

**City of Franklin Common Council**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**October 5, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Franklin, Indiana was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 70 E. Monroe Street, with Mayor Joseph E. McGuinness presiding. Mayor McGuinness opened the meeting and asked the Clerk-Treasurer to call the roll. Council members Joseph Abban, Joseph Ault, Kenneth Austin, Stephen Barnett, Stephen Houglund, and Dr. William T. Murphy answered roll call. Clerk-Treasurer Janet P. Alexander, Records Clerk Kathy Cragen, City Attorney Lynnette Gray were also present. Council member Richard Wertz was absent. Councilor Murphy offered an invocation. Mayor McGuinness led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Announcements & Presentations**

Police Chief O’Sullivan came forward and awarded the Police Commendation Medal to Detective Adam Joseph for his work as lead detective on a case from September 3<sup>rd</sup> in which he and his fellow officers responded to a call of an unresponsive child. This case turned into a homicide investigation and an arrest was made. Chief O’Sullivan thanked Detective Joseph for his lead role in this case.

**Consent Agenda**

Mayor McGuinness presented the consent agenda for approval.

- Approval of the September 21, 2015 Common Council Minutes
- Request Permission to apply for a Grant Establishing a Permanent Fitting Station and for the Purchase of Car Seats at FPD - Officer Joseph Dillon came forward and explained the request to apply for a \$500.00 grant. A discussion was held.

Council President Barnett made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Councilor Abban. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

**Old Business**

Council President Barnett made a motion to read all old business by title only, seconded by Councilor Abban. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Adoption Hearings

**Common Council Budgetary Ordinance No.: 15-15 - A City of Franklin Indiana Budgetary Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Budgetary Ordinance No.: 15-14 Fixing and Authorizing the**

**Payment of Certain Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees for Year 2016 (Civil City)** – Mayor McGuinness read the title aloud. Council President Barnett made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Abban. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

**Common Council Budgetary Ordinance No.: 15-16 - A Budgetary Ordinance Fixing And Authorizing The Payment Of Certain Salaries Of Appointed Officers And Employees Of The City Of Franklin, Indiana For Year 2016 (Sewer Utility)** – Mayor McGuinness read the title aloud. No one asked to speak. Council President Barnett made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Murphy. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

**Common Council Budgetary Ordinance No.: 15-17 - A City of Franklin Indiana Budgetary Ordinance Fixing The Annual Salaries And Providing Compensation For All Elected Officials Of The City Of Franklin, Indiana For Year 2016** – Mayor McGuinness read the title aloud. Councilor Murphy stated he is in favor of paying the Mayor, and other civilian employees of the City higher increases. Councilor Murphy stated that he hopes in the future we can help our lower paid employees with higher increases. Councilor Ault stated that he would like to see the increases for the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer phased in over a couple of years. Council President Barnett stated that he would like to see lower paid employees paid more also, but this is the third time to discuss this, and he thinks we should move forward with the current proposal at this time. A motion was made to approve by Council President Barnett, and seconded by Councilor Austin. The vote was a tie, three members for the motion, and three against. A discussion was held. City Attorney Gray stated that the Council had the authority to decrease the budget but they did not have the authority to increase the proposed budget. A discussion was held. Council President Barnett made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Councilor Austin. A roll call vote was taken with Council President Barnett, Councilor Austin, Councilor Abban and Councilor Murphy for, Councilor Ault, and Councilor Houglund against. The motion carried 4-2.

**Common Council Budgetary Ordinance No.: 15-18 A Budgetary Appropriation & Tax Rate Ordinance for 2016** – Mayor McGuinness read the title aloud. Council President Barnett made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Councilor Abban. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

### New Business

Council President Barnett made a motion to read all new business by title only, seconded by Councilor Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

### **Introduction**

**Common Council Budgetary Ordinance No.: 15-19 - An Additional Appropriation for Park & Rec - Part-Time & Park & Rec - Professional Services** – Mayor McGuinness read the title aloud. Parks Superintendent Chip Orner explained that this money is for maintenance items including the removal of dead trees in both the Parks and Greenlawn Cemetery, the HVAC system in Palmer Park is not working,

the Boardwalk at Blue Heron Park needs to be replaced, and the security railing on a bridge in Province Park needs to be fixed. A discussion was held. This will be brought back at the next meeting for approval.

**Common Council Budgetary Ordinance No.: 15-20 An Additional Appropriation - General - Law - Municipal Dept.** – Mayor McGuinness read the title aloud. City Attorney Gray stated that there have been extra projects that have been paid for from this account, such as the employee handbook, and disciplinary hearings for the Police Merit Commission. This ordinance is presented for introduction only will be set for public hearing during the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**City Council Appointments to the Franklin Development Corporation Board** - Community Development Director Krista Linke came forward and explained that Lisa Jones had been an FDC board member since 2013, and her appointment needs to be renewed with council approval. Council President Barnett made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Abban. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

**Franklin Development Corporation Program Update** - Community Development Director Krista Linke introduced the Franklin Development Corporation (FDC) board members: President elect Jeff Mercer; Angela Coy, Treasurer, Lisa Jones, member, Kim Minton, Secretary, Steve Woods current President; and John Ditmars member. Steve Woods, the outgoing board president gave an update on how their funding was used. Mr. Woods stated that in 2008 they received \$5,000,000.00 from the city and that they have completed a lot of different projects since 2008 to make the City a better place. Mr. Mercer stated that they have asked the Redevelopment Commission (RDC) for additional funding to continue programs. Mr. Mercer also stated that they have been questioning what they should be doing to help the community. Their objective is to keep the same type of programs going. Council members commended the FDC for all of their hard work they have put in to the Façade grant and other issues.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business presented.

### **Council Comments**

Councilor Abban stated that everyone involved in the Fall Festival did a great job.

City Attorney Gray stated that there has been a substantial revision going on in the employee personnel handbook which will be on the next meeting agenda. This was forwarded to the department heads to review, and will be brought forward at the next meeting with action in November.

**Adjournment**

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Janet P. Alexander, Clerk-Treasurer  
Enrolled: 10/15/2015

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Joseph McGuinness, Mayor

Attest:

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Janet P. Alexander, Clerk-Treasurer