

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
OF THE
CITY OF FRANKLIN
CITY COMMISSION**

August 9, 2021

**City Hall
117 West Cedar Street
Franklin, Kentucky**

The Franklin, Kentucky City Commission met in Regular Session at 12:00 Noon, Monday, **August 9, 2021**, in the City Hall meeting room located at 117 West Cedar Street, Franklin, Kentucky.

Members attending were as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Mayor Larry Dixon | Present |
| Commissioner Jamie Powell | Present |
| Commissioner Herbert Williams | Present |
| Commissioner Brownie Bennett | Present |
| Commissioner Wendell Stewart | Present |

Others present included City Manager Kenton Powell; City Attorney Scott Crabtree; City Finance Director Carol Riggerbach; City Assistant Finance Director Daniel Reetzke; City Police Chief Roger Solomon; Public Works Director Chris Klotter; City Clerk, Cathy Dillard; Community Development Director Tammie Carey; Water Treatment Superintendent Johnie Skipworth; Captain Duey Vaughn; and, Eric Walker, Franklin Community Church.

Mayor Dixon called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon, and Eric Walker from the Franklin Community Church offered the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Bennett and seconded by Commissioner Williams to approve the minutes as presented the July 26, 2021, regular meeting of the Franklin City Commission.

Voting Aye by Roll Call: All. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOGNITIONS

Police Chief Roger Solomon recognized Officer Duey Vaughn for his promotion to the rank of Captain. Captain Vaughn has been with the Franklin Police Department for over seven (7) years and is well respected in the community and among his peers.

HEAR THE PUBLIC

City Manager Kenton Powell indicated that Tammie McCory, Executive Director of Live the Proof, Inc., was scheduled to speak to the Commission regarding homelessness in Franklin and Simpson County. Mr. McCory contacted the City Manager indicating that he was unable to attend the meeting.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Development Director Tammie Carey provided the Commission with an update regarding Kentucky Community Development Block Grant Utility Assistance Funding. This grant provides assistance to households and customers who have been financially impacted by COVID-19 and who are in danger of utility disconnection due to inability to make payment. The City will partner with Community Action of Southern Kentucky to complete documentation and to ensure duplication of benefits has not occurred.

City Finance Director Carol Riggenbach provided the Commission with an analysis of past due utility accounts. Riggenbach indicated that since January of 2021 there had been a significant reduction in bad debt from past due utility accounts. She anticipates that the upcoming grant program would further reduce this number.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

City Manager Kenton Powell asked the Commission to consider a street closure request for the upcoming Pop Out Black Out event on Saturday, September 11, 2021. Event organizers requested to close John J. Johnson Avenue from Walker Street at Alpha Baptist Church to Jackson Street at the Brooks Wright Center from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

The Commission requested additional information from the event organizers prior to approval of the street closing. Commissioner Stewart asked if the proposed closure area could be reduced to help with traffic flow and expressed concern regarding the residents who live in the requested closure area.

Motion was made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Stewart to table the matter until the next regularly scheduled City Commission meeting on Monday, August 23, 2021, to allow time to confirm the closure area and notification to residents on John J. Johnson Avenue.

Voting Aye by Roll Call: All members present. Motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Scott Crabtree asked the Commission for two sponsors of a proposed ordinance authorizing the bid of the natural gas franchise for the City of Franklin. Currently there are two providers of natural gas for City of Franklin customers, Atmos Energy and Millenium Energy.

Commissioner Powell and Commissioner Bennett asked to sponsor the proposed ordinance with first reading of the ordinance taking place later in the meeting.

City Attorney Scott Crabtree asked the Commission for two sponsors of three (3) proposed ordinances approving zone changes for three parcels of land located within the City limits of Franklin on Highway 31-W North. The zone changes were approved by Franklin-Simpson Planning & Zoning Commission on July 20, 2021.

Commissioner Powell and Commissioner Stewart asked to sponsor these proposed ordinances with first reading taking place later in the meeting.

Assistant City Finance Director and City Tax Collector Daniel Reetzke provided calculations to the Commission regarding the 2021 real and personal property tax rates. After review and consideration, the Commission approved the tax rate of 11.8 cents per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) assessed valuation on all real and personal property within the City limits. This rate represents a 4% increase, however, this rate is lower than the 2020 rate and requires a public hearing prior to approval.

Motion was made by Commissioner Bennett and seconded by Commissioner Williams to approve the 4% tax rate of 11.8 cents per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) assessed valuation on all real and personal property within the City limits.

Voting Aye by Roll Call: All members present. Motion carried unanimously.

In addition, Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner Williams agreed to sponsor the ordinance and Mayor Dixon asked that first reading of the ordinance be presented during the ordinance portion of the meeting and to also set the public hearing to hear public comments on the tax rate for Monday, September 13, 2020 at 11:45 a.m.

Assistant City Finance Director and City Tax Collector Daniel Reetzke asked the Commission to consider approval for Government Utilities Technology Service, Inc. ("GUTS") to print and mail the City of Franklin 2021 tax bills at a cost of \$3,125.00. The cost of outsourcing with GUTS was deemed more cost effective than in-house processing and, in addition, will allow access to tax bills on the City's website.

Motion was made by Commissioner Stewart and seconded by Commissioner Powell to approve entering into an agreement with Government Utilities Technology Service, Inc. ("GUTS") to print and mail the City of Franklin 2021 tax bills at a cost of \$3,125.00 and further authorized the Mayor to sign any and all necessary documents for this agreement.

Voting Aye by Roll Call: All members present. Motion carried unanimously.

City Finance Director Carol Riggenbach asked the Commission to approve adjustments of miscellaneous accounts receivable and account payable balances. She provided details of the adjustments.

Motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Williams to approve adjustments of miscellaneous accounts receivable and accounts payable balances resulting in a net reduction of the general fund balance of \$17,028.00 and an increase in the Franklin Municipal Utilities fund balance of \$2,975.00.

Voting Aye by Roll Call: All members present. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SERVICES

City Manager Kenton Powell asked the Commission for recommendations regarding the City's mosquito spraying program. The mosquito spraying program has been provided by the City for many years with each city sector being sprayed weekly during the summer months. Recently, a concerned citizen asked the City to provide the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) which contains detailed information regarding the material, hazardous ingredients, health hazard data, first aid procedures, physical hazard information, and other required information regarding the spray used by the City. In addition, she offered recommendations regarding communication efforts. Due to these concerns, the City Manager temporarily stopped the mosquito spraying program until the Commission could consider these options and provide guidance on how to proceed. Several of the Commissioners noted that they have received just the opposite feedback from several residents that want the City to continue spraying with increased frequency. Thereupon, a lengthy discussion ensued.

Motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Williams to reinstate the mosquito spraying program using the same materials and application frequency and to further authorize staff to communicate a spraying schedule and the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) on the City's website and social media outlets.

Voting Aye by Roll Call: All members present. Motion carried unanimously.

UTILITIES

Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Johnie Skipworth asked the Commission to approve emergency replacement of an HVAC unit at the Water Treatment Plant. This unit was located in the basement of the treatment plant and controls temperature and humidity levels.

Motion was made by Commissioner Bennett and seconded by Commissioner Stewart to ratify the emergency replacement of an HVAC system and dehumidifier for the Water Treatment Plant from Turney's Heating & Air in the amount of \$4,700.00.

Voting Aye by Roll Call: All members present. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES

City Clerk Cathy Dillard held first summary reading of the following ordinances:

Ordinance No. 2021-016 titled: *An Ordinance of the City of Franklin, Kentucky Providing for the Creation and Sale of a Non-Exclusive Franchise for the Privilege of Constructing, Maintaining Distributing Natural Gas Along and Under Public Right-Of-Way Within the City of Franklin, Kentucky for a Term of Twenty (20) Years in Consideration For which, the Successful Franchisee Shall Pay to the City an Annual Sum Equal to a Minimum Of One Percent (1%) of the Gross Revenues Derived from the Franchise Award Herein; and Further Establishing a Bid Procedure for the Award of Said Franchise to the Successful Bidder*

Ordinance No. 2021-017 titled: *An Ordinance Rezoning Approximately Four (4) Acres Located on 31-W North from AG (Agriculture) to B-4 (Highway Business) by South Street, LLC*

Ordinance No. 2021-018 titled: *An Ordinance Rezoning Approximately Ten (10) Acres Located on 31-W North from AG (Agriculture) to B-4 (Highway Business) by South Street, LLC*

Ordinance No. 2021-019 titled: *An Ordinance Rezoning Approximately 13 Acres Located on 31-W North from AG (Agriculture) to R-1S (Single Family Residential) by Charlie Hill, Judith Hill, Bill Hudson and Jane Hudson*

Ordinance No. 2021-020 titled: *Ordinance Setting Forth The Property Tax Rate for the City of Franklin, Kentucky for the Tax Year 2021 and Calculated Using the Certified Property Assessment as Provided by the Simpson County Property Valuation Administrator and Levying an Ad Valorem Tax of 11.8 Cents per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) Assessed Valuation on All Taxable Real Property Within the Jurisdiction and an Ad Valorem Tax of 11.4 OR 11.8 Cents per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) Assessed Valuation on All Taxable Tangible Personal Property and Merchandise Inventory Within the Jurisdiction*

No action is taken on first reading of an ordinance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 12:54 PM, motion was made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Bennett to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of: (1) Litigation – Discussion of proposed or pending litigation {KRS 61.810(1)(c)}; and, (2) Personnel – Discussions or hearings which might lead to the appointment, discipline, or dismissal of an individual employee or member {KRS 61.810(1)(f)}.

Voting Aye by Roll Call: All members present. Motion carried unanimously.

Entering Executive Session were Mayor Dixon; Commissioners Powell, Bennett, Williams and Stewart; City Manager Kenton Powell; and City Attorney Scott Crabtree and Chris Klotter. Klotter exited Executive Session at 1:15 PM.

At 1:30 PM, motion was made by Commissioner Bennett and seconded by Commissioner Stewart to exit Executive Session and return to open session.

Voting Aye by Roll Call Vote: All members present. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS

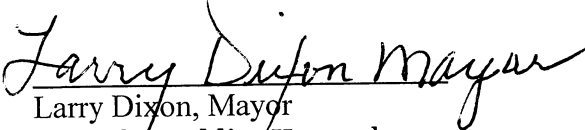
Motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Williams to accept the resignation of Nick Starr from the Water Distribution Department effective August 10, 2021.

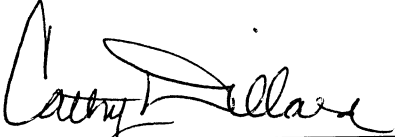
Voting Aye by Roll Call Vote: All members present. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:34 PM, motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Stewart to adjourn the regular meeting of the Franklin City Commission.

Voting Aye by Roll Call Vote: All members present. Motion carried unanimously.


Larry Dixon, Mayor
City of Franklin, Kentucky


Cathy Dillard, City Clerk
City of Franklin, Kentucky