

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, November 13, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was to be held on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Franklin City Hall. Council members present were: R. Kokesch, and Wiese. Staff Department Heads present were: Radermacher, K. Kokesch, and Wiese. Guests present were: K. Hoffman-Distad, C. Minkel, J. Olson, J. Lueze, A. Lueze, and S. Traulich.

At 7:10 p.m., Acting Mayor R. Kokesch called meeting to order. Roll call showed Lund, Gruendemann, and Mumme absent. As there is no quorum present, R. Kokesch closed the meeting and called for a special meeting Tuesday, November 21st at 7:00 p.m. at Franklin City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, November 21, 2023**

A Special Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Franklin City Hall. Council members present were: Gruendemann, Mumme, Wiese, and set to arrive late is Lund and R. Kokesch. Staff Department Heads present were: Radermacher, K. Kokesch, C. Minkel, and Wiese. Guests present were: C. Minkel, J. Olson, K. Joehnck.

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

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the minutes of the regular council meeting on October 9, 2023. Wiese motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Second by Mumme, RCV-3 Yes, 0 No.

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$25,208.70, Cash receipts for October were \$31,535.53; there were 9 past due utility accounts; no new zoning permit issued. **Mumme motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Wiese, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Gruendemann opened the public hearing for a variance request from Cedar Heart Homes to build a 4-stall garage larger than zoning regulation. No comments or concerns. Public hearing closed. Mayor Gruendemann opened the public hearing for a conditional use permit filed by Katie Wendinger to operate an in-home daycare in her residence; no comments or concerns, public hearing closed.

Mumme motioned to approve Resolution 2023-7: Approve variance request for 4-stall garage (1344 sq ft) at Cedar Heart Homes, Second by Lund, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.

R. Kokesch motioned to approve Resolution 2023-8: Approve Conditional Use for in-home daycare at 430 1st Street, 2nd by Wiese, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.

Resolution 2023-9: Authorizing application for grant navigation support was presented to the council. Radermacher explained that the City's application for funding for the 2nd Ave project referred the city for funding through Rural Development which would cost over \$30,000 for the initial report to be submitted to continue seeking funding through Rural Development. However, the City of Franklin's score rating was withing range to qualify for a small cities grant which would be of financial and reporting benefit. The application would authorize Bolton and Menk to assist in seeking funding through Small Cities Funding. **Wiese motioned to approve Resolution 2023-9: Authorizing application for grant navigation support, Second by R. Kokesch, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.**

Department heads reported: Wiese reported a new chief will be discussed at the next fire dept meeting. Fire dept officers have been talking about a raise in pay for the chief and assistant chief. As raises have already been discussed and approved for 2024, this can be requested again in 2024 for 2025. Wiese requested the allowed limit to be spent according to the purchase policy be increased as even routine maintenance has become expensive. **R. Kokesch motioned to amend the purchase policy to allow expenses up to \$2000 with department head approval to be made without council approval, Second by Lund, RCV 5-Yes, 0 No.** New locks for the fire hall were discussed and approved. Cynthia reported S. Allrunner turned in a resignation from the MRU department. She also reported that many medications have expired and need replacing; only the medications that an EMR is allowed to administer is planned to be replaced as there is often not an EMT that responds to calls. Epi Pens are the most important that needs to be replaced. **R. Kokesch motioned to accept the resignation of S. Allrunner from the Franklin MRU department, Second by Mumme, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.** K. Kokesch reported an update on the insurance claim to the city pellet building; with the noted damages, insurance would pay out for the building only \$10,000 or would fix what has been deemed damaged and then run a test on the system to see if there are any unseen damages, council would like to fix. The park has been reseeded. Kokesch talked to the council about city lawn mowing; the current mower is 4 years old and a new one is needed. However, the question was asked if it would be of financial benefit to contract out for mowing versus purchasing a new mower and hiring a new part time summer mower. It was noted that there are a few areas in town that do not belong to the city but yet have been mowed and maintained for decades; Franklin council and staff all agree that this should not change for a variety of reasons and a good sense of community should be maintained. Council agreed to have the costs be looked into to see if contracting the mowing would have any cost benefit for the city. K. Koesch reported results for the 2022 annual pollution control report. Radermacher reported not receiving the ReLeaf grant; asked if council has ever considered renting out the chairs in the community center- council does not approve; new recycle bins will be exchanged for the new ones beginning in 2024; a \$1500 donation from the Franklin Lion's club and a \$4000 donation from the Civic Club was acknowledged- thank you cards to be signed; Franklin contracted deputy is out on paternity leave for having a baby boy; the Community Center agreement has been approved and signed by Cedar Mountain. Radermacher asked for approval to attend a seminar on Financing Community Projects in St Cloud through MN Rural Water, approved. Cedar Mountains superintended has been contact about opening the elementary school gym for community walking; the idea will be brought up at a school board meeting. Earned Sick and Saved Time was discussed as the City's personnel policy will need to be updated. ESST will likely not affect the fire department as there have not been any members to work 80 hours annually; adopting ESST will be revisited.

A sand and tire play area has been talked about within the community to be added to one of the city parks, materials and labor would be donated. Council liked the idea and would discuss the best placement over the winter.

R. Kokesch suggested that owners of two different properties to be contacted to potentially sell to the city.

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