MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, August 12, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Franklin City Council was held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Franklin City Hall. Council members present were: Gruendemann, Schneider, Mumme, and R. Kokesch. Staff Department Heads present were: Radermacher, K. Kokesch & Menk. Guests present: M/ Wagner, G. Scharfencamp, S. Traulich.

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

Mayor Gruendemann called for approval of the minutes of the regular council meeting on July 8, 2026. Schneider 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 $64,563.57, Cash receipts for July were $135,596.02 there were 13 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.**

Mayor Gruendemann called for an amendment to the agenda to add item 10.c. Trees at Lion's Park and item 10.d. accounting software.

Mayor Gruendemann opened the public hearing for updates on the Second Ave Watermain project. S. Traulich with Bolton and Menk gave a summary of the project and timeline; the Small Cities Grant was awarded on September 10, 2024 in the amount of $600,000 for the watermain project on West Second Avenue which would relocate the water main in addition to looping the water main from Second Avenue West to Third Avenue West. The bids received, including the approved bid, were lower than the engineer's estimate. As a result, project funds remained available, allowing the City of Franklin and Bolton and Menk to request an amendment to the grant terms so grant dollars could be used for engineering costs. The amendment was approved. The project reached substantial completion on time and small items have been completed since, there is a patch of concrete left to pour before project close out. Traulich reported on submitting documents to small cities and will be working on closing out the project by the end of the year. Mayor Gruendemann called for any public comments or questions, none. Mayor Gruendemann closed the public hearing.

Deputy Wagner presented a list of blight properties and discussed with council. Five properties were presented; two properties were discussed and approved to take further action to address and will be discussed with the city attorney. The remaining 3 properties will receive administrative citations because they remain in disarray and no corrective action has been taken to resolve. Wagner had good reports on Catfish Days.

G. Scharfencamp addressed the council on behalf of the Franklin Legion with a request. The Franklin Legion is looking for a new location to store their gun safe, guns, and flags due being asked to remove their belongings from its current home. The Legion is asking if the city would be willing to store these items at the Franklin City Hall or the Fire Hall. Discussion was held on where there might be space. With storage limited, the city staff and council agreed to clean out an area of space from the a locked office/storage room in City Hall as a passing location for the Legion guns and safe. Council asked that the Legion plan as they are able to access their guns as needed during City Hall office hours.

Traulich discussed the Small Cities agreement for engineering on 2nd Ave project; this agreement is a document that is a document meant to be an addition to the approval for the small cities grants to aid in covering engineering costs for the project. Traulich went over some over some of the language in the document, explaining it to council. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the Small Cities agreement for engineering on 2nd Ave, Seconded by Mumme, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.** Traulich moved on to report to the council that the plans and specs on the Lead Service Line replacement project has been previously approved; Traulich is seaking approval of the plans and specs and approve bid advertisement for LSL replacement. Traulich noted that the grant funds received would cover 100% of the private lines replaced. The city bond council would need to be contacted as the public lines would need a bond to cover the cost and that PFA would buy that bond upon project completion. **Mumme motioned to approved the plans and specs and approve an advertisement for bid on the LSL replacement project, Seconded by R. Kokesch, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No.** Traulich presented two documents for approval in the Ravine project (Landowner statement and Contractor Responsibility form for the DNR, as well as a Aquatic Resource impact survey). Traulich also requested the council approve advertising for bids. **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the two action item documents as presented, Seconded by Mumme; Mumme sought clarification on a drain pipe referenced in the landowner statement that was identified to be a pipe on the Kokesch property; RCV 4 Yes, 0 No. R. Kokesch motioned to approve the advertisement for bid in September, Seconded by Schneider, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

