

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, March 12, 2025**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Franklin City Hall. Council members present were: Gruendemann, M. Mumme, R. Kokesch, and Lund. Staff Department Heads present were: Radermacher, K. Kokesch, Menk, and Minkel. Guests present were: D. & A. McGowan, J. Clobes

At 6:00 p.m., Mayor Gruendemann called the meeting to order. Roll call showed Schneider absent. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the minutes of the regular council meeting on February 12, 2025 and the minutes of the annual Rural Fire/Ambulance Association meeting on February 2, 2025. 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 \$45,095.81, Cash receipts for March were \$61,458.81; there were 8 past due utility accounts; no zoning permits issued. **Mumme motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.**

J. Clobes addressed the council about city wide clean up days. Clobes offered a change for this year, offering two clean up days in May and two clean up days in September. Clobes stated that he would choose a Tuesday and Wednesday to hold the clean up days from 3-9 Pm in the same drop off location and he will set aside the Thursday of the same week as a possible rain make up day. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the changes for the 2025 city wide clean up days, Second by Mumme, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

D. McGowan addressed the council about the tree trimming and removal proposals discussed at the previous regular meeting. Council discussed budget and the tree maintenance ordinance. They identified 2nd and 3rd avenue as the most in need of trimming. Ordinance states that overhanging trees should be trimmed 14 feet over the street and eight feet over the sidewalk. Boulevard trees are supposed to be property owners responsibility but many have been neglected. Ash trees were discussed along with the DNR tree grant; council thought a better plan should be put together regarding the Ash trees before removal is further discussed. The council discussed options and price with McGowan; Due to the budget constraint council asked if they would be willing to cut their price in half and trim only the trees on the avenues for the 2025 year, McGowan agreed. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve tree trimming along the city avenues before May 2025 for \$3250 and removal of Ash trees will wait, Second by Mumme, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.** Menk asked who he needs to talk to about the overhanging tree in the alley behind his house, K. Kokesch agreed to help facilitate communication with Menk and the county for maintenance on this tree.

Department heads reported: Menk reported one recent grass fire that the new grass rig was able to respond to. Menk reported fire department personnel attending the fire school in Austin MN at the end of March. Menk also reported that the washer has been installed but the dryer has not been. K. Kokesch reported that the maintenance on the living snow fence has been going well; the street sweeper needs repair; Kokesch also reported hearing rumors of plans for a new fire hall in the future and plans for possible locations; including the old tennis court area. Kokesch wanted to bring this up for discussion because there are other plans in the works for volleyball courts and funds were donated for tree planting. Plans should be discussed so that any improvements made this year will not be affected by future plans. Radermacher reported upcoming attendance at a Loss Control workshop and disaster training in April. The request to release funds has been submitted for the second avenue project.

MRU bylaw changes were presented and reviewed. Council suggested removing the requirement to pass a physical and adding to the job description of the MRU Chief to include training EMRs along with the EMTs. **Mumme motioned to approve the MRU Bylaws with the two suggested edits, Second by R. Kokesch, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.** R. Kokesch asked if communications about MRU staff training hours was improving, Minkel reported it was.

The City of Franklin recently closed on the purchase of a storage building from Renville County. The garage doors will need to be repaired or replaced in order to use the building. Sweiss doors will be called to come look to determine if repair is an option. Mayor Gruendemann asked about changing the code for the access door and will be looked into.

Mayor Gruendemann reported speaking with the Cedar Mountain school board about painting inside the community center. Mayor Gruendemann and Cedar Mountain will obtain estimates for painting and will plan to schedule the work to be done in June. Per the maintenance agreement, the city will pay for materials and the school will pay for labor.

A railroad land use agreement was presented for approval for use of area by the memorial flags. The agreement states that the agreement lasts 30 years and is non renewable as well as it states that all of the property in the area is city property and not Legion. Discussion was made that and edit to sublet the area to the Franklin Legion to clarify the ownership of the property on this location. Council members present were not comfortable with these parts of the agreement and requested Radermacher to reach out to see about editing these parts. **Lund motioned to approve the agreement if the two requested edits were made, Second by Mumme, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

Miscellaneous items discussed; contacting AES energy for a break down on what the solar project will bring in for taxes specific to the city; council members should discuss and send requests the city may have to turn a staging area utilized by the solar project into something useful for the city after the project is completed; R. Kokesch stated that at the solar public hearing she attended that it was stated to get all comments and concerns submitted within 20- days. Mumme requested adding tree ordinance to the next regular meeting agenda to discuss amendments and approve city attorney assistance. The sand volleyball courts that have been previously brought up in discussion have been reported to be planned to be placed east of the park equipment and would include 3 courts. Electricity outside city hall was researched; the box outside city hall is to be replaced with a new box and contain breakers instead of fuses; power requirements will stay the same; if easy to add, an outlet will be added to the back of the building for use for the Catfish tank. Mayor Gruendemann stated that he is working to be able to use funds held by the community food stand to pay for these electrical improvements. City Hall gutters have been in need of replacement for a number of years and was previously approved to be done by Gibbon Lumber; but as they have not had a chance to get to this project council has been asked to hire this project out. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve hiring out the job for replacement of gutters on city hall (including leaf guard), Second by Mumme, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

At 7:12 P.M., Mumme motioned for adjournment, Seconded by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting will be Wednesday April 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer