

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March, 21, 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, Lester Levine, City Attorney Russel J. Cremaldi, and City Clerk Karen LeBlanc. Absent were Councilmembers Larry Guilbeau and Jaime Robison.

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

GUESTS:

Rev. Marty Harden, representing the Franklin Convocation of Pastors, announced the “A Week in the Word Campaign.” He stated that the New Testament would be read in full in public throughout the parish during the week of April 2-9, 2023.

Mark Romero announced his candidacy for St. Mary Parish School Board District #4.

Whitney Bourque presented an item to the City from Franklin Masonic Lodge for the Bayou Teche Political Archive in tribute of Murphy Foster who was a member of the lodge.

Brittane Davis announced the opening of Purpose Place Counseling & Consultation and provided information on the services her agency provides.

MAYOR’S EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Mayor Foulcard presented his report. He stated that when Chief Beverly announced his retirement in November 2022, he had consultation with the City Attorney wherein the City’s Civil Service Secretary contacted the Office of State Examiner – Fire & Police Civil Service to begin the process of administering the Police Chief’s examination as required. Upon announcing the position available and setting a date for the examination eleven (11) applicants applied to take the examination. On January 19 the Police Chief’s Exam was administered by the examiner with the Fire & Police Civil Service at City Hall. Seven (7) applicants were present for the test. The test results were received and accepted by the City’s Civil Service Board on February 13. Six (6) Applicants passed the exam. He stated that the Civil Service Secretary contacted all six (6) applicants to begin scheduling interviews with himself, the Civil Service Board Chairman and City Council Members. All interviews were conducted in the first week of March. He stated he is still in the reviewing process of applicant references and employment history. As this is a major appointment for our city he wants to make sure he reviews each and every applicant thoroughly. He stated he has been in discussions with City Council Members to ensure the best candidate selected and will have the City Council’s ratification at either a special meeting or regularly scheduled April meeting. Mayor Foulcard stated that he would like the public to know that the next Police Chief for the City of Franklin will be the best candidate to lead that department into the future.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Mayor Foulcard stated that the City’s Financial Statement for the month of January 2023 was presented to the council. He asked Mr. Hay to report on the amended and proposed budgets.

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

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the February 16, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Levine

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Robison

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to introduce Ordinance No. 3438 – 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 2023.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt 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. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Levine

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Robison

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to adopt 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. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Levine

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Robison

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt 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. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Levine

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Robison

A motion was made by Councilman Autin to adopt 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. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Levine

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Robison

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Resolution authorizing the City of Franklin to join with the State of Louisiana and other local governmental units as a participant in the Louisiana State Local Government Opioid Litigation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and any subsequent Formal Agreements necessary to implement the MOU, including but not limited to, the Subdivision Settlement Participation Form(s) in Exhibit K of the Distributor Settlement Agreement and the Walmart, Walgreens, & CVS Settlement Agreements. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Levine

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Robison

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to expand the agenda to include a Resolution certifying compliance with the Public Bid Law for State Project Number H.009260, Bayou Yokely Drainage Improvements. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. No public comment heard on the expansion. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Levine

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Robison

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Resolution certifying compliance with the Public Bid Law for State Project Number H.009260, Bayou Yokely Drainage Improvements. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Levine

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Robison

PROCLAMATIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Proclamation declaring the week of April 2 – 9, 2023 as “A Week in the Word Campaign” week. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Levine

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Robison

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Foulcard made announcements for upcoming events: Yokely Canal Dredging Project Ribbon Cutting, Franklin Merchants Association's Bayou to Main Marketplace, St. Mary Parish School's Talented Program "Arts Jam", Franklin City-Wide Clean-Up, "Love the Boot" Community Clean-Up Day, Franklin Merchants Association's "Dinner Under the Lampposts", Teche Theatre for the Performing Arts Auditions for "St. Mary's Got Talent", Teche Theatre for the Performing Arts presents August Wilson's "Fences", Heart of Hospice Butterfly Release, Arc of St. Mary/Center of Hope Prom, Bayou Teche Black Bear Festival, and Soul Food Festival.

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

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

ATTEST:

Karen LeBlanc
Clerk of the Council

EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR