council approved of the change of attorney. Mama Maria Tacos would like to bring her food truck into Franklin and wanted the council to discuss if this would cause any issues, council approved the request if the food truck is parked on private property with permission or she would have to get a peddler license to park the truck on city property. Radermacher asked for permission to attend the Franklin Women's Civic Club's next meeting as a representative of the City to inform the group of current and upcoming city projects, council approved. K. Kokesch reported a storm sewer blockage on 5th avenue; street sweeping has begun; P. Sather helped paint some hydrants in town; hydrant flushing and winterized will be done soon; winterizing of the park bathrooms will also be completed soon. K. Kokesch reported completing 146 locates for the fiber project in town. K. Kokesch will be going on vacation November 14-20. McGowans submitted an estimate to complete aerating, seeding and fall leaf clean up at the ball field for \$225 (city provides grass seed), council approved. K. Kokesch will be exercising valves in town using a valve exerciser machine being rented from a neighboring town. Council had a discussion on the issue of lack of available housing and discussed an idea of allowing a tiny house lot in the future. Wiese reported progress on the fire department bylaw amendments.

Wiese motioned to approve the 2024 fee and salary changes as presented, Second by Lund, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.

The community center agreement with Cedar Mountain was discussed; Radermacher typed up the changes discussed earlier in 2023. Council approved the changes and Acting Mayor Kokesch signed the agreement on behalf of the city. The agreement will be sent to Cedar Mountain to approval at their next school board meeting.

AES Energy company sent information on their Birch Coulee solar project to be presented to the council for early feedback. The project would be developed within an 1,030-acre area directly north of the City of Franklin as shown on a map included with the information given to the council. A few citizens were present to discuss the project with the council. The project is anticipated to have an in-service date of summer of 2028. AES Energy will be holding an open house at the Franklin Community Center October 23,2023 for citizens to attend and ask for more information. Citizens present are concerned the projected solar field will affect land value and aesthetics when their property is so close to the solar field and would be almost entirely surrounded by a fence barrier between personal property and solar field. Questions were raised about what could be done to move the solar project further away from the city.

At 7:51 P.M., Wiese motioned for adjournment, Second by Lind, 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