

City of Franklin Common Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 5, 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. 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 and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements & Public Comments

Fire Chief Joshua Snyder called firefighters Austin Worth, Lane Sears, and Andrew Snider forward for their swearing-in.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Barnett presented the consent agenda for approval.

- Approval of the July 15, 2024 Common Council Minutes

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

Old Business

Council President Austin made a motion to present Old Business by title only, seconded by Councilor Taylor. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Approval of Budgetary Ordinance 24-17 additional appropriation into BOW Employee Insurance in the amount of \$1.1 million - Clerk-Treasurer Jan Jones reviewed information from the July 1st meeting, stating this is to maintain cash reserves. Councilor Taylor made a motion to approve Budgetary Ordinance 24-17, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Approval of Budgetary Ordinance 24-18 to reappropriate \$40,000 for the Headstone/Foundation Repair Project at Greenlawn Cemetery - Parks Superintendent Chip Orner opened the floor for questions. As there were none, Councilor McGuinness made a motion to approve Budgetary Ordinance 24-18, seconded by Councilor Price. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

New Business

Council President Austin made a motion to present 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 24-19 to appropriate the CCMG 2024 - Part 1 State Funds in the amount of \$888,753.47 - Mayor Barnett confirmed we have received the State's portion of the Community Crossings Grant and explained this is to appropriate those funds so the City can access them. This will be presented again at the August 19th meeting.

Council Resolution 2024-06: Authorizing Acquisition of Real Property located next to the Franklin Active Adult Center (350 Richey Street) - Parks Superintendent Chip Orner gave background information regarding this property and how it impacts the construction of the new Active Adult Center Project. Issues were found with the Richey St. property line, as well as water and sewer lines, which posed both physical and legal issues. Purchasing the property would take care of these issues, plus allow us to expand the parking lot. Two appraisals came in, one at \$98,000 and the other at \$108,000; legally, we must pay the average of those, which is \$103,000. The property owner accepted the offer. Attorney Gray stated that a title search revealed no other issues. Mayor Barnett explained that the \$750,000.00 READI Grant we're hoping to receive will be used to fund this and additional Active Adult Center plans. Councilor Shuck made a motion to approve Council Resolution 2024-06 and authorize the Mayor or his designee to execute all documents as needed, seconded by Councilor Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Other Business

Discussion on update to Zoning Ordinance Downtown Overlay District (Historic Downtown) - Councilor Todd Shuck gave a brief introduction. Senior Planner Joanna Tennell explained City departments, along with local groups who have been very active in the historic preservation of our downtown (Discover Downtown Franklin, Franklin Heritage, Community Development, Franklin Development Corporation), wanted to take a look at how we treat the historic nature of Franklin, specifically with new building projects and how they fit into the character of downtown. At some point, the regulatory language in our current Zoning Ordinance Downtown Overlay District was removed to be suggestive and, therefore, not enforceable. Amending the current Zoning Ordinance and Technical Review Committee process by updating that language and adding an Architectural Review subcommittee would streamline our process for both staff and developers and could be used for additional overlay districts. This would include taking the existing language of the ordinance and language provided by Glen Faris and Discover Downtown Franklin and see what makes sense to incorporate. The subcommittee would be comprised of qualified representatives from different groups who are active in our downtown and well-versed in historic architecture and preservation. There would be multiple working sessions and a Plan Commission hearing before the new ordinance amendment would be brought before City Council. Attorney Gray explained the purpose of overlay districts within the City limits and Ms. Tennell explained the need for instituting these ordinance amendments. Councilor McGuinness made a motion to initiate the review and revisions to the existing Downtown Overlay District (Historic Downtown), seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Council Comments

Councilor McGuinness wished everyone good luck in the new school year.

Councilor Prine praised the Parks Department for the King Street pickleball courts and the new interest they have brought to the park.

Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer
Enrolled: 08/07/2024

Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer