

**City of Franklin Common Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
August 21, 2023**

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 Steve Barnett presiding. Council members Kenneth Austin, Bob Heuchan, Anne McGuinness, Irene Nalley, Jennifer Price, Josh Prine and Shawn Taylor answered roll call. Clerk-Treasurer Jayne Rhoades, and City Attorney Lynnette Gray were also present.

Mayor's Youth Council members Reagan Hunter and Benjamin Worland were present.

Mayor Barnett opened the meeting and asked the Clerk-Treasurer to call the roll.

Bryan Ries offered an invocation, & led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Announcements & Public Comments**

Dave Charles who requested a stop sign removal at the Links Apartments came in to say thank you for the quick response from the city.

**Promoting Russell Crouse to Lieutenant & Promoting Jeff Dawe to Sergeant** – Mayor Barnett swore in Russell Crouse as Lieutenant. Mayor Barnett swore in Jeff Dawe as Sergeant. Police Chief Kirby Cochran thanked them for their hard work.

**Consent Agenda**

Mayor Barnett presented the consent agenda for approval.

- Approval of the August 7, 2023 Common Council Minutes

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

**Old Business**

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

Public Hearing

**Approval of Budgetary Ordinance 23-11 additional appropriation of \$130,000 for cemetery projects** - Parks Department Superintendent Chip Orner stated this was introduced at the previous council meeting. \$105,000.00 is for the columbarium project and \$25,000.00 is for a restoration project for headstones starting in the veteran's section of the cemetery. Mayor Barnett opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. Mayor Barnett closed the public hearing. Councilor McGuinness made a motion to approve Budgetary Ordinance 23-11, seconded by Council President Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

**Approval of Stormwater Rate Study and Ordinance 23-08 to amend the method for determining non-residential stormwater fees** - City Engineer Mark Richards and representatives from Christopher Burke Engineering have created and presented this rate study and the amendment to fees. Mr. Richards explained the city met with the top 5 business that will be affected by the rate changes. The new structure/fees will go into effect January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Mayor Barnett opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. Mayor Barnett closed the public hearing. Council President Austin made a motion to approve with the amendment to the Ordinance that the effective date will be January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

New Business

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

**Introduction of 2024 Budget - Form 1's & Summary** - Mayor Steve Barnett explained he met with Jeff Peters who assists with the Municipal Budget. Mayor Barnett also met with all of the Department Heads, the Clerk-Treasurers Office and the City Council members. The total increase from last year's budget is 7.08% for a total of a \$1,336,051 increase from 2023. The total budget for 2024 is \$20,212,307.00. Mayor Barnett gave a brief breakdown of the budget. The budget will go for public hearing September 5<sup>th</sup> and will be voted on at the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Introduction of Budgetary Ordinance 23-07 Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees (Civil City)** - Mayor Steve Barnett introduced Budgetary Ordinance 23-07. It will go for public hearing at the September 5<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

**Introduction of Budgetary Ordinance 23-08 Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees (Sewer Utility)** - Mayor Steve Barnett introduced Budgetary Ordinance 23-08. It will go for public hearing at the September 5<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

**Introduction of Budgetary Ordinance 23-09 Annual Salaries and Compensation for All Elected Officials** - Mayor Steve Barnett introduced Budgetary Ordinance 23-09. It will go for public hearing at the September 5<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

**Introduction and Approval of Budgetary Resolution 23-05 Authorizing a transfer from MVH Restricted Fund, Local Road and Street, and the General Fund to Local Road and Bridge Matching Grant Fund in the amount of \$741,879.66** - Clerk-Treasurer Jayne Rhoades stated the city received \$741,879.66 from the Community Crossings Matching Grant. This transfer covers the matching portion from the city. There were no public comments. Council Vice President Taylor made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

**Introduction of Budgetary Ordinance 23-12 Additional Appropriation for Local Road and Bridge Matching Grant in the amount of \$741,879.66** - Clerk-Treasurer Jayne Rhoades introduced Budgetary Ordinance 23-12. This money came from the Community Crossings Matching Grant. It will go for public hearing and approval at the September 5<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business presented.

### **Council Comments**

Council President Austin stated he will not be present at the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Councilor Heuchan stated he will also be absent from the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mayor's Youth Leadership Council Reagan Hunter said there are currently no ongoing projects.

### **Adjournment**

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer  
Enrolled:

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Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

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Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer