

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Wednesday, January 8, 2025**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Franklin City Hall. Council members present were: Gruendemann, M. Mumme, R. Kokesch, and Schneider. Staff Department Heads present were: Radermacher, K. Kokesch, Menk. Guests present were: B/ Poppoff, G. Scharfencamp, L. Menk, M. Gehrke.

At 6:00 p.m., Mayor Gruendemann called the meeting to order. The oath of office was recited by Gruendemann, R. Kokesch, and Schneider. Roll call showed Lund absent. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the minutes of the regular council meeting on December 10, 2024. R. Kokesch motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Second by Mumme, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$84,684.94, Cash receipts for December were \$162,350.05; there were 12 past due utility accounts; no zoning permits issued. **Schneider motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Mumme, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

Poppoff and Scharfencamp with the Franklin Legion, presented an improvement idea to the council to add a sitting and picnic area by the flags along the highway. The improvement would include a concrete pad and walkway where a bench and picnic area would be placed and a gravel area for parking with a concrete curb. Set-back requirements will still need to be checked. The Franklin Catfish float will still be able to park in the area. Poppoff and Scharfencamp asked if approval is needed or if there is a permitting process required; the council gave their blessing for the improvements if all set-back requirements are met.

L. Menk addressed the council with a donation request for the Cedar Mountain/Wabasso Dance team. Menk stated that there are 15-18 dancers on the team and 2 of those members are Franklin residents. She stated that sponsors are printed and posted on the wall at their home competition. Fundraisers are also being pursued and funds raised are used for competition expenses, costumes and supplies. Council members discussed not having a budget for donations, but it was discussed to take funds from the summer rec budget to fulfill the request. **Mumme motioned to approve a \$250 donation to the Dance team, Second by R. Kokesch, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

**R. Kokesch motioned to approve the amendment to code of ordinance 30.01, changing the regular City Council meetings to the second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM. Second by Mumme, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

**R. Kokesch motioned to approve Resolution 2025-1: Approving official designations and annual appointments, Second by Schneider, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

**R. Kokesch motioned to approve Resolution 2025-2: approving 2024 contributions, Second by Mumme, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

Department heads reported: Menk reported one recent billable call. The new hire, Maverick Weber, is getting fit for gear. The Fire department is looking at purchasing a washer and dryer. Menk reported that AES energy gave the fire department a \$5000 donation for the purchase of the washer and dryer set. The total cost is estimated to be \$9250. Menk asked if there was any public safety funds available or if funds from the sale of the old grass rig could be used for the purchase of the washer and dryer set. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve use of funds from the sale of the grass rig for the purchase of the washer and dryer, Second by Mumme. R. Kokesch amended her motion to approve the use of the funds from the sale of the old grass rig for the purchase and installation of the washer and dryer, Second by Mummy, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.** K. Kokesch reported a recent meeting about the storm sewer/Ravine project with Radermacher and Bolton and Menk; the permitting process and seeking easements are to begin soon. The grant deadline for project completion is June of 2027. Engineers with Bolton and Menk believe that the DNR may label the end of the project area by the river a tributary which would prevent the storm sewer pipe from extending all the way to the river; a plan B is being made. The sheriff's department agreed to provide a letter of support for the project to keep the boat landing clean and accessible for search and rescue. Kokesch has been asked to get an estimate for a drinking fountain at the park to be purchased with funds raised in the 2024 Kiss the Catfish fundraiser; questions were asked about location and what style of fountain is wanted. The council had information from the fundraising candidate different than what Radermacher was informed; to clear up all the questions; P. Schmidt will be asked to attend the February meeting to discuss options with the city council. Radermacher reported the Franklin State Bank will be sold and to be merged with Wanda State Bank. She reported the upcoming annual Rural Fire/Ambulance Association meeting on February 3, 2025. Council discussed a letter received from the Sheriff's Dept reporting an incident on the night of New Years Eve/ early morning New Years Day; the letter informed the city that a bartender employed at the Franklin Depot bar knowingly allowed alcohol to be consumed after legal compliance time. Council reviewed city ordinance and agreed that city ordinance 112.32, requiring responsible beverage training will be enforced for both liquor establishments for their upcoming liquor license renewals.

The 2025 council meeting schedule was presented. Gruendemann asked about pushing the start time back but as the code of ordinance 30.01 was already approved, the meeting schedule will be left as presented. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the 2025 council meeting schedule as presented, Seconded by Mumme, RCV -4 Yes, 0 No.**

The 2024 MRU financial report was presented; the MRU held \$472.46 in their savings account. There was no income in 2024 and expenses totaled \$10,403.93. \$9931.47 is needed from the Ambulance Association to support the MRU department for 2024. Generally, MRU funds are transferred to the city to cover their expenses; however, Radermacher asked how council wanted to handle this once the MRU savings would be drained and if the account should be closed. Council discussed leaving the MRU savings funds in the account to accrue interest and keep the account open. **Gruendemann motioned to leave the MRU funds in the savings about and transfer the funds from the Ambulance Association to the City as needed and approved by the Ambulance Association, Seconded by Mumme, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

The 2024 Ambulance Association balance statement was presented. Cash on hand totaled \$113,803.47. \$9,931.47 will be transferred to the city pending approval at the annual Ambulance Association meeting.

The 2024 Fire/Rural Fire Report was presented to the council. **R. Kokesch motioned to accept the report as presented, Seconded by Mumme, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

Painting of the community center was asked; Gruendemann reported planning to attend next school board meeting to discuss. Mumme asked to ensure the Sheriff's Depart tickets vehicles that are left on the street during a snow event. Council discussed the possibility of hiring and deputizing a citizen to enforce city ordinances.

**At 7:25 P.M., Gruendemann motioned for adjournment, Seconded by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** The next regular meeting will be Wednesday February 12, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer