

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Wednesday, January 14 2026, 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, C. Minkel, and D. Menk. Guests present: S. Traulich.

At 6:00 p.m., Mayor Gruendemann called the meeting to order. Roll call showed present. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Mayor Gruendemann called for an amendment to add ditch bag purchases under department heads and Bolton and Menk updates before department head reports.

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the minutes of the regular council meeting on December 10, 2025. R. Kokesch requested that the minutes reflect that raise increases are noted as gross wage increases and not a COLA, Radermacher agreed with the change, Mumme motioned to approve the minutes as presented with the requested amendment, Second by Schneider, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No.

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the consent agenda: bills were presented in the amount of \$505,549.10, Cash receipts for December were \$155,220.90; there were 10 past due utility accounts; no zoning permits issued. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, Second by Lund, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.**

R. Kokesch motioned to approve Resolution 2026-1: Approving Official Designations and Annual Appointments, second by Lund, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.

Mumme motioned to approve Resolution 2026-2: Approval of the 2025 Contributions, Second by Schneider, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.

Traulich from Bolton and Menk presented updates. The Lead Service Line IUP came out. Franklin qualifies for funding to replace galvanized lines but is listed in the B category for funds instead of the A category. If Franklin is to get plans certified for replacement of galvanized lines they would be categorized A and higher in line for funds. Traulich discussed options with council and council agreed to get plans certified before applying for funds. Reimbursement funds have been received from Small Cities to make a partial payment to M&R Paving for the Second Avenue project but there has been some resistance to provide funds for the engineering for the project. Bolton and Menk is in communications with Small Cities to resolve the issue. Traulich reported on the Storm Sewer/Ravine Project; MPCA and the Army Corps of Engineers are on board with new plans and new designs are being developed. Easements are being sought. The project might need to be split into two contracts in order to complete tree removals by April 1st. Questions were asked about splitting the project into two contracts versus only having one, discussion was made on potential options.

Department heads reported: Menk reported one recent Fire Dept call to a car crash on Hwy 19. The tanker truck has been partly repaired but has proven to have more problems than originally thought. A 2020 Kenworth was found; perfect size to move all equipment from old tanker to this one; the Kenworth being purchased costs \$53,900; the cost to remove tanker and reinstall on new body is estimated to cost \$4000; the trade in value for the old tanker is \$5800; making the total estimated cost to be \$52,100. Heiman has quoted \$10,000 for installation of lights. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the purchase of the 202 Kenworth tanker truck, Second by Mumme, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.** Menk reported D. Batdorf is filling the open 2nd Lieutenant position. The Fire Department Christmas party is on January 24th and the council members and city staff are invited. There are current fire department members taking the fire fighter 1 & 2 class as required withing the first two years of employment. Three individuals were interviewed to join the Franklin Fire Dept; council approved hire pending background checks, noting the fire fighter classes must be completed withing two years. Menk reported a house burn training at the end of February that will be done in conjunction with the Morton Fire Department; costs will be split. C. Minkel reported recent MRU calls and CPR training coming in February. Minkel presented a print out of MRU ditch bags and masks that have been chosen and the MRU would like to purchase one bag and mask for each of the seven MRU members. Having this resource would allow the MRU members to respond quicker to calls from their personal vehicles without having to get the ambulance for each call. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the purchase of 7 ditch bags and masks for the MRU members, Second by Mumme, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.** K. Kokesch expressed his opinions on getting blamed for a fire call that the property owner is fighting to pay the invoice. Council discussed the incident with staff present. Radermacher reported a recent MN Dept of Revenue garbage sales tax audit.

A Paid Family Medical Leave policy was presented to council. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the PFML policy as presented, Second by Lund, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.**

The 2025 MRU Financial report was presented to council. **Lund motioned to approve the Report as presented, Seconded by Mumme, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.**

The 2025 Ambulance Association Financial Balance Statement was presented and accepted as presented.

The 2025 Fire/Rural Fire reports was presented. One math correction was made. Menk requested that parade candy be removed from the report and costs not split with the rural. **Mumme motioned to approve the Fire/Rural Fire Report with the amendments, Seconded by Schneider, RCV- 5 Yes, 0 No.**

At 7:02 P.M., Gruendemann motioned for adjournment, Seconded by R. Kokesch, RCV-5 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting will be Wednesday February 11, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. The annual Ambulance Association and Rural Fire meetings will be held February 2, 2026 at the Franklin Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted by
Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer