

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Wednesday, May 14, 2025**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Franklin City Hall. Council members present were: Gruendemann, R. Kokesch, Schneider, Mumme, and Lund.. Staff Department Heads present were: Radermacher, K. Kokesch, Minkel and Menk. Guests present were: S. Traulich, J. Harmoning, M. Wagner, M. Dummer.

At 6:00 p.m., Mayor Gruendemann called the meeting to order. Roll call showed all present. Mayor Gruendemann called for an amendment to the agenda to add Cedar Heart Homes agreement to line item B under new business and add Deputy Wagner’s report after citizens addressed. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the minutes of the regular council meeting on April 9, 2025. Lund motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Second by Schneider, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$41,762.54, Cash receipts for April were \$60,344.00; there were 9 past due utility accounts; one zoning permit issued for a 12’x20’x8’ Temporary storage/car port. **Mumme motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Lund, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Deputy Wagner reported; first round of blight resulted in 17 letters being sent. The second round will be done May 17<sup>th</sup>. Wagner will email the list of blighted properties to Radermacher to forward on to council for review.

Traulich with Bolton and Menk reported that the wetland delineation is completed for the Ravine project and easements are ongoing. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave project, Traulich reported learning that the portion of the project being paid for with grant funds cannot be assessed to property owners. The remainder of the project that is not funded with the small cities grant can be assessed. Traulich said that it is estimated to need \$135,000 of funds to cover what will not be paid by the grant of which \$111,00 has already been paid for engineering. So apx \$25,000 is needed to cover the rest. Traulich asked council if they still wanted to pursue a PFA loan and pay interest, noting that the loan cannot be paid off early. Council discussed and decided not to pursue the PFA loan. Traulich then presented the council with a letter from Bolton and Menk with the information on bids received and their recommendation of M & R Paving Inc. with the lowest bid of \$549,795.17

**Mumme motioned to approve Resolution 2025-4: Accepting the bid of \$549,795.17 from M & R Paving Inc for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Project, Second by R. Kokesch; RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.**

Department heads reported: Menk reported the new Fire Department officers as follows; Wes Lund- 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, Matt Minkel- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, and Tammi Jo Johnson-Secretary and for the Fire Relief- Tim Sullivan is President, Parker Sullivan is Treasurer, and J. Mettling is the Secretary. Menk reported the recent pump test went well. Radermacher asked about an estimate she received for repairs to old pumper. Menk said it was minor. Council approved the repair needed and Menk will schedule. Menk reported two recent fire calls; one for a grass fire and one mutual aid with Fairfax. Minkel reported taking a picture of the MRU for EMS awareness as requested from the Fairfax paper. K. Kokesch reported the drinking fountain to have been ordered for the park, he has had recent reporting issues on the MPCA website, he will be going on vacation for a week and a half in June, he did not appreciate being blamed from the property owner of the recent grass fire that he did not connect the property owner with the Fire Department. K. Kokesch presented council with an estimate from M & R Paving to patch 46 holes in the city streets and seal coat apx 2 city blocks for \$30,000. **Mumme motioned to approve the \$30,000 estimate for street repairs to patch 46 holes and seal coat 2 city blocks from M & R Paving, Second by Lund, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.** R. Kokesch asked K. Kokesch if the same summer mowing help is the same as last year, which it is. Radermacher reported 24 pets in town that have been licensed, the community garden is still being ran by Friends for the Future this year, Renville Counties cannabis ordinance along with the City of Franklin’s zoning ordinance should cover the wants of the city council for placement of a cannabis retail business if ever sought withing city limits. Radermacher reminded council of two pending fire department applications; discussion with Chief Menk about the applicants was made.

Harmoning’s utility request was revisited. Council agreed that Harmoning could hook up to city utilities, however, they then held a discussion on the cost to install these utilities for both the city tax payers and Harmoning. An easement would need to be acquired, adding to the expense of the request. Council discussed with Harmoning that due to the excessive cost for both sides that the request may be unfeasible and discussed alternatives like maintaining a well on the property. There is currently a well on the property that may be able to be utilized. **Mumme motioned to deny the request for curb stop services for water and sewer and approve maintaining the well on the property, Second by Lund, Harmoning requested the motion be amended to maintain “a” well and not “the” well. Mumme motioned to deny the request for curb stop services for water and sewer and approve maintaining a well on the property, Second by Lund, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No, Kokesch abstained due to passive aggressive tones used in discussion.**

Plans for the Lion’s Park needs to be made for where the new trees will be planted, where a sand volleyball court will be, where benches will be installed, and any other plans for the park. Mayor Gruendemann will work on this before next regular meeting. Radermacher will make another Facebook post to try and get more donations for new trees to be planted. Trees will be ordered and planted after the June regular meeting.

**Mumme motioned to approve dust control services with SouthWest Transfer for \$1.05 per foot 18 feet wide, Second by Lund, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.** K. Kokesch will be getting 5 loads of gravel laid down before dust control is completed. The gravel will cost \$300 per load and five loads have been ordered.

City of Franklin’s Tree ordinance and ash tree inventory was presented for discussion. Mumme suggested that the city attorney take a look at the ordinance on trees and consider amendments to include Ash Bore disease and tree removal. He stated that there is another town in MN that has created a program to assist property owners in the removal of ash trees and have the cost of removal assessed to their taxes. The city attorney will be asked about this as well. Council looked at the Ash tree inventory in city limit. The trees included on the map only include ash trees on the boulevard and easement areas. Council would like to see an estimate from McGowans for how much removal of Ash trees may cost. **Schneider motioned to approve working with city attorney on tree ordinance, Second by Lund, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.**

No updates on community center painting. Mayor Gruendemann was told the Cedar Mountain School Board is seeking the estimates and will be in contact with the city.

Radermacher and K. Kokesch asked council permission to use the old trail cameras in the Fire Hall to monitor the fire hydrant outside the water plant and the boat landing. There has been theft of water from the hydrant at the water plant and there has been unlawful dumping at the dumpster at the boat landing. Council suggested a WIFI camera be purchased for the water plant and the internet be utilized for that location as the video will be able to be viewed easier from a phone. If the cameras in the Fire Hall still work, those are approved to use at the boat landing.

An agreement was presented to council from Cedar Heart Homes to declare the community center their emergency location in the event they need to move their residents for an emergency. Council had some questions on the wording and would like something added to how long after an emergency they would be allowed to stay before seeking a new location. A new agreement will be made and presented to both parties for approval.

R. Kokesch asked if sand toys could be purchased with the Kiss the Catfish funds, as requested, Radermacher will buy the toys. Wood chips are needed at the playground again this year; council asked for estimates to be brought to June regular meeting. Gruendemann reported that the agrilime has been laid down and the new magnetic bases have been installed. He asked about fences and if that will still be done.; no responses.

M. Dummer addressed the council; He stated to council about how they made the right decision for the utility request. He then asked if blighted properties were being dealt with and enforced? Radermacher stated that she rode around with the deputy to identify properties in April and the second round will be completed the middle of May. Properties that are not being mowed will only get one verbal warning for the season and will be cited after. Radermacher stated that enforcement of blighted properties, city ordinances, and zoning permit violations are being enforced heavier than they have in past few years. Council asked Dummer if he would consider being park of a committee to help enforce ordinances for the city to free up some contract hours for our contract deputy; Dummer is not interested but likes the idea.

**At 7:35 P.M., Mumme motioned for adjournment, Seconded by Lund, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** The next regular meeting will be Wednesday May 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer