

**City of Franklin Common Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 20, 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 Noah Woods, Ella McGuinness, Madison Spock, Lizzi Worland, Madelyn McCullough, Addison Holman, Taylor McHenry, Keegan Turner McQuinn and Maya Alvey were present.

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

Bryan Ries 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 6, 2023 Common Council Minutes

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

Approval of Ordinance 2023-14: Street & Utility Right-of-Way Ordinance (Public Hearing) - Senior Planner Joanna Tennell stated this was introduced at the last meeting. This would repeal and replace the current ordinance. This Ordinance also includes penalties for cable pollution. Mayor Barnett opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. Mayor Barnett closed the public hearing. Council Vice President Taylor made a motion to approve

Ordinance 2023-14, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Approval of Budgetary Ordinance 2023-16 to appropriate the Community Crossings Grant money in the amount of \$741,879.66 for the city's portion - Clerk-Treasurer Jayne Rhoades stated this was presented at the last council meeting. This gives the Clerk-Treasurer's office permission to spend the city's portion of the matching grant. 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 2023-16, seconded by Councilor McGuinness. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Approval of Ordinance 2023-12 Authorizing Advance Payment of Certain Expenses - City Attorney Lynn Gray explained this was introduced at the last meeting. There was a change in law that now allows the city to make advanced payments on certain items. Mayor Barnett opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. Mayor Barnett closed the public hearing. Council Vice President Taylor made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-12, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Approval of Ordinance 2023-13 An Ordinance of the City of Franklin Providing for Clothing and Equipment Allowance and Repealing and Replacing Ordinance No. 19-03 and Ordinance No. 11-09 Relative to the Same - City Attorney Lynn Gray stated the 2024 budget includes this increase to \$1000/year for clothing allowance. Mayor Barnett opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. Mayor Barnett closed the public hearing. Councilor Nalley made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-13, seconded by Council Vice President Taylor. 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.

Introduction of Budgetary Ordinance 23-17 to Amend Council Budgetary Ordinance 23-07 Fixing & Authorizing the Payment of Certain Salaries of Appointed Officers & Employees for Year 2024 (Civil City) to replace Project Manager line item with Assistant Engineer – Senior Planner Joanna Tennell stated the Board of Works approved the Assistant City Engineer job description. The job description does require individuals to have a PE license or be able to obtain the license within 6 months of getting hired. The Project Manager position has not been filled for 3 years. This new Assistant City Engineer position would allow the city to oversee more projects rather than relying on on-call contractors. The Project Manager position was budgeted for \$62,500.00 and the Assistant Engineer would require an increase to \$90,000.00. This salary would attract qualified candidates. By adding another engineer, this would save the city money in the long run by not having to pay an outside company or consultant. Budgetary Ordinance 23-17 will go for public hearing at the December 4th council meeting.

Approval of Budgetary Resolution 23-09 transfer to TIF-Amended from Board of Works in the amount of \$3,515.53 to cover Yandes Street Project costs - Clerk-Treasurer Jayne Rhoades stated the Redevelopment Commission spent all of their budgeted money and went over \$3,515.53. The Board of Works is reimbursing the RDC for their overpayment on the Yandes Street project. Council President Austin made a motion to approve Budgetary Resolution 23-09, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Request approval of Budgetary Resolution 23-11 Transfer from MVH 200 to MVH 300 in the amount of \$5,000 – Clerk-Treasurer Jayne Rhoades explained this is a standard transfer within the budget to cover costs through the end of the year. Councilor McGuinness made a motion to approve Budgetary Resolution 23-11, 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 stated this was presented to the Police Merit Commission. The former age requirement was 21. The request is to lower the age requirement to 20 so the city does not miss out on great, younger candidates. PERF confirmed that this request is allowed. A discussion was held. Police Chief Kirby Cochran explained the Police Department is at full staff for the first time in many years. Mayor Barnett thanked the Council for their hard work on the budget so the city can provide competitive wages to Police Officers. Ordinance 23-15 will go for public hearing at the December 4th council meeting.

Other Business

Electric Vehicle Charger Presentation - Mayor's Youth Leadership Council listed previous projects completed by the Council were the Safe Haven Baby Box, inclusive playground and roundabout sculpture. The Council wants to install an electric charger at the amphitheater. They have been collaborating with Duke Energy, Parks Superintendent Chip Orner and City Engineer Mark Richards. The charger would be able to charge 2 cars at once. The monthly cost is estimated to be \$130 which would be paid by the users. The plan is to have the charger installed by the end of April. The goal for the charger is to promote environmentally friendly habits and allow the entire community to use it. Duke Energy will install the charger at no cost. Users will be charged similarly to a parking meter. The charger will be placed on a map where individuals can see there is a charger in Franklin. The idea is when users are charging their vehicle, they will walk to nearby shops or restaurants here in town. Mayor Barnett explained there is an electric charger at the Fairfield Inn which is an example of what will be at the amphitheater. City Attorney Lynn Gray stated she received the contract with Duke Energy which is under review. The Mayor's Youth Leadership Council plans to raise any funds that are required.

Council Comments

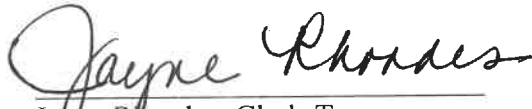
The Council Members wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Chief of Staff Tara Payne invited all Council members to the Employee Christmas Party.

Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer
Enrolled: 11/22/23


Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

Jayne Rhoades, Clerk-Treasurer