

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, February 12, 2024**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Franklin City Hall. Council members present were: C. Gruendemann, W. Lund, R. Kokesch, and Mumme. Staff Department Heads present were: Radermacher, K. Kokesch, C. Minkel, and D. Menk. Guests present were: P. Sullivan, C. Freitag, R. Handy, S. Traulich, C. Minkel, D. Menk

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

Mayor Gruendemann called for an amendment to the agenda, adding "Pellet Building Insurance Claim" to item B under Old Business. **Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the minutes of the regular council meeting on January 8, 2024. Mumme motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Second by Lund, RCV-3 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$46,973.73, Cash receipts for January were \$34,079.76; there were 16 past due utility accounts; no new zoning permit issued. **Mumme motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Lund, RCV-3 Yes, 0 No.** R. Kokesch arrived.

C. Freitag spoke to the council about boulevard trees. She ask that council consider taking responsibility ofr removing boulevard trees. She stated that no other surrounding towns make property owners responsible for boulevard trees. She also stated that many years ago it was in fact the City of Franklin council members that allowed property owners to pick one of two types of tree

Department heads reported: Menk reported 5 fire calls in December; a roof leak at the fire hall was repaired; the fire department needs a new battery charger, cost could be up to \$900, council approved purchase; the fire hall printer is in need of replacing and they would like a paper shredder. Menk spoke with council about a new grass rig. The fire dept has been looking into getting a new grass rig for some time as they want more seating capacity to accommodate more members. Currently delivery of a completed new grass rig is apx 2 years out. The fire department is looking into purchasing a Ford F-550 chasey for apx \$70,000 and working with Kohls-Wheelberg Ford in Redwood falls to build the rig. Total cost is approximated to be \$169,000-\$225,000. Menk asked for approval of the purchase of a chasey and to use the Fire Department's gambling funds held with the city for the purchase; council discussed and approved the purchase with the Fire Departments funds. R. Kokesch asked about the Fire Department's updated bylaws; Menk reported to be working on them. Discussion was also held on the possibility of the Fire Department absorbing the MRU to support the MRU department long term. Many details will need to be investigated to see if this is a realistic possibility. Minkel had nothing new to report for the MRU department. K. Kokesch informed the council about his wastewater permit reissuance as he received notice that The City is to moved up to a Class C from a Class D. K. Kokesch explained the changes that this would include and also reported talking with Bolton and Menk in hopes of coming up with a compliance schedule to prolong the change. K. Kokesch reported the delivery of all of the park equipment to the council and shared with them the intricacies and difficulties of unloading the equipment into the park shelter; it took use of the City's payloader, Bobcat, as well as three community members and a flat-bed truck. A special thank you was posted to thank the community members for their assistance. It was discussed that a team should be formed to set up the equipment and plans should be discussed and made sooner than later. Council asked Radermacher to reach out to get a pdf copy of the playground set up instructions. Radermacher reported the date of the annual Rural Fire/ Ambulance Association meeting coming up of February 5th. Radermacher will be taking 2 days off for her sons upcoming tonsillectomy. Radermacher also reported that detailed information is coming out on ESST and how Franklin's Fire and Ambulance department may not qualify for a couple reasons- there are no paid on-call hours, hours are not tracked monthly, and members do not work the required 80 hours annually to qualify.

Radermacher researched interim financing with Rural Water for the 2nd Ave project. This project does not qualify for interim financing but could qualify for a mini loan for the \$160,000 needed for engineering and design; assuming that the \$600,000 small cities grant comes through. Radermacher spoke with the financial advisor with Rural Water, along with the City's auditor, and was informed that a loan would not be in the best interest of the City since the city does have enough reserve funds to cover the costs. It was reported to Radermacher that the cost of issuance of the loan partnered with the interest rate up to 5% would end up making the cost outweigh the benefits of getting a loan. In addition, this particular loan through Rural Water, would require payback in the form of utility revenue which would force council to raise utility rates higher than they are but using existing city funds would allow the city to assess these expenses for the project to property owners.

The 2023 MRU Financial Report was presented. There was no income for the MRU department and their total expenses were \$7,137.93. The MRU has \$7,594.71 in their savings; after council approves transferring funds for their expenses, they will have \$456.78 remaining with the city. The Ambulance Association's funds can be used to support the department, but a long-term solution will be needed. **Mumme motioned to approve the 2023 MRU financial report and transfer of funds, Second by Lund, RCV- 4 Yes, 0- No.**

The 2023 Franklin Ambulance Association Balance Statement was presented; the savings account held \$418.21 and the CD funds totaled \$113,128.76 for a total cash on hand of \$113,546.97. The CD was cashed in and added to the savings as per the Ambulance Association. **Lund motioned to accept the 2023 Ambulance Association balance statement as presented, Second by Mumme, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

The 2023 Fire/Rural Fire report was presented with a total income of \$23,372.36 and expenses totaling \$60,690.34, the net total cost for the fire department in 2023 was \$37,317.98 to be split 50/50 between the city and the Rural Fire Association at \$18,658.99 each. **Mumme motioned to approve the 2023 fire department's financial report as presented, Second by Lund, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

Miscelanous items discussed included an Emerald Ash bore meeting being held at the Franklin Community Center on January 12th, intending to be an informational meeting to inform the community about the Ash tree disease. Mayor Gruendemann reported a request from the Franklin Lion's Club/Catfish committee to install 2- 50 amp outlets outside City Hall for use for the bands during Catfish Derby Days.

At 8:28 P.M., Lund motioned for adjournment, Second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting will be March 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer