

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, August 9, 2025**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Wednesday, August 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Franklin City Hall. Council members present were: Gruendemann, Schneider, Mumme, Lund, and R. Kokesch. Staff Department Heads present were: Radermacher, K. Kokesch, Menk. Guests present were: Traulich, Gehrke

At 6:00 p.m., Mayor Gruendemann called the meeting to order. Roll call showed all present, with R. Kokesch arriving late. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$42497.50, Cash receipts for July were \$119,093.18; there were 13 past due utility accounts; two zoning permits issued; a 8'x16' shed at 161 2nd Ave E and a small fence next to the house at 730 3rd St S. Radermacher reported a citizen on a utility payment plan that was planning to discuss the payment plan with council had not arrived yet. **Mumme motioned to table the approval of the consent agenda until before department head reports to allow extra time for the citizen to make his case, Second by R. Kokesch, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.**

J. Vogel spoke to council via phone call about his fire call invoice. Vogel expressed his thoughts on how his fire call situation could have gone differently and will agree to pay the invoice under duress. Vogel began to speak of other issues he has with the city and Mayor Gruendemann kept him on track with his requested agenda topic. Council members thanked Mr. Vogel for agreeing to pay the invoice.

Council discussed a utility customers payment plan; the customer has made payments two months in a row that were \$100 short of the agreed amount. Council members discussed the customers fixed income and most agreed to give the customer until end of week to catch up on the \$200 past due payment amounts and until September 3 to pay the remainder of the delinquent utility amount to keep the services. **Mumme motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.**

Department heads reported; Traulich presented updates on the upcoming projects within the city. The Second Ave project deed amendment was approved to allow use of grant funds to help cover engineering costs; the pre-construction meeting was held July 29- once project begins there will be weekly meetings to provide project updates, once the project reached the point to where the street is closed M & R paving agree to help wheel garbage bins to the county road on Mondays before the end of their work day. Substantial completion date of the project is November 21 and there is still no projected start date. Menk asked Traulich who to talk to about moving his driveway; Traulich reported that the contractor could be spoken to once project begins but that any extra work would not be paid for with project funds. Traulich spoke to council about easements for the storm sewer ravine project and discussed easement cost amounts that the council is comfortable for temporary easements; council asked Traulich to check with Renville County on average costs they have seen recently. Traulich also reported that the Army Corps of engineers looked at the project to determine if the flow of water would be considered a stream or a tributary as the determination will determine the course of action for the project. Menk reported a fire call to 441 1st St S to where a LP gas line was cut and the Fire Department was called to shut off the valve; Menk asked if an invoice should still be sent, council said yes. Menk reported AC issues at the fire hall; the unit was original from 1984 and froze up. A new heat and AC unit is estimated to cost \$9,320. Council discussed. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve a new heat/Ac unit for the Fire Hall, Second by Mumme, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.** K. Kokesch reported the dust control was done twice on 1st avenue and has still heard complaints from property owner; council discussed paving the road and assessing, or increasing levy to dust control more often, or closing the road to truck traffic; townships do not dust control and allow property owners to pay for dust control as they see fit; council agreed that the city will continue to pay for one dust treatment per year and allow property owners that would like more to pay for it themselves; information on dust control vendors will be made available on the city webpage. K. Kokesch reported that the city payloador was in the shop for the repairs from the tree damage that happened when cleaning up debris; the wheel seals need to be replaced (1 is critical, 2 are not too bad) and are estimated to cost \$1800 each. Council stated that grants should be looked into to replace payloador. **Lund motioned to approve added repairs for the payloador, Second by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.** K. Kokesch reported issues with the controller for the ball field scoreboard; Gruendemann asked to see prices for replacement. Kokesch reported an upcoming vacation in September and all normal and necessary back ups will be in place. Radermacher reported complaints of Catfish Days advertising in the Fairfax paper and the lack of news on the Catfish winners. Radermacher was approached by a co-op housing company that asked for a list of potential areas in Franklin for possible co-op housing. Radermacher reported that the community center is getting painted this week but the sound board will not be removed for painted due to them being glued to the walls. Radermacher reported one of the three pending fire department applicants have requested an update on the status of the application. Radermacher created an email list for property owners affected by the 2nd ave project and asked if council members would like to receive the updates as well, yes.

The Cedar Heart Homes community center agreement was received from the attorney and will be sent to Cedar Heart Homes for approval before council approval.

Council reviewed tree ordinance revisions and approve moving forward with formal approval for the next regular meeting.

A quote for a repair on the new city shed door was presented. Council discussed and tabled a decision. Council requested seeing what other options there might be.

Catfish Days went well; best clean up there has been. The new Catfish tank is being stored by the new city shed.

Road signs were discussed for 1st avenue but there were questions on enforcement. Prices for a no through truck traffic sign will be looked into and presented in September.

At 7:38 P.M., Gruendemann motioned for adjournment, Seconded by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting will be Wednesday September 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer