

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, October 21, 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, Lester Levine, Jaime Robison, and City Clerk Karen LeBlanc. Absent were Councilman Joseph Garrison and City Attorney Russel J. Cremaldi.

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

GUESTS:

Dr. Kristal Hebert, Director, Arc of St. Mary/Center of Hope to give an agency update.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for items on the agenda):

Mrs. Dianne Wiltz extended appreciation and praise for the work Dr. Hebert and the Arc of St. Mary/Center of Hope does for their clients and the community.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rack to accept the September 16, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, Rack, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Mayor Foulcard presented his report. He stated that the City is continuing to work with the Louisiana Office of Community Development to finalize the last particulars on the City of Franklin's 3rd Round grant of blighted property demolitions in and around the city. Once fully final the City has already performed an open bid process and we are ready to demolish another 26 blighted structures beyond the 65 already tackled through my administration. These are the buildings that are beyond repair; however, that leaves property for a family or another business to gain new life.

Mayor Foulcard stated that the City of Franklin (will) forward its Capital Outlay Request for the following projects: Water Treatment Facility, Booster Pump Station, and Distribution System Improvements –\$2.4 Million; Water Distribution System Improvements – \$3,372,360.00; and Various Street Repairs – \$3,406,981.00. He mentioned that these Capital Outlay dollars will help strengthen our system to address our 100 year old distribution system. He asked for prayers for the City as we continue to fight the good fight each and every day for our Water Distribution crew. We are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

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

Fire Chief Boykin "Chuck" Bourgeois reported on the Franklin Fire Department's Property Insurance Rating survey that was conducted in January 2025. This survey is done every five years. He stated that the city is graded in every area of service that the fire department provides to the city and areas outside of the city and department.

To the best of his knowledge, the FFD has always been a class 5 within the city limits and a class 6 outside the city limits of which we provide fire protections to also. He stated that in 2020 the fire department fell from a class 5 to a class 6 in the city limits and a class 6 to a class 7 outside the city limits.

Chief Bourgeois mentioned that a lot of work went into get our rating back to its original status or even better. During the last 5 years, many items were addressed and improved including staff attending PIAL educational classes, investing in a much needed training tower that is located on Iberia St. at a cost of \$590K, the purchase of a new computer program

known as Fireworks that compiles all of our fire department information into one data base allowing us to make data driven decisions, they made the very necessary upgrades to the water distribution system by replacing 43 hydrants throughout the city that were two way hydrants or broken hydrants, the 911 system was upgraded to a CAD 911 system at a cost of \$249K in cooperation with St. Mary Parish E911 center and the St. Mary Parish Fire Association, a fire investigation bureau was created, and run procedures were changed to give us the maximum credit allowed by utilizing our off duty staff to respond structure fires in a timely manner.

Chief Bourgeois stated that he was excited to announce that as of October 1, 2025 we received our PIAL rating results and for the first time in the history of the FFD the city's rating score fell from a class 6 to a class 4 inside the city limits and we went from a class 7 to a class 4 outside the city limits.

He expressed appreciation to the mayor and council for believing in and investing in the fire department, his staff for all of their hard work, dedication, patience and understanding to see this task through, Mr. Ed Hay, CFO, for helping the department acquire the necessary tools and equipment that we needed to accomplish our goals, and City Clerk Karen LeBlanc for her assistance with all of the CWEF grants that allowed us to change out old and broken hydrants throughout the city.

Chief Bourgeois closed by saying that the department will continue to strive to maintain this new rating class while looking for other ways to work towards an even lower score in the future. An appointment with the PIAL representatives has been scheduled in November to see what is needed to possibly get to a class 3 rating. Due to the department falling two rating scores, the city will be re-rated again in 2027 then will go back to a 5 year rotation.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

Councilman Autin introduced Ordinance No. 3471 – An ordinance amending Chapter 18, Section 18-7, of the Franklin City Code, authorizing the sale of cemetery graves for “right to be buried” in the Franklin Cemetery and Perpetual Park Cemetery, establishing the sale costs; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Autin to adopt Ordinance No. 3470 – An ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale by the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana, of not exceeding One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) of Revenue Anticipation Notes, Series 2025; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, Rack, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rack to adopt a Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Franklin, Louisiana, adopting a policy and procedure for public participation in meetings. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, Rack, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to adopt a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for a grant under 49 CFR 5311, Formula Grant for Rural Areas. Second by Councilwoman Rack and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, Rack, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Garrison.

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

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 various Cooperative Endeavor Agreements with the State Department of the Treasury. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, Rack, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

A motion was made by Councilman Rack to adopt a Resolution granting all establishments selling beverages of low and high alcoholic content at retail and wholesale permission to renew their city of Franklin liquor license for the year 2026. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Levine, Rack, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ed “Tiger” Verdin made announcements for upcoming events including the City-Wide Clean Up, Bayou to Main Marketplace, Harvest Moon Festival, Boo on the Bayou and Halloween Trick-or-Treat, and Mingle & Jingle.

Mayor Foulcard mentioned the passing of former Franklin Police Chief Rouliden J. Guillotte and longtime St. Mary Parish Clerk of Court Clifford G. “Cliff” Dressel. A moment of silence was held in memoriam. He expressed his condolences and stated that Resolutions of Respect would be sent to their families.

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

ATTEST: CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

Karen LeBlanc
Clerk of the Council

EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR