

March 2024

City Newsletter

City Council Briefs Not Formally Approved by Council

Meeting Date: February 12, 2024

Council Present: Gruendemann, Lund, Mumme, and R. Kokesch

Staff Present: Radermacher, K.Kokesch

Guests: C. Minkel, D. Menk, P. Sullivan, C. Freitag, R. Handy, S. Traulich

Regular Meeting called to order, Pledge and Roll Call.

Approved minutes of the reg. meeting 1/8/24 & Rural Fire/Amb Assoc 2/5/24

Approved consent agenda: bills of \$46,973.73; sixteen past due utility accounts; no zoning permits issued.

- C. Freitag addressed the council about boulevard trees and the impending Emerald Ash Borer disease. She asks that council consider taking responsibility for them and assist with removing. She researched that other surrounding cities take responsibility for maintenance and care of boulevard trees. R. Handy introduced herself as the new editor at the Farifax Standard.
- S. Traulich spoke with council on updates on the 2nd avenue project. The preliminary application was accepted. Traulich told council of the next steps in the funding process for this project. Council approved a Resolution to adopt a citizen participation plan to encourage citizens to give feedback on the project. Council also signed a conflict of interest form to ensure no favoritism when it comes to choosing contractors to work on the project. Council passed a resolution calling for a public hearing at the regular council meeting in March to submit the final application for the small cities development grant program. Traulich talked with the council about the options for the special assessment policy; a whole new policy could be adopted or a special assessment policy could be adopted on a project to project basis. There is a potential grant opportunity coming that the Ravine project may qualify for, more info to come. No updates to the lead and copper inventory work order.
- Approved Resolution 2024-5: accepting resignation and declaring council vacancy. Details about advertising to appoint a new council person was discussed. If there is interested candidates, the council would like to meet up for a special meeting right before the regular scheduled meeting in March.
- Approved Resolution 2024-6: Approving Election Judges for 2024.
- Dept heads: C. Minkel reported 6 MRU calls in the past month and CPR training for the MRU and Fire Department is scheduled in February. D. Menk reported no calls in 2024 as of yet, new locks have been installed on the Fire Hall, the new lockers are working well and there are hopes to replace all of the lockers in the future, there was a public safety grant the City received in December that can assist in the purchase of new equipment, the Chasey has been ordered for the new grass rig. K. Kokesch reported an incident at the community center during a scheduled rental where the renters were asked not to park on the street as to leave extra space for parent pick up at the daycare– as the street is public parking and not reserved, a letter will be sent with this information. Kokesch reported that the Ash Borer meeting went well and was very informative and suggests the council consider getting ahead of the problem before the problem arrives in Franklin. Discussion on removal of trees was had. Discussion was made on a proposed semi wash out facility in town. Radermacher was asked to update website.
- Council accepted a resignation from the Fire Department.
- Playground equipment and set up was discussed. It was agreed that the Elm tree will need to be removed-quotes will be looked into. Cameras were discussed.
- The pellet building insurance claim has been opened for two years as LMCIT has been having a challenging time coordination with an expert on the system for repair. LMCIT is willing to offer \$28,550 to settle the claim, council approved.
- Approved a letter of support for the Wellness Center in Olivia.
- Bills were paid as follow:



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| Salaries | Net | \$9,501.66 | Gopher State | Locates | \$50.00 | Alex Air 2 | \$7,840.13 |
| PERA | Retirement | \$1,724.73 | Scenic Byway | Tourism | \$150.00 | Bolton and Menk | \$9,967.00 |
| MN Dept. of Rev. | Withholding | \$496.63 | Gibbon Lumber | Supplies | \$101.79 | MMUA | \$183.00 |
| IRS | Withholding | \$2,845.60 | McGowan | Snow | \$127.50 | Clements Lumber | \$319.98 |
| SWWC | Insurance | \$4,255.32 | Kevin Kokesch | Phone | \$75.60 | VISA | \$2,612.35 |
| Ren-Sibley Coop. | Energy | \$43.81 | Claudia Kokesch | Cleaning | \$315.00 | Ervin Well Company | \$490.00 |
| Clobes Sanitation | Garbage | \$3,187.65 | Hawkins | Chemicals | \$50.00 | MVTL | \$245.64 |
| Madison National | Insurance | \$22.65 | Electric Motor | Supplies | \$379.00 | MN Valley Telephone | \$317.90 |
| Marco | Printing | \$169.83 | Anderson Larson | Legal | \$144.00 | Wex Bank | \$207.54 |
| Winsted Solar, LLC | Solar | \$989.42 | Elect. Syst. Software | | \$160.00 | | |

Community Calendar March 2024

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| March 5 | Presidential Primary-Election Day– Com Cntr |
| March 7 | Legion Meeting, 7 PM Com. Cntr |
| March 11 | Lions Club, 6 PM City Council, 7 PM |
| March 17 | St. Patrick's Day |
| March 19 | First Day of Spring |
| March 21 | Fire/MRU monthly meetings |
| March 29 | Good Friday |

2023 Curbside Recycling:

March– 12 & 26
April– 9 & 23



Easter Bake Sale!

March 30th

Starting at 10am

At the Franklin Amstar

All proceeds go to Donnie Dehncke's Kiss the Catfish fundraiser for the Franklin Legion Clun

Council Vacancy!

There is a vacancy on the Franklin City Council. The council will appoint an eligible person to fill the position for the remainder of the 2024 year. If you are interested, please stop in to City Hall to fill out a questionnaire by or before March 6th, 2024!

City Hall will be closed March 5th due to the Presidential Primary Election Day. Copies of the questionnaire will be available at the Community Center all day.



**Set your clocks forward 1 hour on March 10th.



CATFISH DERBY DAYS



2024 Catfish Days Clothing is now available at City Hall!



Franklin Lion's Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday March 30th

1:00 PM

Franklin Restorative Care Center
(Nursing Home)

For ages through 4th grade

Bring your easter basket!