

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, September 10, 2025**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Franklin City Hall. Council members present were: Gruendemann (arriving late), Schneider, Mumme, Lund, and R. Kokesch. Staff Department Heads present were: Radermacher, Menk, Minkel, K. Kokesch planned to arrive at 7pm. Guests present were: S. Traulich, S. Oberloh, M. Wagner, Gary and Gene Scharfencamp, T. Sullivan, P. Sullivan.

At 6:01 p.m., Acting Mayor R. Kokesch called the meeting to order. Roll call showed all Gruendemann set to arrive a few minutes late and all others present. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Acting Mayor R. Kokesch called for approval of the minutes of the regular council meeting on August 13 2025. Mumme motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Second by Lund, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No. Mayor Gruendemann arrived.

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$49,397.57, Cash receipts for August were \$41,450.70; there were 12 past due utility accounts; one zoning permits issued; a 28'x30'shed/garage at 351 half street. Radermacher presented a letter from the MN State's Attorney General and a new payment arrangement plan from the owner of 441 1st St. S, agreeing to pay \$200 towards his bill until he is current. Council discussed and approved the payment arrangement as presented. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the consent agenda and payment arrangement form as presented, Second by Mumme, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.**

D. Munsell was on the agenda to speak to the council about the previous approval for an individual to live in his camper on Munsell's property. Munsell did not make the meeting and Radermacher spoke on his behalf. Munsell's guest has outstayed his welcome and would like for council to revoke the permission to live in a camper. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the revocation of the permit to live in a camper past 5 days per city ordinance, Second by Mumme, RCV- 5- Yes, 0 No.**

Mumme motioned to approve tree ordinance amendments 92.02 as presented, Second by Schneider, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.

S. Traulich informed council that there has been no defined schedule provided by M&R Paving yet for the 2nd Ave project. Removals are anticipated to begin by the end of September. Updates will be sent to Radermacher for Facebook posting and to send to the 2nd Ave email list. Traulich spoke with council about the plans for curb and gutter, agreed to extend curb and gutter past all driveways on the south side of 2nd Ave W. Easement documentation for the Ravine project are ready to go, just waiting on word from the Army Corps of Engineers to deliver their determination on the project; if it is determined that any part of the project is a tributary the project will not be able to be done as planned.

S. Oberloh presented the 2024 audit and financial statements. The water fund was cash flowing with a revenue of \$19,000 and the sewer fund took a loss of almost \$9000. Oberloh expressed an opinion on the City's unassigned funds and suggested a project fund could be created with approximately \$150,000 of funds held by the city. **R. Kokesch motioned to accept the 2024 audited financial statements as presented, Second by Lund, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.**

T. Sullivan presented the 2024 Fire Relief financials. P. Sullivan was announced to be the new treasurer after Harmoning's retirement. Currently the 2025 pension payout is at \$2,400/year. T. Sullivan requested an increase to the pension dollar amount to be \$2,600/year in 2026 and \$2,800/year in 2027. **Mumme motioned to approve the pension payout request as presented, Second by Schneider, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No, Lund Abstained.**

Department heads reported; Menk reported on recent fire calls. The new AC has been installed at the fire hall; waiting on electrical work to be completed. R. Kokesch received a question from an anonymous citizen asking why a fire department member had a fire vehicle at their personal residence for a period of time recently; Menk and council discussed. Minkel reported on recent MRU calls; reported the recertifications will begin this fall; a donation is expected to come for the Franklin MRU. Radermacher reported receiving notification that the Birch Cooley Solar Project permit has been issued; Radermacher asked permission to submit a grant application for the ReLeaf grant again, approved. Radermacher reported receiving complaints that the fire department discontinued meat raffles over the summer; council discussed with Menk.

Tree removal program discussion was tabled until the next regular meeting after review of the ReLeaf grant.

Discussion was held on 1st avenue and the possibility of closing it to through semi truck traffic. Citizens in the crowd advocated not to close it. Council explained that the option was brought up because of a complaint from a property owner on dust control. It was also noted that the city pays for dust control once per year and that property owners are able to add more dust control in front of their property at their expense. Council members discussed adding a "closed to through truck traffic" sign and the enforcement of such signs and will research prices on signage. Discussion will continue at next regular council meeting.

Radermacher presented information on funds held by the city from the Kiss the Catfish fundraisers. S. Allrunner requested his funds would be used on trees, benches or other things to "spruce" up the Lion's park. P. Schmidt still has funds remaining from her donation and items suggested included a new door to the kitchen at the shelter. Discussion was tabled on expensing any funds.

R. Kokesch motioned to approve the Truth in Taxation public hearing to be held during the council's regular December 10th meeting, Second by Lund, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.

The 2026 health insurance renewal was presented. R. Kokesch suggested changing the plan to save the city some money on premiums as other options were not presented in the past; Schneider, Lund and Mumme suggested leaving it as is. **Schneider motioned to approve the 2026 health insurance renewal as presented, Second by Lund, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.**

2026 salaries and fee schedule was presented. Council made no changes and agreed not to increase water and sewer fee charges based on the financials presented earlier in the meeting by Oberloh. Council added \$1600 to the budget for full time salaries budget in anticipation of the upcoming Family Medical Leave Act Tax.

The 2026 preliminary budget was discussed and small changes made; a project/equipment is to be created to earmark apx \$150,000 in funds the Oberloh suggested needed earmarking.

Lund motioned to approve the 2026 proposed levy at \$196,282, Second by Mumme, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.

Gruendemann reported on behalf of K. Kokesch that the city payloader has electrical issues and the flashers don't often work and some gauges don't work properly as well. The city payloader is still in the shop getting repairs. **Lund motioned to approve the repairs needed on the wiring for the gauges and flashers, Second by Schneider, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.**

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