

City of Franklin Common Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 19, 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. In addition, the following members of the Franklin Mayor's Youth Leadership Council were in attendance: President Marni Moore, Communications Chair Willa Thomas, and Treasurer Noah Woods.

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

Promoting B. Krout to Sergeant - Police Chief Kirby Cochran called Officer Ben Krout forward to receive his promotion.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Barnett presented the consent agenda for approval.

- Approval of the August 5, 2024 Common Council Minutes

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

Approval of Budgetary Ordinance 24-19 to appropriate the CCMG 2024 - Part 1 State Funds in the amount of \$888,753.47 - Mayor Barnett stated this was introduced at the Aug. 5 meeting. No public comments were made. Councilor Taylor made a motion to approve Budgetary Ordinance 24-19 to appropriate the CCMG 2024 Part 1 State Funds in the amount of \$888,753.47, seconded by Councilor Nalley. 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 Taylor. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Presentation of DPW Construction Projects Purpose and Need, Wastewater Rate Study and Public Hearing of Wastewater Rate Ordinance - Wessler Engineering, Brent Siebenthal and Bridget Ingram; Peters Franklin LTD, Jeff Peters; and Williams Barrett & Wilkowski LLP, Stephen Watson were present for the public hearing. Mr. Siebenthal presented information on the need for Phase 2 of the West Side Regional Interceptor, projects to address those needs, and locations of affected properties. Ms. Ingram outlined plans and goals for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion: estimated cost at this time is \$33.2 million, design process will be completed by late 2024/early 2025, four months for permitting, four months for bidding/finance, and 21 months for construction, with projected completion Fall 2027. City Attorney Gray posed the question of the plant's longevity after updating. Mr. Siebenthal answered that with the planned collection system, it could be 50-75+ years for any expansion. Ms. Ingram said equipment and mechanical improvements are probably in the 20-25 year range. Mr. Peters explained the proposed rate adjustment and debt service management to fund this \$46 million project. Councilor Shuck clarified the additional cost of \$2.62 a month (or \$31.44 a year) difference between approving the twenty-year amortization over the twenty-five year amortization, which saves \$8 million overall. Councilor Shuck also confirmed all users would be affected and that 63.3% of users are at or below the 4,000 gallons. Mr. Watson reiterated the Council's legal responsibilities to maintain just and equitable rates for adequate and sufficient service. He confirmed that the correct process has been followed leading up to the approval of proposed rates. (Please see the online meeting agenda for complete presentations, including maps, charts, financials, etc.) Resident Bob Swinehamer asked for clarification of metered vs. unmetered users. Mr. Peters explained the formula used to construct the unmetered amount. City Engineer Mark Richards shared information from Sewer Billing Manager Sherry Phillips, identifying several unmetered houses and comparable rates. The public hearing was closed. Council President Austin made a motion to approve the DPW construction and Wastewater rate increase subject to the 20-year payment schedule and implement per ordinance 24-04, seconded by Councilor Taylor. A roll call vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Other Business

Update regarding Franklin Education Connection's program and the upcoming student trip to Europe

President of Franklin Education Connection (FEC), Attorney Dustin Huddleston thanked everyone for their ongoing support and updated about their main programs:

- 1) Raise money for grants that local teachers can apply for; generally, 90% are approved
- 2) Study Buddies, the original mentorship program for K-8th grade students, currently looking for more mentors as they have more students in need
- 3) First Scholars, a mentorship program for high school students to guide and support them through high school and beyond
- 4) Study Abroad, the newest program, currently traveling to Japan every other year and Europe every year

Council Comments

Franklin Mayor's Youth Leadership Council President, Marni Moore, informed that this year's project is to install lights on The Amphitheater pickle ball courts and as a fundraiser they will be hosting a pickle ball tournament Sept. 15.

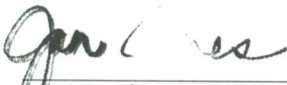
Councilor Price added to Mr. Huddleston's information. As the PR/Fundraising Committee Chair of FEC she would like to let everyone know they will have their annual Barn Event on Nov. 8 and tickets are available through either of them. Mr. Huddleston also added that they are hoping to receive an Eli Lily grant which would match funds and possibly total \$60,000 for FEC.

City Attorney Lynn Gray addressed Miss Moore that as an additional part of their project, FMYLC could apply for scholarships that are available for AED units which could be added to the pickleball courts.

Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer
Enrolled: 08/22/2024

Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:



Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer