

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 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, Larry Guilbeau, Joseph Garrison, Lester Levine, Jaime Robison, and City Clerk Karen LeBlanc. Absent was City Attorney Russell J. Cremaldi.

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

GUESTS:

Mr. J Ina, President 100 Black Men of St. Mary Parish, announced the upcoming Inaugural St. Mary Parish Soul Food Festival to be held on June 19, 2021 at Parc Sur La Teche. He promoted the event's activities and encouraged all to attend.

MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Mayor Foulcard made the following statement.

Unfortunately recently our City experienced another senseless act of gun play in an effort to terrorize our City by young individuals that seem to be lost to society. This seems to be happening in many other cities as well throughout our region but my main concern is for Franklin. Enough is Enough! These individuals are acting out in ways that most of us cannot comprehend. Only a few will try to rationalize their actions by stating "they have nothing else to do". These are the same individuals that will preach that the school to prison pipeline is the reasoning they end up spending time in our parish jail, prison or worse the cemetery. I would bet to think that most of these individuals come from good homes; however, feel that this lifestyle of guns makes them appear as if they "run the block" or simply trying to incite others to do the same.

On March 11, 2021, I addressed the ongoing senseless acts at length. On March 18th I forwarded a letter to all local churches and community organizations regarding these shootings and discussed our upcoming plan of action. As of today I am aware of only 2 churches that have spoken to their congregation as their members began calling my office offering their assistance. I have had many anonymous tips that have come directly to me from posting the hotline information. On March 23, I yet addressed these shootings again.

Please know that Chief Morris Beverly and the Franklin Police Department is working tirelessly to bring these terrorists to justice working with State and Federal officials on each investigation and anonymous leads pouring in from our community members. Until our entire city stands up to say "Enough is Enough!" then these wayward souls will continue to try and disrupt the positive energy in our city.

Since before I was elected I've always said, "If you see something, say something!" That means if you see anything out of the ordinary or suspicious; please contact the Franklin Police Department immediately and report what you have witnessed. Check your home security systems for footage. Unfortunately some run to Facebook and Facebook only. This only causes the Monday morning quarterbacks that feel comfortable behind a keyboard to voice an opinion. However, when I have a call to action with our community none, and I repeat NONE, of these individuals will show up. So think before taking to social media did I first contact the Franklin Police Department? Have you contacted the Mayor's office to discuss? Do you attend City Council meetings every month? Have you asked to be placed on the agenda to speak and address these issues at City Council meetings? Have you reached out to your City Council member to discuss? What are you doing in your community to address this yourself? Unfortunately the social media experts very seldom take part in the civic process. But I guess they get more spotlight on social media by doing so. My grandfather had a saying, "Little dogs yap from the porch while the big dogs are doing the real work in the yard."

Please know that my office is also working with our State, Federal and Private partners to address the safety and security of Franklin in various ways. However, by stating these would only tip off the wrongdoers. My office is as transparent as you will find. We discuss the good and the bad because what impacts you impacts the entire city including my family, the City Council member's family and my administration's family EQUALLY. Each and every day I have the safety and security of each and every person in this city at the forefront.

Stand with me and say ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

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

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the March 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Garrison, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt Ordinance #3416 – An Ordinance fixing the rates of tax to be assessed by the municipal corporation of the City of Franklin, Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, subject to taxation therein, for the year 2021. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Garrison, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Autin 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 19, 2021. No glass containers. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Garrison, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

PROCLAMATIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to declare June 19th as Juneteenth Day in the City of Franklin. Second by Councilman Levine and carried unanimously. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Garrison, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Councilman Autin to approve the Liquor License Application for the Lamp Lighter. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Garrison, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ed Verdin, City Public Relations Director, announced upcoming events including the Bayou to Main Marketplace and art walk.

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

ATTEST:

/s/Karen LeBlanc
Clerk of the Council
Director of Administration

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

/s/EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR