

**City of Franklin Common Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 2017**

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 Joseph Abban, Joseph Ault, Kenneth Austin, Andrew Eggers, Keith Fox, Bob Heuchan and Richard Wertz answered roll call. Clerk-Treasurer Jayne Rhoades, Records Clerk Kathy Cragen, City Attorney Lynnette Gray were also present.

Councilor Wertz offered an invocation. Mayor Barnett opened the meeting and asked the Clerk-Treasurer to call the roll. Mayor Barnett led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Announcements, Presentations & Public Comments**

Police Chief O'Sullivan introduced the following Police Officers who are retiring from the Police Department: Sgt. John Borges who has been with the department for 26 years from 1990-2017; Lt. Pete Ketchum who has been with the department for 22 years from 1995-2017; & Patrolman Richard Sharp who has been with the department for 38 years from 1978-2017. Chief O'Sullivan thanked the officers for their years of service to the City, and presented each officer with a gold watch, their badge & a statue commemorating their years of service with the Franklin Police Department. Mayor Barnett stated that he was very proud of these officers, and their years of service were greatly appreciated.

Police Chief O'Sullivan stated he was tasked with finding a way to enforce semi-truck traffic in the downtown corridor, he stated he had set up extra patrols for two hours every day to cover this issue. Chief O'Sullivan stated they were down 20% of their workforce due to retirements, illness, suspensions, and those in the academy, and he would like to work with off duty officers to fill these two hour slots. Chief O'Sullivan stated he has the money to cover this in his budget, but he might need to appropriate money for these items. He stated this would be approximately ten to twelve thousand dollars. A discussion was held.

Mayor Barnett told the Council that there would be a Special Joint Council & Franklin School Board meeting on Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**Consent Agenda**

Mayor Barnett presented the consent agenda for approval.

- Approval of the March 6, 2017 Common Council Minutes

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

### **Old Business**

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

### **Public Hearing**

**Common Council Ordinance No.: 17-01 An Ordinance Approving Resolution 17-02 of the City of Franklin, Indiana Plan Commission, Rezoning Certain Property to IBD (Industrial: Business Development) (To be known as RSW Lot 8 Rezoning)** – This was introduced at the previous meeting. Ms. Myers stated this was approved by the Plan Commission, and is to allow mini warehouses to be constructed in this area. Mayor Barnett opened the floor for public hearing, no one asked to speak. Councilor Eggers made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Abban. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

**Common Council Budgetary Ordinance No.: 17-05 An Additional Appropriation Local Road and Bridge Matching Grant Fund - Capital 258 001 400 in the amount of \$1,000,000.00** – Mayor Barnett stated this was introduced at the previous meeting. Clerk-Treasurer Rhoades stated this is grant money that needs to be appropriated into the Capital Fund. Mayor Barnett opened the floor for public hearing, no one asked to speak. Councilor Wertz made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

**Common Council Budgetary Ordinance No.: 17-07 An Additional Appropriation for Donation Fund in the amount of \$43,965.57** – Mayor Barnett stated this was introduced at the previous meeting, this is actually not a donation but a reimbursement from Indiana American Water for work done on North Main Street. Mayor Barnett opened the floor for public hearing, no one asked to speak. Councilor Wertz made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

### **New Business**

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

**Request to Give Update on Johnson County Public Library** – Mayor Barnett stated this item was put on the agenda in error, and would be brought back at a future meeting. Councilor Eggers made a motion to table, seconded by Councilor Fox. A voice vote was taken with all members

stating aye. The matter was tabled.

**Request Approval of Taser Contract** - Police Chief O'Sullivan stated this contract was to allow the purchase of 30 new Tasers for the Police Department. The Chief stated there is currently problems with having different Tasers with different training needed, this contract would allow all officers to have the same Taser. Chief O'Sullivan also stated that this would save \$6,748.00 in training cartridges over the next 5 years, and that the contract calls for the old Tasers to be destroyed. Chief O'Sullivan stated they have money in their training continuing education fund, and he would need approval to move forward with this contract and permission to sign the contract. A discussion was held. Councilor Abban made a motion to approve the contract, with Chief O'Sullivan signing it, seconded by Councilor Wertz. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

**Request Approval to Apply for Johnson County Community Foundation's 2017 Spring BIGs Grant** - Fire Chief McElyea came forward to request approval to apply for this grant. Fire Training Captain Andrew Tames stated they would be asking for a grant of \$15,400.00, and this would be to purchase "Project Lifesaver" systems to help track individuals with special needs such as people with Alzheimer's, autism or other health related issues that may cause them to wander away. This tracking system would fit on their wrists or ankles. Councilor Eggers made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Abban. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

**Request Approval to Apply for Indiana Department of Homeland Security 2017 Franklin Foundation Grant** - Fire Chief McElyea explained they were approved for this grant last year, and they would like to apply again this year for a \$3,800.00 grant that would be used to buy chainsaws, and additional equipment. A discussion was held. Councilor Abban made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

**Common Council Budgetary Ordinance No.: 17-08 An Additional Appropriation for the LOIT Special Distribution Fund** - Mayor Barnett explained this to the Council. This money is to be used on the 2017 paving program, and is for introduction only this evening.

**Common Council Budgetary Ordinance No.: 17-09 Authorizing an Additional Appropriation for the Drug Free Johnson County Grant** - Police Chief Tim O'Sullivan came forward and stated that the Police Department had received this grant for \$7,153.00, and would like to appropriate the money in order to purchase portable breath tests, and other equipment. This is for introduction only tonight.

**Request to Form Salary Review Committee** - Council President Keith Fox stated that he and Mayor Barnett have been discussing this, and think now is the time to put this in place. Council President Fox stated they have spoken to department heads and other individuals that would like to be on this committee. He also stated they would need to review and update all job descriptions. Councilor Fox stated that Street Commissioner, Brett Jones, Personnel Coordinator Stephanie Shepherd, Clerk-Treasurer, Jayne Rhoades, Jeff Mercer, Franklin School Corporation and Board of Works member Lisa Jones have all shown interest in being on this committee, and he would like to have input from other Council members also. City Attorney Gray stated they would only be able to have two Council members on the committee due to the “Open Door Laws”, unless the meetings were publicized. Councilor Eggers stated he would be willing to be on this committee. A discussion was held. Mayor Barnett stated that once salary recommendations are made they would be taken into consideration with the City financial advisor Jeff Peters.

### **Other Business**

**Discussion Regarding Facility Audit from Perfection Group** - Council President Keith Fox stated this is for introduction only tonight. Mr. Fox, Mayor Barnett, and other employees met with Perfection Group which has a proposal that would save the city money in facilities management and fleet management. A discussion was held.

Mayor Barnett stated that City Attorney Gray has an update regarding City Court. City Attorney Gray stated the County Commissioners had met on March 13th, and they have approved extending our lease for City Court until June of 2018. It was stated that several locations have been looked at for a potential new location for City Court, but the most cost effective would be to move the court into City Hall in the space that Franklin College is using, and they would use the Council Chambers as the courtroom.

### **Council Comments**

Councilor Abban stated there is no Plan Commission meeting tomorrow, but there will be a special meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Heuchan stated that he was present for the Perfection Group presentation and it was definitely worth looking into.

Councilor Wertz stated there would be a Redevelopment Commission (RDC) meeting tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.

### **Adjournment**

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer  
Enrolled: 3/27/2017

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Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

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Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer