

**City of Franklin
COMMON COUNCIL**

**City Council Chambers
70 E. Monroe St.
Franklin, Indiana 46131**

Monday, July 18, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m.

Presiding Officer: Mayor Fred Paris

Members Present: Dr. William T. Murphy, President
Mr. Joseph Abban
Mr. Joseph Ault
Mr. Kenneth W. Austin
Mr. Stephen D. Barnett
Mrs. Ann Gordon
Mr. Stephen D. Hougland

Also Present: City Attorney Robert H. Schafstall, Clerk Treasurer Janet Alexander and
Clerk Treasurer's Assistant Kathy Cragen

Mayor Paris opened the meeting and asked the Clerk-Treasurer to call the roll. Dr. Murphy offered the invocation, which was followed by a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Paris presented the consent agenda for approval.

- o Approval of the June 20, 2011 Common Council Minutes

Dr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Barnett, made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried and the consent agenda was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of the City Fiscal Plan

Mr. Mike Reuter, a municipal finance officer employed by the City of Franklin presented his draft fiscal plan dated July 18, 2011 including anticipated budget numbers for 2012. He explained that the City's revenue exceeded expenses in the previous year and that the City is in a strong financial position, even with the circuit breaker property tax losses of \$1.145M. Mr. Reuter stated that the scheduled submission of the budget proposals will allow for more accurate revenue numbers. He pointed out that if the departments continue to hold down spending there may be as much as \$1.3M of unexpended appropriations at the close of the calendar year. He also said that the fiscal plan presented is very conservative, but factored in possible raises at three percent (3%) for City employees in 2012. The cash balance in the General Fund is estimated to be approximately \$7M at end of 2011. A discussion was held. The separate funds, Fire Pension, Police Pension, MVH, Municipal Bond, Park Bond, CCI, CCD, Rainy Day, Athletic and Recreation, were discussed and potential problem areas identified.

Introductions

Budgetary Ordinance No.: 11-05: A Budgetary Ordinance Fixing the Annual Salaries and Providing Compensation For All Elected Officials of the City of Franklin, Indiana For Year 2012

Dr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Austin, made a motion to read proposed Budgetary Ordinance 11-05: A Budgetary Ordinance Fixing the Annual Salaries and Providing Compensation for All Elected Officials of the City of Franklin, Indiana for Year 2012 by title only. The motion carried and Mayor Paris read by ordinance aloud by the title only for introduction. Mr. Austin asked about Board of Public Works and Safety (BOW) member's salaries. The Clerk-Treasurer explained that this is a formula that has been used in the past to allow for compensation to Council members who also serve on the BOW. Mr. Austin stated that in his opinion, this amount is very low. It was explained that this portion of the salary is paid by the Sewer Utility, and is not tax supported. Mr. Ault, the incumbent BOW member and City Councilman stated that he does not advocate increasing this salary. The proposed budgetary ordinance will be set for public hearing on August 1, 2011.

Budgetary Ordinance No.: 11-06: A Budgetary Ordinance Fixing and Authorizing the Payment of Certain Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of Franklin, Indiana for Year 2012 (Civil City)

Dr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Ault, made a motion to read Budgetary Ordinance No.: 11-06: A Budgetary Ordinance Fixing and Authorizing the Payment of Certain Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of Franklin, Indiana for Year 2012 (Civil City) by title only. The motion carried and Mayor Paris read by title only to introduce the Budgetary Ordinance. Mr. Barnett stated that the Assistant Planner salary does not match last year by one dollar. The Clerk-Treasurer stated that this was likely due to a rounding error and would be verified. This matter will be set for public hearing on August 1, 2011.

Budgetary Ordinance No.: 11-07: A Budgetary Ordinance Fixing and Authorizing the Payment of Certain Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of Franklin, Indiana for Year 2012 (Sewer Utility)

Mr. Austin, seconded by Mr. Abban, made a motion to read Budgetary Ordinance No.: 11-07: A Budgetary Ordinance Fixing and Authorizing the Payment of Certain Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of Franklin, Indiana for Year 2012 (Sewer Utility) by title only for introduction. The motion carried and Mayor Paris read by title only to introduce the Budgetary Ordinance. This matter will be set for public hearing on August 1, 2011.

Discussion: Redevelopment Commission's Offer to Acquire

City Attorney Rob H. Schafstall introduced a memorandum from the Redevelopment Commission (RDC) regarding the three (3) properties currently owned by the City of Franklin: GC Murphy, 55 W. Madison Street, and Oren Wright property. Mr. Schafstall stated that it is his legal opinion that transferring properties from the City to the RDC does not require Council approval. A discussion was held. Mr. Austin passed out a typed prepared motion to the Council Members which they discussed. At the conclusion of this discussion Mr. Austin rescinded his prepared motion. Mr. Houglund asked if the Council could consider the proposal from the RDC over the next 30 days. Dr. Murphy made a motion to hold an executive session of the City

Council to discuss this offer, seconded by Mr. Hougland. A voice vote was taken with all members stating Aye. No members stated Nay. The motion carried.

Amended Tax Abatement for Premium Composite Technology

Planning Director Krista Linke presented amended tax abatement forms for Premium Composite Technology. She explained that they have edited the personal property figures. Mr. Abban, seconded by Mr. Austin, made a motion to accept the amended tax abatement form presented for Premium Composite Technology. A voice vote was taken with all members stating Aye. No members stated Nay. The motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Request from the Board of Directors of the Lord's Cupboard

Mayor Paris presented a letter from the Lord's Cupboard Board of Directors who expressed an interest in acquiring the old Fire Station located at the corner of Hamilton and Forsythe Streets which is currently used for equipment storage. Mayor Paris stated that the current property appraisal is \$125,000 for that building. He also stated that the estimated value of the Street Department garage is \$300,000. A discussion held was held. Mr. Austin, seconded by Mr. Abban, made a motion to recommend to the BOW that the City deed the 15 acres of farm land adjacent to Blue Herron Park to the Parks Board. A voice vote was taken with all members stating Aye. No members stated Nay. The motion carried.

Ms. Flora Markward, a Lord's Cupboard board member, appeared before the Council to provide an overview of the agency's mission and impact on the community. The Lord's Cupboard is a church based thrift store which has served the poor in our community for forty years. Ms. Markward stated that they would not be able to purchase the property, but she believes they might be able to lease the building and pay utilities. Mayor Paris asked Rob Shilts of Franklin Heritage if they would be able to work with several different non-profits in the same building. Mr. Shilts stated that could put together a proposal for the BOW in the near future. The Mayor asked the Board Members from the Lord's Cupboard to bring back a specific financial plan to the Council to consider.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS, AND COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Joe Class, City of Franklin resident, appeared before the Council to discuss the selling of Old City Hall.

Fran Leeper, City of Franklin resident, appeared before the Council to discuss three (3) properties owned by the City of Franklin.

Gary Moody, City of Franklin resident, appeared before the Council to complain about the City Attorney working for RDC as well as the City.

Mr. Larry Cheek, City of Franklin resident, appeared before the Council to share that he is excited to see people getting involved with City government.

Mr. Allen Watts, City of Franklin resident, appeared before the Council and stated that he represents the people, just as the Council does.

Mr. Bob Swinehamer, City of Franklin resident, appeared before the Council, to discuss the RDC proposal and questioned the reason given to hold an executive session.

Rob Henderson, City of Franklin resident, appeared before the Council to discuss his opinions regarding the current RDC appointments and the RDC proposal.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion and a second were made to adjourn. As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held Monday, August 1, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet P. Alexander, Clerk-Treasurer

Enrolled: 7/29/2011

Approved by Common Council: 8/1/11