Department heads reported: Menk reported on recent fire calls and asked about ordering turn out gear for the three newest hired Fire Fighters; gear is custom fit to each person and will be needed to complete their Fire Fighter 1 & 2 training. Menk reported that each person's gear would cost roughly $6,500 each. Council discussed where the funds would come from to cover; Menk stated that the fire relief would prefer not to use their funds as they have already purchased two fire department trucks; grant options were discussed; utilizing earmarked funds for equipment was discussed for turn out gear and for a new city truck; Council discussed more on budget and earmarked funds. **Mumme motioned to approve the purchase of three sets of turnout gear with the earmarked equipment funds after confirmation of the earmarked equipment funds has been set up correctly, Seconded by R. Kokesch, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.** K. Kokesch reported on fire extinguisher maintenance; Summit has been the vendor that has been previously used with a local Renville County person performing the annual maintenance; this person has since been let go from the company and has recommended a newer company out of Redwood falls to take over the annual maintenance; **R. Kokesch motioned to approve the switch to Redwood Fire Extinguisher for annual maintenance and inspection, Seconded by Greundemann, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.** K. Kokesch reported Catfish Days went well, clean up went well and he heard no complaints. K. Kokesch informed the council that the fluoride pump broke and a new one is needed for apx $3500; there is a grant coming this fall that if awarded will help with this expense. K. Kokesch reported to the council that a positive Bac T was found in one sample; the Department of Health came and did all their checks and determined that it was a fluke in the testing and not an issue with the City's systems. K. Kokesch reported that 3 generators will need replacement and may need to be budgeted for. **Mumme motioned to approve the purchase of a new generator as needed for the wastewater plant with the sewer earmarked funds, Seconded by R. Kokesch, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.** Radermacher reported details for fall city wide clean up in September. She reported that the Franklin Lion's Club would like to book the community center for Catfish Days 2027; Radermacher would like guidance from the council on to book the community center for the Lion's Club or the Chess Tournament people; Council discussed and did not issue a determination. Radermacher informed the council that the Longbranch planned to attend the meeting to ask permission to hold a outdoor concert on October 16th.

Council held a discussion on forming a committee to hire a public works assistant to replace K. Kokesch after retirement. There are several different paths that could be taken for this replacement, and a committee should be formed to make a recommendation on this. R. Kokesch volunteered to be on the committee, and Lund will be asked if he is willing to join the committee. K. Kokesch suggested that MRWA attend our next meeting to talk about what they see for public works replacements and the challenges they see around the state.

Kiss the Catfish funds were discussed. Council approved the upgrade to the ballfield scoreboard to utilize funds from Kiss the Catfish and Crested River's verbal agreement for funds to upgrade the broken remote. Other expenses were discussed but not approved, including replacement of shingles on the dugouts.

No estimate was presented for tree removal at the park but a discussion was held on removing the remaining ash trees so that replacements can be planted.

Radermacher discussed the accounting software module additional options and reported that more information is supposed to be sent from Central Square along with costs.

A written intent to renew the farmland lease was presented to the council and the old contract was reviewed. **Schneider motioned to approve the renewal of the farmland lease for two years, Seconded by R. Kokesch.** Mumme suggested that language be added in the future when more information is available on ditch drainage. **RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

2027 Salary changes and the fee schedule was presented for review. Discussion was held on salaries and fees. Cedar Mountain is upgrading from a two inch water meter to a two and a half in water meter and a fee needs to be set for this. Council agreed to set the base fee at $80.75. More discussion made on salaries; **Gruendemann motioned to approve a salary increase for the two Fire Lieutenant positions to $650 per year per Lieutenant, Seconded by Mumme, RCV- 4 Yes, 0 No.**

The budget was briefly reviewed and Radermacher asked council for guidance on 2027 expenses so that the budget is as prepared as possible for the September meeting. Council suggested that $50,000 be budgeted for a new city truck.

At 8:37 P.M., R. Kokesch motioned for adjournment, Seconded by Gruendemann, RCV-4 Yes, 0 No. The next regular meeting will be Wednesday September 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by
Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer

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