

**City of Franklin Common Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2023**

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 Kenneth Austin, Bob Heuchan, Anne McGuinness, Irene Nalley, Jennifer Price, Josh Prine and Shawn Taylor answered roll call. Clerk-Treasurer Jayne Rhoades, and City Attorney Lynnette Gray were also present.

Mayor's Youth Leadership Council Members Liam Clarke, Van Evanoff, Michael Wilson, Morgan Harvey, Emma Williams, Jolie Engelau, Maggie Woods, and Amelia Tisdale were present.

Mayor Barnett opened the meeting and asked the Clerk-Treasurer to call the roll.

Bob Heuchan led a prayer and the pledge.

Announcements, Presentations & Public Comments

Boy Scout Troop #228 was present to earn their Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge.

Presentation of the 200th Bicentennial Celebration Plaque - Mayor Steve Barnett made a proclamation beginning the Bicentennial Celebration of the City of Franklin in the year of 2023. "The City of Franklin, Indiana celebrates its Bicentennial in the year 2023 and it is fitting to recognize the individuals, organizations, and businesses that have contributed to the growth and development of the City of Franklin. The City of Franklin, after being founded in 1823; consisted of approximately 40 platted acres and included a population of 250 persons; and today celebrating the City of Franklin having over 9,800 acres and comprised of over 25,000 residents. The City of Franklin honors the history of local schools, churches, businesses, and organizations that laid the city's foundation, as well as, acknowledging those same entities that today are helping to shape our future. The City of Franklin has a rich heritage with roots in agriculture, railroad, and commerce, while recognizing that the backbone of the City of Franklin has always, and will continue to rest on its people, who exhibited an entrepreneurial spirit and drive to succeed that is still evident today. The City of Franklin will proudly mark this Bicentennial year with a wide variety of activities and events that will highlight this commemorative year by exploring our past; engaging our present, and envisioning our future. We encourage our residents to participate as we come together, honoring our history, appreciating the arts, enjoying our festivities, and valuing all that makes the City of Franklin the best place to live, work, and play for a lifetime. Now, Therefore I, Steve D. Barnett, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Franklin, Johnson County, Indiana, now hereby recognize this special milestone and proclaim the year 2023 as The Bicentennial Year of Celebration for the City of Franklin, Indiana."

Presentation on the Roundabout Project - Mayor's Youth Leadership Council President Maggie Woods explained that they are a student lead group from Franklin Community High School. Emma Williams gave an overview of the projects that have been completed in the past couple of years including the Franklin Flag, the inclusive playground project, updates to the Active Adult Center, the Safe Haven Baby Box, and the continuation of the public WIFI project that will be finished in the spring. This year, the Council has been working on the Roundabout Project which is a plan to design a sculpture for the roundabout outside of Franklin Community High School. The Council gave an overview of the artist for the project: Arlon Bayliss. Also, they explained that they received ideas for the sculpture for the roundabout from all students at FCHS to help incorporate all of the student's representation of the school and the community. Council Treasurer Mia Tisdale created the original design. They explained the total cost of the sculpture will be a maximum of \$300,000. If the students are unable to fundraise this amount, there are city funds available to help complete the project. The test sculpture will begin in June and the roundabout itself will be completed at the end of July. Mayor Barnett explained that the contract was approved at the Board of Works Meeting earlier that evening.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Barnett presented the consent agenda for approval.

- Approval of the January 18, 2023 Common Council Minutes

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

Old Business

There was no old business presented.

New Business

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

Introduction of Common Council Ordinance No.: 2023-01 Clarifying Ordinance 2015-04 - City Attorney Lynn Gray & Clerk-Treasurer Jayne Rhoades introduced the clarifying ordinance for the city's longevity program. Ms. Gray stated this began in 1981 for both the police and fire departments. In 2002, it was determined that the longevity program was unsustainable. The new longevity plan would be paid to all employees once a year instead of a percentage of a salary twice a year. In 2008, there was a minor change made about when the civilian longevity would be reviewed. In 2015, individuals in the public safety department inquired if the city would ever

go back to the old longevity program. The Council determined it would still be unsustainable, but they amended the ordinance to create a one-time payment incentive for those who were public servants for the city for 20 years. This one-time payment is based on 20% of their current salary. There are 19 people that are still in the old 2002 plan at a cost of \$290,000. There are 170 individuals that are in the new 2015 plan at a cost of \$140,800. Ms. Gray explained that the Clerk-Treasurer's office has been approached with city employees with concerns that they have legal basis to obtain this one-time payment every year. Ms. Gray explained that she does not believe these city employees have legal basis to continuously receive this one-time payment every year after their 20 years of employment. The city's compensation is the city's choice and not based on PERF's analysis of longevity payments. At the February 22nd meeting, there will be a public hearing for Ordinance 23-01.

Budgetary Ordinance No.: 23-01 Authorizing an Additional Appropriation for Non-Tax Supported Funds - Clerk-Treasurer Jayne Rhoades explained these funds are from donations and grants. Budgetary Ordinance 23-01 was only introduced and will be acted on at the February 22nd meeting.

Budgetary Resolution No.: 23-01 Transfer from General Fund to Rainy Day – Mayor Barnett explained that this money was unused from last year. Mayor Barnett requested \$1,000,000 to be transferred from the General Fund to the Rainy-Day Fund. Councilor Prine made a motion to approve, seconded by Council President Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Request to Declare Stale Dated Checks Cancelled - Clerk-Treasurer Jayne Rhoades explained that we are able to cancel checks that have not been cashed for 2 years and that money can be put back into the fund that the money came from. Council President Austin made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Vice President Taylor. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Request Approval of Encumbrances Carried Over to 2023 - Clerk-Treasurer Jayne Rhoades explained these are funds for projects/contracts that were not finished in 2022. Councilor Heuchan made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Other Business

There was no other business presented.

Council Comments

Mayor's Youth Leadership Council Treasurer Mia Tisdale stated that she created the original design for the sculpture for the Roundabout Project. Ms. Tisdale explained that she incorporated ideas from her peers and students from the middle school as well.

Councilor Josh Prine thanked the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council for their presentation and thanked the Boy Scout Troop for attending the meeting.

Chief of Staff Tara Payne reminded the Council of the State of the City Address on Thursday.

Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer
Enrolled:2/8/2023

Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer