

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 18, 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: None.

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

#### MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Mayor Foulcard presented his report. He stated that the City of Franklin's Bayou Beaux Art Program finished up another successful year of access to the Arts in Franklin. Franklin Artist, Mrs. Laura Zuniga, had a total of eight students in her Beginner and Intermediate Acrylics Classes. New this year to the Arts program was Mrs. Caroline Simoneaux's Introduction into Acrylics classes with a total of 46 students. A total of 210 instructional class hours were given this summer for the Arts program and that does not count the current 50 students in the Bayou Beaux Dance Program still in progress with dance instructor Mrs. LaDaisha Webber.

The City of Franklin Summer Feeding and Recreational programs have concluded for the year. This year the Summer Basketball League had 54 kids registered with a total of 50 kids that attended. The Recreation Department also had two girls' teams this summer. Congratulations to Coach Nick Morris and Coach Charles Ina for being crowned the 2023 Summer League Champions. Congratulations to Tyler Ballet for being named 2023 league MVP. We would also like to thank our sponsors Bayou Bend Health Systems and West St. Mary Trophy.

The City of Franklin's Summer Feeding Program began the summer out feeding 40-50 kids per day. This summer the Recreation Department had volunteers from the community. Ms. Jasmine McCoy taught dance for three days and Ms. Daphne Thomas author/illustrator came in for story time with the children. During these days our feeding program served 100-173 children.

The City of Franklin received a Community Development Block Grant in the funding amount of \$1 million to upgrade the HVAC units in both the McKerral O'neil & Broussard-Harris Community Centers. This grant has been three years in the processes due to environmental and engineering studies levied by the State prior to receiving our final notice to proceed with the project that was finally received in May 2023. The Community Centers HVAC project went to bid this past Thursday; however, the low bid was \$600,000 over what was received from the original grant. My office contacted the Office of Community Development at that time to advise of the overage. I am happy to report that today the Office of Community Development has approved the additional funding we need to move forward with the HVAC project in both Community Centers. This could not have come at a better time as both A/C units have broken and are unfixable. Unfortunately contractors are seeing manufacturing delays in the types of units needed for our Community Centers. As we move forward with the approval of contracts let's all hope that another miracle will move this project along faster for the citizens of our community that utilize our community centers.

The City of Franklin received a Love Louisiana Outdoors grant in the amount of \$400,000.00 to replace and/or add playground equipment in all four of the City's parks. City of Franklin's Love Louisiana Outdoors grant administrator, Tammy Rogers, has stated that the grant was given final approval through the Louisiana Office of Community Development and the lowest bid was accepted from Hahn Enterprises. All new playground equipment has been ordered and the City will now move into pre-construction by removing older structures within the parks that are set to be replaced. Total construction for the new park equipment and grounds are expected to take a few months.

The Cayce Street Reconstruction Project has completed the engineering process and the bid process happened at the end of June. The low bid was Louisiana Contracting Enterprises and

is currently on the agenda tonight for approval. Once approved by the council and contracts signed I foresee construction beginning within the next 90 days on Cayce Street.

Many of these grant projects began during my first term out of the hard work of this administration. Some of these projects are a total of 2-3 years in the grant process. One thing we must have is patience. My wish list of projects both needed and wanted won't happen overnight but know that we are working hard each and every day to make a positive difference throughout every area of our city.

#### MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the June 20, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Levine

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Robison

#### DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Mayor Foulcard stated that the City's Financial Statement for the month of May 2023 was presented to the council.

#### ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt Ordinance No. 3439 – An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Franklin to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of Franklin and Teche Action Board, Inc., to transfer ownership of the immovable property located at 605 Bigler Street in Franklin, Louisiana. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Levine

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Robison

Mr. Cremaldi stated that there were two minor errors that required correction in Ordinance No. 3440. Section 26-58 (b)(5) needed to be corrected from R.S. 14:42.1 to R.S. 14:54.1 and (b)(16) needed to be corrected from stating Title 5 City Ordinance, section 5:35 to Franklin Code of Ordinances Sec. 34-37.

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt the amendments made to items 26-58 (b)(5) and (b)(16) in Ordinance No. 3440. Second by Councilman Autin 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. 3440 – An Ordinance amending and enacting Chapter 26, Article II – Fire Department, Section 26-58, to include Sections 26-58(a), 26-58(b), 26-58(c), AND 26-58(d), of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Franklin as amended. 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. 3441 – An Ordinance declaring certain movable property no longer needed for public purposes as surplus movable property; due to said movable property constituting a burden of unnecessary expense and consuming needed space and offering said property for sale that could be utilized by others; authorizing the Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin to auction said surplus movable property through the sealed bid process to the bidder submitting the highest sealed bid. Second by Councilman Autin 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 expand the agenda to include a Resolution of the City of Franklin committing city funds to Water Treatment Facility, Booster Pump Station, and Distribution System Improvements, Planning and Construction, FP&C Project Number 50-M94-23-01. 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 of the City of Franklin committing city funds to Water Treatment Facility, Booster Pump Station, and Distribution System Improvements, Planning and Construction, FP&C Project Number 50-M94-23-01. Second by Councilman Autin 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 a Resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not exceeding Five Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$580,000.00) of Certificate of Indebtedness, Series 2023, of the City of Franklin, Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana; providing certain terms of said Certificate; making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said Certificate; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. Second by Councilman Autin 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 a Resolution accepting the bid of \$2,134,849.10 by La Contracting Enterprise, LLC for Asphaltic Concrete Street & Drainage Improvements to Cayce Street for Capital Outlay Project 50-M94-19-01; and authorizing the mayor to sign, execute and administer said agreement and any and all relevant documents. 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 a Resolution accepting the Proposal for Professional Services submitted by South Central Planning and Development Corporation in relation to FY 2023 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Clearance Program; and authorizing the mayor to sign, execute and administer said agreement and any and all relevant documents. Second by Councilman Autin 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 a Resolution accepting the bid for HVAC System Upgrades at McKerral-O'Neill & Broussard-Harris Community Centers in relation to FY 2021 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant HVAC Program; and authorizing the mayor to sign, execute and administer said agreement and any and all relevant documents. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Levine

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Robison

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to authorize the city to enter into a contract with special legal counsel in connection with a Civil Service employment matter. Second by Councilman Autin 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 the upcoming Franklin City-Wide Clean-Up.

Ed “Tiger” Verdin announced the Bayou Beau Dance Program Recital on July 29<sup>th</sup> and also the Fit, Fun, and Fabulous Football and Cheer Camp and Community Flag Football Game at JC Dry Stadium.

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