

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 17, 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 Chuck Autin, Pearl Rack, Joseph Garrison, Lester Levine, and City Clerk Karen LeBlanc. Absent were Councilman Jaime Robison, City Attorney Russel J. Cremaldi.

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

GUESTS:

Jazmin DuBois with South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority introduced the coalition and the programs they provide. She stated that the St. Mary Parish Youth Prevention Coalition is a community-based initiative working to reduce underage substance use and promote positive youth mental health through education, outreach, advocacy, and community-driven prevention efforts.

Councilwoman Rack asked about partnerships with local civic and sorority/fraternity groups and also asked about the inclusion of gun violence in their programs.

Ms. DuBois stated that they are working on adding gun violence to the grant initiative as it is a part of mental health and substance abuse factors. She also expressed interest connecting with any local groups in the area.

Mayor Foulcard expressed that conflict resolution would be a good initiative to include.

Ashley Velez, 2024 graduate of Franklin Senior High School and first-ever JAG State President-Elect from St. Mary Parish, Franklin High School was present to receive a proclamation from the mayor and council to recognize her achievement.

Mayor Foulcard read aloud the proclamation recognizing Ms. Velez for being selected as the Jobs for America's Graduates Program President-Elect for the State of Louisiana.

Councilman Levine expressed pride in Ms. Velez's accomplishments and his pleasure in working with the JAG program at Franklin Senior High School.

Ms. Velez thanked the mayor and council for their recognition and mentioned the experiences and opportunities JAG has awarded her over the last year. She expressed interest in the JAG program becoming involved with the St. Mary Parish Youth Prevention Coalition.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for items on the agenda):

Mrs. Dianne Wiltz applauded Ms. Velez for her accomplishments. She expressed the need for programs such as the St. Mary Parish Youth Prevention Coalition.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the May 20, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Rack

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Robison

MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Mayor Foulcard presented his report. He reported on ongoing improvements at the water plant. Filter media change-out will begin in a week. Other improvements have already been made such as turbidity meters, pumps, and the cleaning out of the transfer basin. He stated that we are trending in the right direction. He is excited that progress is moving forward.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

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

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt Ordinance No. 3468 – An Ordinance establishing the sewer user charge to be assessed as a monthly charge to all residents and customers receiving sewer services from the City of Franklin, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, with said income to be utilized for construction, renovation and operation of the City of Franklin's sewer system, or for any public purpose, defining the same; providing for billings to said residents and customers; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Rack

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Robison

ABSTAIN: None.

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rack 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 Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Rack

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Robison

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Foulcard made announcements for upcoming events including the 5th Annual Soul Food Festival and St. Mary Parish Chamber of Commerce Kick-Off for the Soul Food Festival, City-Wide Clean Up, Teche Theatre Summer Production, Hanson students Bridges Project, Bayou to Main Marketplace, and Bayou Beaux Dance Recital.

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

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

Karen LeBlanc
Clerk of the Council

EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR