

City of Franklin Common Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2024

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, Todd Shuck, Anne McGuinness, Irene Nalley, Jennifer Price, Josh Prine and Shawn Taylor answered roll call. Records Clerk Lyv Sundheimer, Clerk-Treasurer Jan Jones and City Attorney Lynnette Gray were also 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

City Engineer Mark Richards introduced the new Assistant City Engineer Matt McElroy.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Barnett presented the consent agenda for approval.

- Approval of the January 2, 2024 Common Council Minutes

Council President Austin made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Council 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 McGuinness. 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 (Official Action) - Senior Planner Joanna Tennell stated Ordinance 2023-16 went for public hearing at the previous council meeting. The fiscal plan was adopted at the last council meeting. This annexation would take effect January 1st, 2026. Council Vice President Taylor made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-16, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

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

- Senior Planner Joanna Tennell stated Ordinance 2023-17 this is a companion piece to the annexation. The parcel would be zoned institutional. It would take effect concurrently with the annexation which would be January 1, 2026. Councilor McGuinness made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-17, 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.

Request Approval of Encumbrances Carried Over to 2024 – Clerk-Treasurer Jan Jones explained this is money from the 2023 budget that was not spent in 2023. There was an invoice or contract to carry the money into 2024 so the payments will not be made from the 2024 budget. Councilor McGuinness made a motion to approve the encumbrances, seconded by Councilor Price. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Request to Declare Stale Dated Checks Cancelled - Clerk-Treasurer Jan Jones explained these are checks from 2021 that have still not cleared. Councilor Price made a motion to approve the stale dated checks, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Other Business

FCSC School Growth Data Project - Superintendent Dr. Clendening stated the schools asked Matt Kinghorn a Senior Demographic Analyst from Indiana University to do a study on the future growth of the school system. Overall, Mr. Kinghorn determined the city will not outgrow the current school system’s buildings. He determined the growth of the city is still lower than the rest of Johnson County. Even with the increase in homes being built in Franklin, there are not an influx of families with school aged children. In the next 10 years, the schools will still be able to house the predicted number of students. There will be a 17% growth in elementary schools but a negative 6% growth at the high school. If there is a change in the number of homes being built, this will affect the schools and the projections in this study. Dr. Clendening did explain there is a need for preschools in Franklin. The school system will be taking over the Earlywood building and are looking into a preschool center there. Dr. Clendening thanked the city for their partnership.

Presentation on the WWTP Expansion Design Project – Wessler Engineering Gary Ruston gave a brief overview off the plan for additions to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Ruston stated the current Wastewater Treatment Plant was built in 1996. In 2023, the WWTP was at 82% capacity. The goal of the project is to improve efficiency and increase the maximum capacity by 50%. The total cost of the project is \$32.2 million with a time frame of 40 months. The final completion is estimated to be Fall of 2027. The city has been making improvements periodically but most of the equipment at the plant is still 30 years old. Mayor Barnett explained that he hopes members of the council will meet with financial advisor Jeff Peters to discuss the funding for the project. He expressed the city does have the funds for this project but the council needs to decide on the route they want to take. In the future, there will be discussions about a new sewer billing department building and potentially installing solar panels at the plant to help save money on electric costs. Mayor Barnett gave a brief overview of the funds for 2024 and for this project. Councilor Shuck explained his concerns about reaching capacity before the project is complete. Mr. Ruston stated he does not foresee the plant reaching capacity before the expansion is complete. Even if the plant reaches 100% capacity, there will be warnings from IDEM to allow time to make adjustments.

Council Comments

Councilor Shuck and Councilor Price have attended the Newly Elected Officials training this week.

Council President Austin welcomed Assistant City Engineer Matt McElroy.

Chief of Staff Tara Payne reminded everyone to get their tickets for the State of the City Address at the Garment Factory on February 8th.

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,

Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer
Enrolled: 01/22/2024

Steve Barnett, Mayor

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Attest:

Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer