

City of Franklin
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

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

Monday, March 12, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.

Presiding Officer: Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews

Members Present: President Dr. William T. Murphy
Mr. Joseph P. Abban
Mr. Joseph R. Ault
Mr. Phillip R. Barrow
Mr. Jeffrey C. Eggers
Mrs. Ann M. Gordon

Also present: Clerk-Treasurer Janet P. Alexander and City Attorney Robert H. Schafstall

News Media: The News Media was not represented.

Mayor Jones-Matthews opened the meeting and asked the Clerk-Treasurer, Janet P. Alexander, to call the roll of the members. Council Member Murphy offered an invocation followed by a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews asked if anyone from the public wished to comment on any matter not listed on the agenda. No one requested to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Eggers, seconded by Dr. Murphy, made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

1. Minutes of the meeting held February 26, 2007.

The motion carried and the consent agenda was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of Resolution 07-04: A Resolution Authorizing the Use of Certain Credit Card Accounts (repealing resolution 03-07)

Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews presented the proposed resolution that repeals Resolution 03-07: A Resolution Authorizing the Use of Certain Credit Card Accounts. Dr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Eggers, made a motion to read by title only. The motion carried and the resolution was read by title only. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mrs. Gordon, made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion carried. The Council was polled and the votes cast were as follows:

Ayes – Murphy, Abban, Ault, Barrow, Eggers, Gordon
Nays –

Introduction of Ordinance 07-01: An Ordinance Approving a Resolution of the City of Franklin, Indiana Plan Commission and Annexing Certain Property Contiguous to the Franklin Corporate Limits (to be known as the Johnson County Animal Shelter Annexation)

The Planning Director, Joseph Csikos, presented the proposed ordinance approving a resolution of the City of Franklin, Indiana Plan Commission and annexing certain property contiguous to the

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Franklin corporate limits. Mr. Eggers, as County Attorney for the Johnson County Commissioners, recused himself. This ordinance is scheduled for public hearing at the next meeting to be held on March 26, 2007.

OTHER BUSINESS

In response to Council President Murphy's request for additional information, Mr. Matt Culp, a City of Franklin Firefighter/EMT, presented information relative to the department's Five Year Strategic Plan. Mr. Culp estimated that it would cost approximately \$40,000 more per year to operate a new fire station based on expenditures from the previous year excluding labor. The plan includes an assumption that Fire Medic Service Fund monies could be used to offset General Fund expenses for paramedic salaries.

The discussion shifted to a request by the department that the Council authorize the department to proceed with hiring part-time civilian paramedics rather than staffing with full time paramedics as approved in the salary ordinance and the department's annual budget. This is needed to reduce firefighter overtime and to provide needed backup for the department's medic squad. A discussion was held. Dr. Murphy requested that the Clerk-Treasurer estimate the cost of staffing the department with paramedics 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days a year at \$14 and provide that information to the Council at the next regular meeting. Furthermore, the Council Members should be provided copies of the Fire Medic Service ordinance. By consensus, the Council agreed that Chief Reese could advertise the part-time medic positions.

A discussion was held concerning both the Fire Medic Service Ordinance, Ordinance No. 98-04: An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance No. 97-13 Regarding Fire Services and Protection and the ordinance establishing a Cumulative Capital Development Fund. At the Mayor's request, the Clerk-Treasurer explained that the Fire Medic Service Fund ordinance is silent as to how the funds may be used only that they may be used for medic service expenses. Historically, the funds have been used to purchase major equipment for the Fire Department such as ambulances and fire trucks. The Council has stated on different occasions, that one objective of the fund was to create a reserve. Over the years, amounts ranging from \$125,000 - \$200,000 have been discussed, but no specific amount has been declared. The Clerk-Treasurer suggested that if the Council elects to use the funds for personnel expenses, the members may want to outline permitted uses of the fund and limitations.

As for the Cumulative Capital Development Fund Resolution No. 98-1: A Resolution Establishing Cumulative Capital Development Fund Under IC 36-9-15.5-6. The establishment clause states specifically that the purpose of the fund is for: Drainage and Fire Department Building.

At the time this was passed, the Council had discussed the need to plan for expenses related to anticipated drainage problems around the Wal-Mart Superstore development on Hwy. 31 North. There is nothing that states how the funds collected should be expended or how it should be apportioned toward the two stated objectives. The minutes from the adoption hearing are also silent. Since adoption there has not been a single expenditure made from the fund.

At the conclusion of the Clerk Treasurer's comments Council President Dr. Ted Murphy praised the City of Franklin Police Department for their quick response to a reported theft at the Office of Senior Services. Mr. Barrow had been visiting the office that day and concurred with Dr. Murphy

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concerning the Police Department's professional handling of the matter and commented on how quickly they identified the thief and recovered the stolen property.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held March 26, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet P. Alexander, Clerk Treasurer

Enrolled: 3-22-07

Approved by Common Council: 3-26-07