

City of Franklin Common Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2024

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, Todd Shuck, Anne McGuinness, Irene Nalley, Jennifer Price, Josh Prine and Shawn Taylor answered roll call. Clerk-Treasurer Jan Jones, and City Attorney Lynnette Gray were also present. The following members of the Franklin Mayor's Youth Leadership Council were also present: Madison Spock, Matthew Payne, Carter Breeden, Emma Small, and Lizzi Worland.

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

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

Announcements & Public Comments

Appointed Captain Ryan Mears Swear In - Police Chief Kirby Cochran called Captain Ryan Mears forward for his swearing in.

Presentation of Life Saving Award & Commendation Awards -

Police Chief Kirby Cochran called Sergeant Jesse Brown forward to receive a Life Saving Award for his efforts in response to a child's seizure on Oct. 31st. Deputy Chief Summers read a letter from Arianna Thompson, the child's mother, thanking Sergeant Brown for his response.

Police Chief Cochran called Detective Levi Butler forward to receive a Commendation Medal. Lieutenant Chris Tennell read information documenting Detective Butler's persistence and outstanding professionalism throughout the investigation.

Police Chief Cochran called Officer Christopher Kirloff forward to receive a Commendation Medal. Captain Ryan Mears read a letter from a Whiteland resident applauding his actions and kindness during her daughter's wreck on Sept. 20th.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Barnett presented the consent agenda for approval.

- Approval of the December 2, 2024 Common Council Minutes

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

Old Business

President Austin made a motion to present Old Business by title only, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Approval of Ordinance 2024-12: Amending General Provisions, Building Sewers & Connections, and Rates & Charges Related to the Sewer Service System (Public Hearing and Official Action) - Senior Planner Joanna Tennell reviewed concerns regarding metered and unmetered residents and potential solutions presented at the last meeting. Ms. Tennell informed that all new residential builds in Franklin are charged the unmetered rate of \$78.63 until the October to March average can be determined. President Austin asked if the City had recommendations for types of meters that could be used. Ms. Tennell said a list is available in the Planning & Engineering Department. Ms. Tennell also reminded this meeting was for the Public Hearing. Councilor McGuinness noted that with input from residents and her research, she would like to see more suggestions and numbers before making decisions. Councilor McGuinness motioned to table Ordinance 2024-12 until the Jan. 22nd meeting, seconded by President Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried. Mayor Barnett suggested Ms. McGuinness create a group to investigate this further.

Approval of Ordinance 24-11 Repealing Ordinance 15-10 Employee Handbook - Clerk-Treasurer Jan Jones explained that since introducing the new Employee Handbook at the last meeting, they have received much feedback, resulting in amendments. Ms. Jones read the amendments listed in the agenda attachment for this meeting. Mayor Barnett opened the Public Hearing. Firefighters Chuck Ridpath, Cole McKnight, and Casey Hartman spoke on behalf of the Fire Department. Mayor Barnett reviewed budget, salary, and insurance information from 2017 to the present. Mayor Barnett closed the Public Hearing. Councilor Shuck asked members of the Fire Department for clarification on short-term disability and banked hours. Councilor Shuck then explained how short and long-term disability work. Chief Snyder explained additional concerns about hours earned versus hours banked or paid out and issues with light-duty service. City Attorney Lynn Gray provided context on light-duty service from previous years' experience. Chief Snyder thanked everyone for working together, listening to their concerns, and answering his questions promptly. Discussion continued with lateral transfer differences between Fire and Police Departments. Councilor Shuck asked how many banked hours the Fire Department would like to have; the response was a bank of 168 hours and 72 new hours annually. The City's debt carrying the current banked hours is \$690,000.00. Clerk Treasurer Jan Jones read the applicable parts of the new Employee Handbook. Councilor Taylor added that the Council has processed lots of information, considered long-term outcomes of decisions, and is actively working to provide the best outcome. Councilor Price asked Chief Snyder to explain how firefighters are scheduled and paid for vacation, sick, and overtime and how the budget plans for that. City Attorney Lynn Gray suggested getting more data and determining the financial impact before voting. President Austin motioned to table Ordinance 24-11 until the Jan. 22nd meeting, seconded by Councilor Price. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Approval of Budgetary Ordinance 24-22 Amending Budgetary Ordinance 24-20 Salary Ordinance - Clerk-Treasurer Jan Jones stated Ordinance 24-22 was pending the approval of Ordinance 24-11, so it is automatically tabled. President Austin motioned to table Budgetary Ordinance 24-22 until the Jan. 22nd meeting, seconded by Councilor Price. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

New Business

There was no New Business.

Other Business

There was no Other Business.

Council Comments

Councilor Austin wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked everyone for what they do for our City.

Councilor Taylor thanked the Fire Department for attending the meeting and educating the Council so that decisions can be made to provide the best opportunity for our community. Councilor Taylor also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilor Shuck thanked the Fire Department for providing all the information the Council needs to make an informed decision. Also, thanks to the Parks Department for the job they do on events. There were 13,300 people at the Downtown Lighting on Saturday and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilor Nalley thanked our first responders and emphasized that the Council has and will continue to support those employees.

Councilor Price agreed with the other Councilors. Councilor Price said the collaborative Opioid Council awarded three grants of \$50,000 each to groups within Johnson County.

Franklin Mayor's Youth Leadership Council member Madison Spock introduced fellow members Matthew Payne, Carter Breeden, Emma Small, and Lizzi Worland. Ms. Spock informed the Council that their lighting contract was awarded to Huston Electric, and they will be moving forward with the pickleball court lights.

Chief of Staff Tara Payne reminded Council members that they are invited to the Employee Christmas Party at the Legends on Friday at 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Barnett wished everyone a Merry Christmas and reiterated that public safety is the City's number one concern.

Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer

**Common Council Minutes
December 16, 2024**

Enrolled: 12/26/24

Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer