

**City of Franklin Common Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 4, 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, Anne McGuinness, Irene Nalley, Josh Prine and Shawn Taylor answered roll call. Clerk-Treasurer Jayne Rhoades, and City Attorney Lynnette Gray were also present.

Council Members Bob Heuchan and Jennifer Price were absent.

Mayor's Youth Leadership Council members Taylor Trueblood, Ella McGuinness, Lizzi Worland and Lauren Klem were also present.

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

Tom Moore offered an invocation, & led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements & Public Comments

There were no announcements or public comments.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Barnett presented the consent agenda for approval.

- Approval of the November 20, 2023 Common Council Minutes

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

Approval of Budgetary Ordinance 23-17 to Amend Council Budgetary Ordinance 23-07 Fixing and Authorizing the Payment of Certain Salaries of Appointed Officers & Employees for Year 2024 (Civil City) to replace Project Manager line item with Assistant Engineer - City Engineer Mark Richards stated Senior Planner Joanna Tennell presented this at

the last council meeting. Mayor Barnett opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. Mayor Barnett closed the public hearing. Councilor Nalley made a motion to approve Budgetary Ordinance 23-17, seconded by Councilor Prine. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Approval of Ordinance 23-15 Regarding the Minimum Age of Merit Commission

Candidates - City Attorney Lynn Gray explained this was introduced at the last council meeting. This is to allow candidates at the age of 20 to be hired by the Police Department. Mayor Barnett opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. Mayor Barnett closed the public hearing. Councilor McGuinness made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-15, seconded by Councilor Prine. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

New Business

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

Amendment to Ordinance 2020-13 - Community Development Specialist Dana Monson stated Resolution 23-23 would change the Public Art Advisory Committee member requirements. All of the normal organizations would still be involved but the ordinance would allow the Mayor to appoint individuals as necessary. Resolution 2023-23 will go for public hearing at the December 18th council meeting.

Tax Abatement Request - Community Development Specialist Dana Monson stated this is a request from Mitsubishi Turbo Engine America. The request is for a 3-year abatement with a 5% economic development fee. Their goal is to add \$2.5 million in personal property equipment and add an additional 22 employees. Council President Austin made a motion to approve the tax abatement request for Mitsubishi Turbo Engine America, seconded by Council Vice President Taylor. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Approval of Ordinance 2023-16: Annexation to be known as DPW 4.5 ac. Annexation

(Introduction) - Senior Planner Joanna Tennell stated the Plan Commission sent a favorable recommendation for this property to be annexed into the city. The city has owned this property since 1991. Ordinance 2023-16 will go for public hearing at the December 18th council meeting.

Approval of Ordinance 2023-17: Rezoning to be known as DPW Rezoning (Introduction) -

Senior Planner Joanna Tennell stated this goes along with Ordinance 2023-16. The institutional rezoning is consistent with what DPW is currently zoned as. The Plan Commission sent a favorable recommendation to the council. This land will be for the sewer plant expansion that is being discussed for 2026. Ordinance 2023-17 will go for public hearing at the December 18th council meeting with the fiscal plan being introduced at this meeting as well.

Meeting Memorandum Regarding Opioid Settlement Funds - City Attorney Lynn Gray stated the city participated in the litigation holding opioid distributors responsible for addiction problems. The city receives funds but this money is restricted and can only be used on opioid related issues. The Johnson County Health Department called a meeting to discuss how communities can work together to spend their combined settlement funds. At the meeting, the different government entities discussed creating a community program to help those who have overdosed and need follow up help and attention. Ms. Gray presented this topic to the Council to see if they are interested in pursuing this program. Council members agreed they are interested in moving forward with a joint opioid program with other government entities in Johnson County. Ms. Gray and Mayor Barnett will work with the county to create a plan to bring back to the Council.

Approval of Resolution 23-21 Authorizing the Agreement for Services with PMR Healthcare - City Attorney Lynn Gray stated members from PMR Healthcare have already presented this topic to the Council. PMR Healthcare will be a great resource for employees and will also help keep premium costs low. The city budgets \$4.5 million for employee insurance costs and hopes to save \$100,000.00-\$200,000.00 by using the PMR clinic. Employees do not have to pay anything out of pocket to go to the clinic. The agreement is for 2 years with coverage for 580 individuals. The cost to the city is \$31,000.00 a month. Mayor Barnett opened the topic up to the public for questions. An individual from the public asked when the city plans to see financial changes. Ms. Gray explained she hopes to see changes after 18 months. A representative from Johnson Memorial Hospital spoke on their positive experience with PMR. Mayor Barnett closed the public hearing. Council President Austin made a motion to approve Resolution 23-21, seconded by Council Vice President Taylor. 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 Member Taylor Trueblood stated the council raised \$332.00 from sales at the Winter Market. This money was used to buy presents for a Christmas Angel Family.

All Council Members thanked everyone for their hard work at the Holiday Lighting.

Chief of Staff Tara Payne thanked community members for their donations to the employee Christmas party. The party is December 15th.

Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer
Enrolled:12/6/2023

Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer