

**City of Franklin  
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES**

**City Hall  
55 W. Madison St.  
Franklin Indiana 46131**

**Monday July 26, 2004 @ 7:00 P.M.**

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Presiding Officer: Mayor Norman P. Blankenship

Roll Call Present: Mr. Steve Hougland, President Pro-tempore  
Mr. Kenneth W. Austin  
Mr. Joseph R. Ault  
Mr. Phillip R. Barrow  
Mr. Jeffrey C. Eggers  
Mrs. Ann Gordon  
Dr. William T. Murphy

Also present: Clerk-Treasurer Janet Alexander, Robert H. Schafstall, Esq.

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After the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance Mr. Ault seconded by Dr. Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. The motion carried.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSIONS**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Budgetary Ordinance 04-03- A Budgetary Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of Franklin, Indiana for Year 2005** - City Attorney Robert H. Schafstall presented the proposed salary ordinance. Explained that the ordinance does not include the sewer utility employees which will be presented to the council by way of a separate ordinance for approval in conjunction with the Sewer Utility Budget later in the year. Discussion held concerning the proposed salary ordinance. Clerk Treasurer Janet P. Alexander explained changes to the format of the ordinance. The document gives the annual salary and the bi-weekly compensation for each titled position. Individual calculations for longevity pay and time and one half rates were left out of this document. The ordinance gives the highest allowable wage by position or by job title. Discussion held. Dr. Murphy asked whether the ordinance includes any new or additional positions. Mr. Austin asked about additional police and firefighter positions. The Clerk Treasurer reported that no new positions were included in the ordinance however she said that the Parks Department Superintendent sent a letter to the Council requesting the creation of an Assistant Superintendent's position. The Clerk Treasurer stated that new positions could be added at any time. A discussion was held concerning the increase in the salary for the City Court's third deputy from \$21,768 to \$29,500. City Attorney Schafstall offered the Judge's explanation for the increase in the salary, stating that although the position had been unfilled, the other two deputies were required to work many hours of overtime which was funded using the unexpended balance in that item. Mayor Blankenship declared that this is the public hearing and asked whether anyone from the public wished to speak for or against the proposed ordinance. No one asked to speak. Mr. Ault seconded by Mr. Barrow made a motion to read, the ordinance aloud by title only. Dr. Murphy made a motion to approve Ordinance 04-03 seconded by Mr. Eggers. The motion carried. The votes cast were as follows:

Aye: Hougland, Austin, Ault, Barrow, Eggers, Gordon, Murphy  
Nay:

**Petitions and Public Comments**

Mayor Blankenship asked if anyone from the public had any petitions or public comments about matters not on the agenda. No one asked to speak.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

**Resolution No. 04-05 – Tax Abatement for Franklin Tech Park Associates, LLC:**

Planning Director David Weir and Franklin Tech Park developer Mac McNaught presented Resolution 04-05 for a 10 year tax abatement on real property up to four million dollars for a 142,000 square foot structure on a 19 acre site. The Economic Development Commission gave the project a favorable recommendation. The request for an abatement was forwarded to the Council by the Economic Development Commission (EDC) which voted 4 -0 in favor of the request with one abstention. The developer will build and lease the facility to AISIN Holdings, USA, which makes specialized auto parts and is part of the Toyota family and they make parts for both GM and Toyota. The company plans to open an auto parts distribution center. The number of employees nationwide is 20,000. Mr. McNaught explained that the company's average wage per employee is reportedly \$40,000. Dr. Murphy made a motion to read the ordinance by title only, seconded by Mrs. Gordon. The motion carried. Mr. Barrow made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance seconded by Mr. Hougland. The motion carried. The Council was polled and the votes cast were as follows:

Aye: Hougland, Ault, Barrow, Eggers, Gordon, Murphy

Nay:

Abstentions: Austin

**Resolution No. 04-06 – Tax Abatement for Tippmann Realty Partners LLP**

Planning Director David Weir presented Resolution 04-06 for a three phase development project within Franklin Tech Park. The company plans to build a warehouse distribution facility for frozen goods. The request is for three separate ten year tax abatements (one 10 year abatement per phase). Each phase will include a 140,000 square foot of building space and will employ 25 people. The Economic Development Commission (EDC) forwarded this request with a favorable recommendation for tax abatement. Mr. Weir reported that the EDC members voted 4 -0 in favor of the request with one abstention. Mr. Hougland made a motion to read the ordinance by title only, seconded by Mr. Ault. The motion carried. Dr. Murphy made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance seconded by Mr. Barrow. The motion carried. The Council was polled and the votes cast were as follows: Approved.

Aye: Hougland, Austin, Ault, Barrow, Eggers, Gordon, Murphy

Nay:

**Introduction**

**Budgetary Ordinance No. 04-05 – An Additional Appropriation for Board of Works Budget – Gasoline (215), Hydrants (337) and Solid Waste Collection (339)** Clerk Treasurer Janet Alexander introduced Budgetary Ordinance 04-05 requesting an additional appropriation from general fund for the Board of Works budget. This matter was tabled and set for public hearing August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Aye: Hougland, Austin, Ault, Barrow, Eggers, Gordon, Murphy

Nay:

**General Discussion**

### **Potential Review of Johnson County Public Library Budget**

Franklin Johnson County Public Library Executive Director Beverly Martin introduced herself and informed the Common Council that in order to comply with Senate Bill 1 – IC 6-1-1-17-20, the City Council may be required to perform a fiscal review of the Library Budget for 2005. She outlined her agencies budget adoption timeline and offered to answer Council Members questions. Discussion held. The Council agreed that if necessary the library could present their budget at the September 13, 2004 budget meeting for the required fiscal review.

### **Other Business**

Clerk Treasurer Janet Alexander reported that she meet with the Department of Local Government Finance last week concerning the 2005 budget and shared the following three pieces of information. 1. The Assessed Valuation figure to be used to calculate the levy will be 90% of the 2004 certified A.V. 2. Due to the state's Non-Farm Personal Property rate the maximum allowed levy will only increase by 1.06 – 1.10 % for 2005. 3. The DLGF and the Clerk Treasurer's financial advisor recommended that the City Council eliminate the cemetery fund and create a cemetery department under the General Fund, in order to direct revenue and miscellaneous income directly to the General Fund. The elimination of the Cemetery Fund would not require the City to make any changes in management or the operational budget. Explaining that this would be one way to increase revenue to the General Fund. Mayor Blankenship stated that this suggestion should be discussed with the Parks Department Director and the Parks Board before the Council took any action. The Council President asked the Clerk Treasurer to prepare a "pro con" list for them before the next meeting.

City Attorney Robert Schafstall presented an ordinance titled Budgetary Ordinance 04-06 Revised After Introduction A Budgetary Ordinance Retroactively Fixing And Authorizing The Payment Of Certain Salaries Of Appointed Officers And Employees Of The City Of Franklin, Indiana For Year 2004. Mr. Schafstall explained that the Common Council did not approve a salary ordinance for Sewer Utility Employees for 2004 and that this ordinance has been prepared to correct that omission. He explained that the Clerk Treasurer informed him that without an ordinance she did not have the authority to pay any more than what was approved for the utility employees in 2003. Mr. Schafstall stated that in Section 5 of this ordinance that it states that, "This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and signing by the Mayor, and shall retroactively approve payments already made during the course of 2004 consistent with this Ordinance, as well as prospectively authorize those to be made in the remainder of 2004." The matter is set for public hearing August 9, 2004.

Council President Steve Hougland asked the Council for suggestions concerning proposed salary increases for the elected officials including the Mayor, Clerk Treasurer, Judge and Council Members. Mr. Hougland asked the Clerk Treasurer to prepare an ordinance giving each member an \$800.00 increase equal to the employees. A discussion was held concerning the Judges' salary. Council President Hougland asked the Clerk Treasurer to include a 10% salary increase for the Judge. The Clerk Treasurer pointed out that Judge Schafstall is the only full time elected official that is not included in the PERF pension resolution. The Council Members asked the Clerk to research how much it would cost to include the Judge in the pension program and what the restrictions might be concerning the source of funding a pension buy in. Tabled

**Common Council Minutes**  
**Monday July 26, 2004**

**Adjournment**

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Signed copies available at the Clerk-Treasurer's office:  
55 W. Madison  
Franklin, IN 46131