

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 6:00 PM at City Hall, 300 Iberia Street, Franklin, Louisiana. Mayor Eugene P. Foulcard called the meeting to order. Also present were Councilmembers Chuck Autin, Lester Levine, and Jaime Robison, and City Clerk Karen LeBlanc. Absent were Councilmembers Joseph Garrison, Larry Guilbeau, and City Attorney Russel J. Cremaldi.

The invocation was offered by Mayor Foulcard and Councilman Autin led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUESTS:

Angelena Brocato announced her candidacy for St. Mary Parish Council District 10.

Reginald Weary announced his candidacy for St. Mary Parish Council District 10.

Alfreida Edwards and Florence Beverly promoted the National Night Out event.

Peter Soprano announced his candidacy for St. Mary Parish Council District 3.

Henry “Bo” Lagrange announced his candidacy for State Senate District 21.

Phillis Glover and Kristi Theriot with the Roots & Ribbons Foundation announced the “Puttin’ on the Pink – 2023” event.

Ed “Tiger” Verdin spoke on behalf of the St. Mary Chamber of Commerce and promoted Bikers on the Bayou.

Jim Harvey announced that he is a registered candidate for the 2024 Presidential Election.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for items on the agenda): No comment heard.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Autin to accept the August 15, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Garrison and Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the September 6, 2023 Special Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Garrison and Guilbeau

MAYOR’S EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Mayor Foulcard stated that he will defer his report to allow Mr. Ed Hay to discuss the requirement to conduct a water rate study. He stated that he has been very transparent regarding our 100 year old water distribution lines. His administration has committed to finding dollars to rehab our system. The old saying goes, “Rome did not fall in a day” and it certainly will not be built in a day. I want to make the public aware that we are working hard every day to find solutions to our infrastructure problems and to make our water system better.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Mayor Foulcard stated that the July 2023 Financial Statement was presented to the Council.

Ed Hay, Director of Finance, discussed the Water Rate Study and Water Rates. He stated that water producers should do a rate study at least once a year. He discussed how a rate study works. This study indicated that there has been a 30% increase in the cost of chemicals due to suppliers price increase. Based on the calculations we are going to have to raise our water rates from \$11.00 per thousand to \$13.00 per thousand.

Mayor Foulcard stated that he has been passionate about not kicking the can down the road and being aggressive with addressing ongoing infrastructure concerns. We cannot continue to act like

the infrastructure problems are just going to go away. It has been difficult in the past to secure funding but we have been aggressive to go after funding to address concerns. We have very stringent requirements that we are held to in light of Flint, Michigan and Jackson, Mississippi. Now municipalities are held to a higher standard to ensure that good water is being dispensed. He stated that we have to take small bites out of the elephant.

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Autin to adopt a Resolution of respect for Dr. Thomas Frère Kramer. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilmembers Garrison and Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to adopt a Resolution lifting the open alcohol container law on October 26, 2023 for the Harvest Moon Festival Kick-Off; no glass containers. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilmembers Garrison and Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Robison to adopt a Resolution for Capital Outlay request for certification for non-state funding. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilmembers Garrison and Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Robison to adopt a Resolution authorizing Mayor Eugene P. Foulcard, on behalf of the City and Council, to sign a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State Department of the Treasury related to the allocation of funding for the roundabout at Highway 3211. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilmembers Garrison and Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Autin to adopt a Resolution authorizing Mayor Eugene P. Foulcard, on behalf of the City and Council, to sign a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State Department of the Treasury related to the allocation of funding for the Franklin Beautification Committee. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilmembers Garrison and Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to adopt a Resolution authorizing Mayor Eugene P. Foulcard, on behalf of the City and Council, to sign a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State Department of the Treasury related to the allocation of funding for the Main Street Beautification Committee. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilmembers Garrison and Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to adopt a Resolution authorizing Mayor Eugene P. Foulcard, on behalf of the City and Council, to sign a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State Department of the Treasury related to the allocation of funding for the Teche Theatre. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilmembers Garrison and Guilbeau

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to introduce Ordinance No. 3445 – An ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Franklin, Louisiana to amend Section 82-6 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Franklin.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Autin to adopt Ordinance No. 3444 – An Ordinance giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not exceeding Five Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$580,000.00) of Certificate of Indebtedness, Series 2023, of the City of Franklin, Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana; providing certain terms of said Certificate; making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said Certificate; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Garrison and Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to adopt Ordinance No. 3442 – An ordinance authorizing the incurring of debt and issuance of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) of Limited Tax Bonds, Series 2023, of the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Garrison and Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Robison to adopt Ordinance No. 3443 – An ordinance authorizing the issuance of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000) of Water Revenue Bonds of the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Garrison and Guilbeau

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to adopt a Resolution confirming the appointment of Special Litigation Counsel to represent the City in the claims for damages from Perfluoroalkyl Substances. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Garrison and Guilbeau

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Foulcard made announcements for upcoming events including National Night Out, Bikers on the Bayou, Bayou to Main Marketplace, Franklin City-Wide Clean-Up, and Harvest Moon Festival. He also announced St. Mary Council on Aging's Annual Meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Levine. Second by Councilman Robison and carried.

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

Karen LeBlanc
Clerk of the Council

EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR