

**City of Franklin Common Council**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**March 20, 2020**

The special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Franklin, Indiana was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall, 70 E. Monroe Street, with Mayor Steve Barnett presiding. Council member Kenneth Austin, and Council member Danny Blankenship answered roll call. Council members Melissa Jones, Chris Rynerson & Shawn Taylor were present remotely. Clerk-Treasurer Jayne Rhoades and City Attorney Lynnette Gray were also present.

Les Tabelaing was present from the public.

**New Business**

**Common Council Resolution No.: 20-07 A Resolution Waiving Certain Procedures & Formalities During Disaster Emergency Pursuant to IC 10-14-3-17** - City Attorney Lynn Gray thanked the Council members for being present. Ms. Gray gave an overview of what exactly this resolution does. Ms. Gray gave an update of what has happened since Monday night's City Council meeting. She stated there have been three things that have occurred. Wednesday there was a conference call from the White House which included essentially all local & federal entities to give updates of what was occurring. They mentioned the current disruption could be weeks or months. Tuesday night Governor Holcomb issued an executive order which included some relaxation of open door laws, and one of those things was the ability to have electronic meetings as long as one member of the board was physically present, and that the media was notified, and request that those be limited to essential services only. There has been some question of whether Governor Holcomb has the authority to authorize changes to the municipal open door policies or not. Ms. Gray stated that her position on this is that even though he is governor of the state his order also applies to local municipalities.

Ms. Gray stated that the third thing was in yesterday's press conference with the governor he went through some additional closures and things that he was asking for the public's assistance on, and he was asked specifically if he was going to issue an order that everyone self-quarantine. His response was for no one to panic, and not yet! So Ms. Gray stated she thinks it's prudent given what other states have done, to anticipate and have something in place in the event that there was to be some action in which no one was allowed to attend any kind of public meeting, and we would be at home, so that is what brings us here today. Ms. Gray stated as related to the City Council in the upcoming months when meetings are scheduled there are essentially three options that could occur. The first thing would be our next regular meeting is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., it is possible that we will have a meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. just like we always do, that's hopeful & possible but that's probably not likely given the experience that we've had in other localities. The second thing would be there is a possibility that we have a meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>, and we carry on our ordinary business like we always do, but we do it in this format where we have only a few members present, and the rest join remotely. It is suggested by both the governor's office, and by the Public Access Counselor that if you do have

that type of meeting that since there will be limited members from the public present, you limit those decisions to only necessary & essential types of things, so that could happen. In that case the resolution that you are being asked to consider here today really doesn't affect the majority of things. The third thing that could happen is that we could be in a situation where we've been requested & ordered to quarantine in which case we would not have this type of meeting available but we would continue to need to do business as a city. That's what this resolution would really address because that would then give the Mayor & Clerk Treasurer the ability to do things that typically the City Council would do such as: approve line item transfers; appropriate money to rainy day fund, etc. Then when things go back to normal it would be added back on the agenda meeting for the members to ratify. A resolution such as this was approved earlier this morning by the Board of Works. Ms. Gray stated that she would rather be over prepared than underprepared. She opened the floor to any questions. No one asked to speak. Council President Austin made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Blankenship. A roll call vote was taken: Council President Austin, Councilor Blankenship, Councilor Jones, Councilor Rynerson & Councilor Taylor all voted aye. The motion carried. Council member Heuchan & Council member McGuinness let the Mayor know that they were not available for the meeting. Ms. Gray asked if it was approved by council members to sign electronically, and they all agreed.

### **Adjournment**

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer  
Enrolled: 03/20/2020

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Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

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Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer