

City of Franklin Common Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2025

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, & led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements & Public Comments

Swearing in firefighters Blaine Watkins, Darrell Scruggs, Brandon Crouse and Preston Stark – Fire Chief Josh Snyder called Blaine Watkins, Darrell Scruggs, and Brandon Crouse forward for their swearing in. Chief Snyder then called Deputy Chief Preston Stark forward for the presentation of promotion to Merit Lieutenant.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Barnett presented the consent agenda for approval.

- Approval of the April 7, 2025 Common Council Minutes

Council President Austin motioned 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 motioned to read 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 25-04 appropriating \$28,074.21 in Opioid Unrestricted Funds to cover expenses related to updating Law Enforcement Policy Manuals – Ms. Gray reviewed information and stated it was ready for action. Mayor Barnett opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments. Mayor Barnett closed the Public Hearing. Councilor McGuinness motioned to approve Budgetary Ordinance 25-04, seconded by Councilor Taylor. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Approval of Budgetary Ordinance 25-05 Amending Salary Ordinance 24-22 for Planning Director Position - Clerk-Treasurer Jan Jones stated this reflects the restructured positions within the Planning & Engineering Department. Mayor Barnett opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments. Mayor Barnett closed the Public Hearing. Councilor Taylor motioned to approve Budgetary Ordinance 25-05, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Approval of Budgetary Ordinance 25-06 Drug Free Johnson County Funds in the amount of \$2,872.56 - Police Chief Kirby Cochran asked for these funds to be appropriated to purchase narcotics surveillance equipment. Mayor Barnett asked Chief Cochran to inform the Council regarding the recent drug sweep. Chief Cochran stated that in this last drug round-up, the media did not present the most accurate information. Of the 49 warrants, 31 were from our narcotics unit, 15 from the Sheriff's Department, and 3 from Greenwood. This is not to undermine the excellent working relationship the City has with other law enforcement agencies, but to give credit to the outstanding efforts of our narcotics officers. Mayor Barnett opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments. Mayor Barnett closed the Public Hearing. Council President Austin motioned to approve Budgetary Ordinance 25-06, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

New Business

Council President Austin motioned to read New Business by title only, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Introduction of Ordinance 25-04 Imposing a Wheel Tax and Motor Vehicle License Excise Tax and Creating the City of Franklin Wheel Tax Fund and the City of Franklin Motor Vehicle License Excise Surtax Fund - City Attorney Lynn Gray stated that while this is the introduction, due to recent amendments that are pending, it may have changes or be withdrawn before the Public Hearing. During this Legislative Session, a statewide mandate was given to municipalities that could apply for and receive Community Crossing dollars. To receive those funds, municipalities must have a Wheel Tax in place by June 1, 2025. In Johnson County, a Wheel Tax and Surtax are already in effect. The County's Wheel Tax collects all of the money, which is then distributed appropriately among the municipalities. However, the Legislature did not make allowances for municipalities receiving money through their designated counties. The goal of this ordinance is to have the City's Wheel Tax mirror the County's. Ms. Gray has collaborated with County Attorney Tiffany Costley about presenting this and is waiting to finalize the language based on the final legislation. Luke Mastin, Highway Director for Johnson County, said the Legislature has added language to assure no double taxation. Ms. Gray shared proposed amendments sent to her by Daily Journal Editor Leeann Doerflein; however, they are not clearly defined. Regardless, the primary purpose of this ordinance is to have it in place so we don't fall into a legal loophole and lose Community Crossing funds, totaling at least \$9,500,000.00 over the past several years. Mayor Barnett also shared projected funds the City receives from these taxes. This will be open for Public Hearing and vote at the May 2nd meeting.

Introduction of Budgetary Ordinance 2025-07: Additional Appropriation of \$750,000 for the purchase of supplies & equipment for the Franklin Active Adult Center from the incoming READI Grant - Parks Department Superintendent Chip Orner requested approval to purchase necessary supplies and equipment to complete the Active Adult Center which should be completed within the next 45 days. Mayor Barnett assured the Council that he has received communication that this money would be released by the end of the year. He called Community Development Specialist Dana Monson to provide additional timeline information. This will be open for Public Hearing and vote at the May 2nd meeting.

ERA and Tax Abatement request and public hearing for Airtomic - Community

Development Specialist Dana Monson stated that on March 11th, the EDC reviewed a request for an Economic Revitalization Area Designation and a Real and Personal Property Tax Abatement for Airtomic. This was for a 10-year tax abatement on \$2 million in real property and a 10-year abatement on \$1 million in personal property investment for a 20,000 sq. ft. expansion on their Linville Drive property. They will also hire an additional 27 people at an average wage of \$30-\$35/hour. The EDC voted to forward a favorable recommendation for the Economic Revitalization Area Designation, a 7-year real property abatement, and a 5-year personal property abatement. Mayor Barnett opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments. Mayor Barnett closed the Public Hearing. Councilor Taylor motioned to approve Resolution 2025-05, seconded by Councilor Shuck. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Ms. Monson introduced Mike Calloway with Airtomic (formerly Sergeant Aerospace, located on Industrial Drive). Mr. Calloway presented an overview of the company, its customers, and its employees. Councilor Taylor reminded the Council that a large group had toured this facility. Mayor Barnett opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments. Mayor Barnett closed the Public Hearing. Councilor Taylor motioned to approve Resolution 2025-06 Tax Abatement on Real Property and Resolution 2025-07 on Personal Property, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Yearly Tax Abatement Compliance Reports for Approval - Community Development

Specialist Dana Monson shared that on April 15th the EDC approved 15 compliance reports:

C 2025-05: Chartlife 14-04	C 2025-09: Essex Furukawa 21-14
C 2025-10: Essex Furukawa 23-06	C 2025-11: Essex Furukawa 23-07
C 2025-15: IBC Advanced Alloys 21-02	C 2025-16: IBC Advanced Alloys 21-05
C 2025-26: Nitrex 11-03	C 2025-29: NSK Corp 13-20
C 2025-30: NSK Corp 16-19	C 2025-31: NSK Corp 22-07
C 2025-32: NSK Corp 22-08	C 2025-34: NSK Precision 13-18
C 2025-35: NSK Precision 22-09	C 2025-36: NSK Precision 22-10
C 2025-51: Electro Spec 12-07	

Councilor Taylor motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Other Business

Redevelopment Commission Report completion and submission to the DLGF - Clerk-
Treasurer Jan Jones notified the Council that this annual Gateway report has been submitted.

Council Comments

Franklin Mayor's Youth Leadership Council Member shared that the Chili Dinner raised \$206.00 and they are wrapping up projects as the end of the year approaches.

Councilor Jennifer Price wished Mayor Barnett a happy belated birthday.

Councilor Josh Prine thanked the FMYLC for the Chili Dinner event and shared that it was enjoyable and he heard many positive remarks.

Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer
Enrolled: 4/24/25

Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer