

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 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 Pearl Rack, Joseph Garrison, Lester Levine, Jaime Robison, and City Clerk Karen LeBlanc. Absent were Councilman Chuck Autin and City Attorney Russel J. Cremaldi.

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

#### GUESTS:

Mrs. Diane Wiltz, representing the Franklin Merchant's Association, promoted the Bayou Teche Black Bear Festival and associated events.

Marcus Johnson to discussed Crohn's and IBD Awareness and promoted his event focusing on IBD education and raising funds for the Crohn's Foundation of America.

Benny Druhliet, Associate Director of Community Outreach and Jewthye Reaux, Administrative OATS Trainer with UMCOR Sager-Brown, discussed Older Adults Technology Services. The OATS program provides free classes for digital literacy among older adults. They encouraged the public to sign up and take advantage of the opportunity.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for items on the agenda): None.

#### MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the March 18, 2025 Public Hearing Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Garrison, Levine, Rack, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Autin

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the March 18, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Garrison, Levine, Rack, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Autin

#### MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Mayor Foulcard presented his report. He stated that Phase I of Franklin's Water Treatment Rehabilitation Project will soon begin. This is a major step forward—one that represents our continued commitment to improving the quality of life for every resident of Franklin. Just this past week, we held our pre-construction meeting with Miller Engineering, Frisco Industrial Contractors, and Atakapa Services, along with myself and members of my administration. Together, we are moving forward with a plan that has been many years past due.

He stated that Phase I of this project will focus on critical upgrades to the Franklin water plant. That includes new pumps, backwash pumps, clarifiers, turbidity meters, and filter media. These are not just technical upgrades—they are foundational improvements that will strengthen our entire water system.

Mayor Foulcard thanked Senator Robert Allain and State Representative Vinney St. Blanc for garnering the first round of funding to make this project happen.

#### DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Mayor Foulcard stated that the February 2025 Financial Statements were presented to the council.

#### INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to introduce Ordinance No. 3467 – An Ordinance fixing the rates of tax to be assessed by the municipal corporation of City of Franklin, Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, subject to taxation therein, for the year 2025.

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a resolution lifting the open alcohol container law on Teche Drive and Downtown Main Street for the Bayou Teche Black Bear Festival to be held on May 3, 2025. No glass containers. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Garrison, Levine, Rack, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Autin

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rack to adopt a resolution lifting the two-night limit on allowed days for overnight dockside parking at Parc Sur La Teche and allowing for a ten-night limit on specified dates. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Garrison, Levine, Rack, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Autin

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to adopt a resolution lifting the open alcohol container law on Teche Drive for the St. Mary Parish Soul Food Festival to be held on June 20-22, 2025. No glass containers. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Garrison, Levine, Rack, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Autin

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a resolution authorizing Eugene P. Foulcard, Mayor of the City of Franklin, to negotiate, enter into, execute, and deliver the lease with Huntington National Bank for the purpose of amending Lease-Purchase Agreement No. 001-0699749-300 dated July 28, 2016 from 20 semiannual lease payments to monthly lease payments. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Garrison, Levine, Rack, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Autin

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rack to adopt a resolution regarding a lease purchase agreement for the purpose of procuring a mower. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Garrison, Levine, Rack, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Autin

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a resolution of the City of Franklin committing City Funds to the Franklin Sidewalk Improvement Project, State Project No. H.015932, Funded by the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development Transportation Alternatives Program. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Garrison, Levine, Rack, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Autin

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to expand the agenda to include a resolution authorizing the negotiation, execution, and delivery of Master Lease-Purchase Agreement dated January 10, 2020, Schedule No. 2 dated May 1, 2025, in the principal amount of \$238,000, between City of Franklin, Louisiana, and Tax Exempt Leasing, Corp; for the purpose of the purchase of four (4) trailer with Cornell trailer-mounted vacuum assist pumps and equipment; and prescribing other details in connection therewith. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. No public comment heard on the expansion. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Garrison, Levine, Rack, and Robison  
NAYS: None.  
ABSENT: Councilman Autin

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a resolution authorizing the negotiation, execution, and delivery of Master Lease-Purchase Agreement dated January 10, 2020, Schedule No. 2 dated May 1, 2025, in the principal amount of \$238,000, between City of Franklin, Louisiana, and Tax Exempt Leasing, Corp; for the purpose of the purchase of four (4) trailer with Cornell trailer-mounted vacuum assist pumps and equipment; and prescribing other details in connection therewith. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:  
YEAS: Councilmembers Garrison, Levine, Rack, and Robison  
NAYS: None.  
ABSENT: Councilman Autin

Ed Hay, Finance Director, stated that the pumps are bypass pumps that will be used when the sewer lift stations are down. Leasing our own pumps will be much more cost efficient than renting.

Bernard Daniels, Utilities Director, stated that flushable wipes do not dissolve and cause major problems at the lift stations. The bypass pumps will have grinders on them.

Mayor Foulcard asked the public to be mindful of the items they flush. He has witnessed whole towels as well as other items that should not be in the sewer lift stations.

Councilwoman Rack asked if a written notice could go out to the citizens.

Mr. Daniels stated that they are currently working on a letter to do a mail-out to address the public.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Levine stated that he wants to make sure every park has Drug Free Zone signage and that the centers are safe.

Police Chief Cedric Handy stated that he will put things in place to ensure safety at the Recreation Centers this summer.

Councilwoman Rack suggested metal detectors.

Discussion held on borrowing hand-held detectors from the School Board, security at events held at the centers, the possibility of hosting dances and skating events for kids.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Foulcard made announcements for upcoming events including the Bayou Teche Black Bear Festival, Bayou to Main Marketplace, City-Wide Clean Up, IBD Awareness Event, and 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Soul Food Festival.

Mayor Foulcard read aloud a Resolution of Respect for Calvin Roger Robison.

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

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

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Karen LeBlanc  
Clerk of the Council

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EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR