

**City of Franklin Common Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2019**

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, Kenneth Austin, Daniel Blankenship, Andrew Eggers, Bob Heuchan, Danny Richards 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

Mayor Barnett thanked several members of the Mayor's Youth Council for being present.

Marty Williams of Discover Downtown Franklin thanked everyone for their participation in the Art Ethos Festival.

Request Money to be Transferred from City of Franklin General Fund 101 to 101 007 199 (Overtime) - This OPO & DUI Overtime Money is being reimbursed by the ICJI Grant – Captain Scott Carter stated that he would like approval to transfer \$19,735.00 from General Fund to Overtime, and this will be reimbursed by the ICJI Grant. A discussion was held. Councilor Abban made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Eggers. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Barnett presented the consent agenda for approval.

- Approval of the August 19, 2019 Common Council Minutes

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

Old Business

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

Public Hearings

Common Council Budgetary Ordinance No.: 19-12 Fixing & Authorizing the Payment of Certain Salaries of Appointed Officers & Employees for Year 2020 (Civil City) – Mayor Barnett stated there were some minor changes he would like to make to this ordinance. One would be to add (exempt) to the Mayor's - Director of Public Relations Marketing, and to add (exempt) to the IT Directors title. The Mayor stated that he would also like to change the Building Officials salary to \$52,780.00, and when a second person is hired they would be paid less, with the total in this line item not to go over \$104,000.00. Mayor Barnett opened the floor for public hearing. Judge VanValer came forward to present her request for raises for her City Court employees, she thanked all of her employees for all of their hard work especially in setting up the new court. Judge VanValer stated her staff should get higher raises than what the Mayor is requesting, and she would like to take money from the Record Perpetuation Fund to increase these raises. The Judge stated that she can use the Records Perpetuation Fund to offer her staff a higher raise, and this money can only be used at the discretion of the Judge. A lengthy discussion was held. Judge VanValer withdrew her request since the Council was all against it. The Judge thanked the Council for listening to her request. Mayor Barnett closed the public hearing. The Budgetary Ordinance as presented by the Mayor will be up for adoption at the October 7th meeting.

Common Council Budgetary Ordinance No.: 19-13 Fixing & Authorizing the Payment of Certain Salaries of Appointed Officers & Employees for Year 2020 (Sewer Utility) – Mayor Barnett read the title and opened the floor for public hearing. No one asked to speak. The Mayor closed the public hearing. This Budgetary Ordinance will be brought back at the October 7th meeting for adoption.

Common Council Budgetary Ordinance No.: 19-14 Fixing the Annual Salaries & Providing Compensation for all Elected Officials for Year 2020 (Elected Officials) – Mayor Barnett read the title and opened the floor for public hearing. No one asked to speak. The Mayor closed the public hearing. This Budgetary Ordinance will be brought back at the October 7th meeting for adoption.

Common Council Budgetary Ordinance No.: 19-16 City of Franklin, Indiana Budgetary Appropriation & Tax Rate Ordinance for the Year 2020 – Mayor Barnett read the title, and opened the floor for public hearing. Councilor Wertz stated he thought the Mayor had done a good job on the budget. No one else asked to speak. The public hearing was closed. This Budgetary Ordinance will be brought back at the October 7th meeting for adoption.

Common Council Budgetary Ordinance No.: 19-17 An Additional Appropriation Local Road & Bridge Matching Grant Fund Capital 2019 in the amount of \$941,074.25 – Clerk Treasurer Rhoades stated this was presented at the previous meeting. Mayor Barnett opened the floor for public hearing, no one asked to speak. Councilor Abban made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Eggers. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

New Business

2019 Economic Development Fees - Community Development Director Krista Linke came forward to explain the 2019 Economic Development Fees. Ms. Linke stated there was an EDC meeting last week, and they reviewed the application from Discover Downtown Franklin (DDF) to receive the Economic Development Fees collected from Tax Abatements. Ms. Linke stated that the funds would be used for the third portion of the alley activation as part of the Art Ethos Program. Funds for this year would be used for Benjamin's alley which is not completed yet, and they will work with the Elks Club and Admire to complete the pedestrian alley by their buildings. Ms. Linke stated this portion would be \$11,038.25. The other request from DDF is for money to help with Holiday Lighting. Ms. Linke stated that DDF partners with the Parks Department for this ceremony, and they can accept donations for holiday lighting event. She also stated they have been looking for ways to save money such as not taking down the white lights on the downtown trees and leaving them up throughout the year. Ms. Linke stated there is also an endowment from the Community Foundation to go towards helping with the downtown lighting ceremony which is about \$6,000. A discussion was held. So therefore the other half of the Economic Development fees that were collected would go to the Holiday Lighting. Ms. Linke stated that these fees come from tax abatements from companies. A discussion was held. Councilor Heuchan made a motion to approve, seconded by Council President Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Other Business

There was no other business presented.

Council Comments

Councilor Wertz stated there would be an RDC meeting tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m.

Councilor Heuchan stated that the RDC would be discussing the TIF District on US31, and that bonding has closed and the money has been received.

Mayor Barnett stated that the amphitheater project is projected to be opened by October 2021, around Fall Festival time.


Council President Austin thanked the Street Department for all of their work around town.

Councilor Abban thanked DDF for all of their work on all of the downtown festivals, and events. Councilor Abban also stated there would be no Plan Commission meeting tomorrow evening. He also thanked the Fire Department for participating in the hurricane preparedness.

Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer
Enrolled: 9/19/2019


Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:


Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer