

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Thursday, February 16, 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, Joseph Garrison, Jaime Robison, City Attorney in Russel J. Cremaldi, and City Clerk Karen LeBlanc. Absent were Councilmembers Larry Guilbeau and Lester Levine.

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

GUESTS:

Mr. J. Ina, President of the 100 Black Men of St. Mary Parish promoted the 2023 Soul Food Festival.

Ms. Debra Jones announced her candidacy for St. Mary Parish School Board District #4.

MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Mayor Foulcard read aloud his Budget Messages; copy of which follows these minutes.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Mayor Foulcard stated that the City's Financial Statement for the month of December 2022 was presented to the council. He asked Mr. Hay to report on the amended and proposed budgets.

Mr. Ed Hay, Director of Finance, discussed the proposed amended and new budgets. He stated that he has met with the various departments about the budget and feels that the numbers appropriately reflect expectations.

Mr. Hay discussed the General Fund Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. First thing of note is that projected revenues are decreased from approximately \$7.6 million to \$6.4 million. Reduction is due to federal grants having to be revised due to timing of receiving the funds for the recreation centers HVAC units. The corresponding transfers of funds to Capital Outlay have been accordingly reduced. The other revenue items are projected to be relatively consistent in total with original projections. He stated that for the most part projections of expenses are expected to be between 2% to 6 % of the original projections with the exception of Public Works which will be 16% higher than originally projected due to the need to replace the tractor and bush hog. The City will be leasing a unit (approximate cost of \$90,000) over a five year period with option to buy. He anticipates the City will exercise the option as the estimated life of the unit is 20 years.

He stated that the revised revenue projections are fairly consistent with original projections – less than 2% variance. Expenses for the most part remained consistent except for insurance cost (33%) increase in premiums, utilities which is up 25% and repair and maintenance up by 58% due to aged instrumentation and valves which had to be replaced. The result is an expected reduction in profits of approximately \$120,000.

Mr. Hay discussed the Liquid and Solid Waste Fund. He stated that the revised income numbers show an increase of about \$100,000 due to anticipated increases in sewer sales tax collections. Unfortunately the increase in revenue is offset by a 24% increase in the cost of chemicals used and by an 85% increase in projected cost of repairs in the sewer collection department. The estimated cost of doing the appropriate rehab of the barrow street lift station is approximately \$88,000.

He stated that the budget for the capital outlay fund represents a reduction in transfers from the General Fund to cover the HVAC units for the Community Centers and of course the related expenditure has been removed. We also expected some movement on the Cayce street project but that has been moved into the next fiscal year due to preliminary estimates putting the project out of reach as configured. Revisions to the manner in which Cayce will be rehabilitated are in the works.

Mr. Hay discussed the Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget. He stated that in the General Fund what is proposed is an increase in total revenue of \$4 million. This is due to anticipation of receiving federal funds for the Community Center HVAC systems (\$1 million) and anticipated state grants for \$2.4 million for Cayce Street. The remaining \$1.2 million is anticipated financing proceeds to allow for construction of a fire training facility at Maurice Landry Park. He stated that it is anticipated that the state and the parish will provide the funding for the widening of the Yokely Canal. We also expect to see a 6% overall increase in sales tax given the current and projected condition of the economy.

Mr. Hay moved on to expenses. He stated that we are projecting expenses to remain consistent with the amended budget of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 with the exception that the transfers from the General Fund will reflect the funding that needs to be transferred to accomplish the Capital Projects. He stated that the Utility Fund is projecting a 9% increase in water revenue as the City gets closer to correcting all the problems with getting updated meters in place.

He stated that expenses in the Utility Department are anticipated to remain consistent with the Amended Fiscal Year 2022-2023 amounts with the exception of Repairs and Maintenance. Some repairs to various piping systems involved in the filtering process will have to be replaced in preparation for when the filter media will need to be replaced. That will probably be scheduled for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The result of the increase in revenue less this additional cost is proposed to leave the fund with a profit of \$465,000 or 15% of revenue.

He stated that Liquid and Solid Waste Fund revenues are expected to be about \$200,000 above the amount proposed in the amended Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget. This is due to a projected 6% increase in sales tax and a similar 6% increase in garbage and landfill fees accomplished by the recent change in rates needed to remain consistent with the existing garbage contract. Expenses are expected to be consistent with the amounts shown in the amended Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget. The one exception is that in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 the fund transferred out \$140,000 to the General Fund to assist in funding day to day operations. It is not anticipated that the fund will have to do that in Fiscal Year 2023-2024. That said we should expect that the fund will generate a surplus of approximately \$282,000 in Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Mr. Hay closed with the proposed Capital Outlay Fund Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget. He stated that the budget reflects the inflow of funds from the General Fund to facilitate the HVAC units for the Community Centers, the rehabilitation of Cayce Street, the construction of the Fire Training Facility and the widening of the Yokely Canal.

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

#### BIDS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the Statewide Flood Control Program Resolution and Miller Engineers & Associates recommendation to award the contract for the Bayou Yokely Drainage Improvements bid to the lowest responsible bidder, Frisco Industrial Contractors, LLC. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:  
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Robison  
NAYS: None.  
ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Levine

#### MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the January 17, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:  
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Robison  
NAYS: None.  
ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Levine

City Attorney Russell Cremaldi noted that there was a clerical error on the agenda. Item "11" should be titled "Introduction of Ordinances." He requested that the Council amend the agenda to include this correction.

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to amend the agenda by changing the title of item number 11 to Introduction of Ordinances. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. No public comment heard. Roll call is as follows:  
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Robison  
NAYS: None.  
ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Levine

#### INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

Mr. Cremaldi noted that the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement in relation to Ordinance No. 3433 was not readily available; therefore, he recommended that the Council table the ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to **table** Ordinance No. 3433 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Franklin, Louisiana authorizing the City to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement transferring immovable property owned by the City of

Franklin to Teche Action Board, Inc. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Levine

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to introduce Ordinance No. 3434 – An Ordinance amending the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year beginning May First (1st), 2022 and ending April Thirtieth (30th), 2023.

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to introduce Ordinance No. 3435 – An Ordinance amending the Capital Outlay Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year beginning May First (1st), 2022 and ending April Thirtieth (30th), 2023.

A motion was made by Councilman Robison to introduce Ordinance No. 3436 – An Ordinance adopting the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year beginning May First (1st), 2023 and ending April Thirtieth (30th), 2024.

A motion was made by Councilman Autin to introduce Ordinance No. 3437 – An Ordinance adopting the Capital Outlay Budget for the Fiscal Years beginning May First (1st), 2023 and ending April Thirtieth (30th), 2028.

#### RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Resolution lifting the open container law along the parade route from one hour before the Mardi Gras Parade until one hour after the Mardi Gras Parade on Mardi Gras Day, February 21, 2023. No glass containers. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Levine

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Resolution lifting the open alcohol container law on Main Street for Dinner Under the Lampposts to be held on April 15, 2023.

No glass containers. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Levine

A motion was made by Councilman Robison to adopt a Resolution lifting the open alcohol container law on Teche Drive for the Bayou Teche Black Bear Festival to be held on May 5-6, 2023. No glass containers. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Levine

A motion was made by Councilman Robison 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 Autin, Garrison, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Levine

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison 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 16-17, 2023. No glass containers. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Levine

A motion was made by Councilman Robison to adopt a Resolution authorizing the use of facilities at Caffery Park by the Franklin Youth Organization for the operation Franklin Youth Baseball and Softball Program from February 1, 2023 through August 1, 2023. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Levine

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilman Chuck Autin commented on the duties of the council. He stated that the Council Members are not responsible for day-to-day operations of the City; that the Mayor handles daily operations. Often constituents contact their Councilman asking for actions that are beyond the Councilman's responsibilities or knowledge. He noted that the council's duties are strictly legislative.

Ed "Tiger" Verdin made announcements for the upcoming Franklin City-Wide Clean-Up and Mardi Gras Parade. He also mentioned the Travel Counselors visit Downtown Franklin.

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

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

ATTEST:

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Karen LeBlanc  
Clerk of the Council

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EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR