

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, September 9, 2024**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Monday, September 9, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Franklin City Hall. Council members present were: M. Mumme, D. Schneider, and R. Kokesch. Staff Department Heads present were: Radermacher and K. Kokesch. Guests present were: T. Sullivan, S. Traulich, C. Minkel, M. Farrel.

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

Acting Mayor R. Kokesch called for approval of the minutes of the regular council meeting on August 12, 2024. Mumme motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Second by Schneider, RCV-3 Yes, 0 No.

Acting Mayor R. Kokesch called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$37,535.87, Cash receipts for August were \$371,432.21; there were 14 past due utility accounts; no zoning permit issued. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Schneider, RCV-3 Yes, 0 No.**

Traulich with Bolton and Menk reported an award notification of a \$2.1 Million storm water grant for the Franklin Ravine project. This grant requires a 10% match from the city. Renville County is pitching in up to \$70,000 to help with expenses related to the county road that will be affected. Once more information is released for the grant, plans for the project and easements related will continue. There are no updates on the small cities grant for second avenue west but Radermacher was contacted and asked to complete a risk assessment. Traulich reported that the MN Department of Health will be sending letters to cities by October 16th regarding the lead and copper inventory that was completed in the spring; the letter will outline requirements the city will have to inform their residents or businesses with galvanized pipes.

T. Sullivan, representing Sullivan Farms, addressed the council with intentions to renew the farm land lease for another two years with the same terms and conditions. Council discussed and requested that the verbal intent to renew the lease be removed from the agreement, only written intent to renew the lease will be accepted going forward, Sullivan agreed. **Mumme motioned to approve the renewal of two year farm land lease agreement, accepting only written intent to renew agreement on or before August 30, 2026, Second by Schneider, RCV- 3 Yes, 0 No.**

Department heads reported: C. Minkel reported the new MRU member will begin EMT training classes at the end of September; there is extra training available in Redwood Falls; the Franklin MRU responded to 11 calls in the past month. MRU bylaw amendments are being worked on. Deputy Farrel is Franklin's contract deputy and spoke with the council on blighted properties and asked the council how they would like to go forward with the properties that have made no effort to fix the problems. 210 2nd Ave, 164 1st ST N, 525 3rd Ave E, 310 4th St, and 264 4th St are the properties on the list; council asked the deputy to attempt contact with owners before a citation is issued; abatement will be perused if necessary. Council discussed patrolling time and location with Farrel and requested patrol emphasis during school drop off and pick up times. Fire Relief annual reports were presented to council; there are 20 current Fire Department members. One retirement will be paid out. The financial statements will need to be signed on the SAFES website by Radermacher. Radermacher has not received a response from Cedar Mountain in regards to the painting of the community center. Radermacher to send a letter requesting this be addressed. Radermacher reported receiving donation money to cover purchase on one tree for Lion's Park. K. Kokesch has an upcoming meeting with DOT in regard to the living snow fence on the north edge of Franklin. Kokesch asked if the council will like a fall fertilizer treatment to be completed this season, council agreed. Kokesch reported a broken toilet at the Lion's park; Kokesch locked that restroom for the remainder of the season. The SCADA system went down and a maintenance technician was called to fix; stated that it may have been due to a lightning strike. The new lawn mower will be delivered this week. Council approved removing the porta-potty at the boat landing by October 15th. There has been a recent issue of dog excrement on the sidewalk going north and south by the fire hall; the issue has been on going and should be addressed.

Excel Energy right of entry agreement was tabled.

Mumme motioned to change Novembers regular scheduled meeting to Tuesday November 12 at 7PM due to November 11 being Veteran's Day, Second by Schneider, RCV- 3 Yes, 0 No.

Council discussed the December meeting and Truth in Taxation hearing. **Mumme motioned to hold December's regular meeting and hold the truth in taxation public hearing on Tuesday December 10th at 6PM, Second by Schneider, RCV- 3 Yes, 0 No.**

Farmward sent on offer to the city to prepay propane for the upcoming winter at same price as last year, \$1.55/gallon. **Schneider motioned to approve 3000 prepaid gallons for the 2024-2025 winter season at \$1.55/gallon, Second by Mumme, RCV- 3 Yes, 0 No.**

The women's civic club received a park bench as a donation and would like it placed to be used by the new park equipment. The park committee or the council will need to make a plan for placement of the bench and make a plan for tree planting.

Mumme motioned to approved the 2025 health insurance renewal plan, Second by Schneider, RCV- 3 Yes, 0 No.

Discussion was held on fee changes and salaries for 2025; minimum wage will increase to \$11.13. MRU and Fire call runs was discussed to increase to \$13.50/hour; assistant head judge for elections to increase to \$12/hour and head judge to increase to \$13/hour. Water and sewer base rates and usage rates to increase 25 cents; water base rate to \$25.75 and sewer to \$31.75. Water user rate to increase to \$8.50/thousand gallons and sewer user rate to increase to \$8.75 per thousand gallons. Rental fees for non-city or non-resident community center rates to increase; weekday business events will increase to \$100 rent/\$175 deposit and weekend events will increase to \$150 for rent and \$175 for deposit. Non- resident no alcohol events will increase to \$100 rent/\$175 deposit; non-resident w/alcohol will increase to \$175 rent/\$225 deposit. It was discussed to add a notary fee to the fee schedule for non-city residents needing a notary fee and when Radermacher is asked to travel to the nursing home for notary services, council does not approve notary services outside of City Hall and a notary fee will not be added. R. Kokesch commented that the pay scale wage increases might need to be amended as the public works personnel could be bumped up more and the clerks wage increase should not. No other comments were made, the wage increase was left alone according to the implemented pay scale.

The council went over the preliminary budget with Radermacher; The shade tree program was removed; council added two separate line items for tree expenses; one specifically for parks and one for streets/other; \$2000 was budgeted for each. \$50,000 was added to street capital outlay budget for anticipated street projects.

Mumme motioned to approve the 2025 proposed levy to be set at \$203,788, Second by Schneider, RCV-3 Yes, 0 No.

At 9:52 P.M., Schneider motioned for adjournment, Second by Mumme, RCV-3 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting will be October 14, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer