

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, October 17, 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, and Jaime Robison, City Attorney Russel J. Cremaldi. and City Clerk Karen LeBlanc. Absent was Councilman Larry Guilbeau.

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

GUESTS:

Theresa Boykin, Mrs. Pelican State Plus, announced the “Rock the Runway” fundraising event for the Lydia Cancer Association

Ella Hamilton to discuss re-writing the City Code on missed meetings. She addressed the lack of attendance on the part of Councilman Larry Guilbeau and requested that the City Charter be amended to include a number of meetings that could be missed per-year by councilmembers.

City Attorney Russel Cremaldi discussed Sec. 7-03 of the Charter where related to making changes to the charter and the requirement for voter approval to do such. He also discussed the ways which an election could be called for said changes.

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

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the September 19, 2023 Public Hearing Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Robison to accept the September 19, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to accept the October 9, 2023 Special Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Guilbeau

MAYOR’S EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Mayor Foulcard presented his report. He stated that he has been consistently stating and posting throughout his tenure as mayor that our aging water distribution lines continue to plague us from time to time but more especially during bouts of temperature changes. Through his administration, led by Mrs. Karen LeBlanc, CAO, with the support of his administrative staff and the City’s engineering firm on record, Miller Engineers & Associates, the City of Franklin has requested and received Community Water Enrichment Fund and Capital Outlay funding sources to help improve our aging water infrastructure. This funding has already allowed many valves and hydrants to be replaced and/or installed across the City as well as upgrades to our water plant performed by our own water department.

Mayor Foulcard stated that more recently, thanks to Senator Brett Allain & State Representative Vinney St. Blanc, the City of Franklin received \$2.4 Million in Capital Outlay funding. This will allow the city to continue to add additional cut-off valves, hydrants, water plant filter improvements, and adding a booster pump station on Northwest Blvd.

His administration has consistently addressed our aging water infrastructure for the past five years in council meetings, social media posts as well as utilizing our media partners both television and newsprint. Just two weeks ago our CFO, Ed Hay, was on the front cover of the Banner-Tribune discussing our water system with Bernard Daniels and himself giving an

interview on Teche Talk regarding issues that have plagued this community for nearly four decades.

He said his administration has been very transparent with what has been going on with the water infrastructure. He will not admonish any previous administration. He does not bow down to the Facebook mafia; Facebook bullies attack his administration online and then are as nice as apple pie when he sees them in public.

Mayor Foulcard stated that the majority of our citizens know that many of these lines in the older sections of our city were installed as early as 1908 and before automobiles traveled the streets of Franklin. He stated that as his administration continues to tackle our aging infrastructure, as we have since his first day in office, know that what affects your family affects his family. He stated that there is no special water distribution for the Mayor. So what affects one affects us all. He stated that we will continue to fight through our struggles and for each and every dollar that we can garner through grant or capital outlay funding utilizing various avenues to do so.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Mayor Foulcard stated that the August 2023 Financial Statement was presented to the Council.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt Ordinance No. 3445 – An ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Franklin, Louisiana to amend Section 82-6 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Franklin. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Guilbeau

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison 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 2024. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to expand the agenda to include Resolution of the City of Franklin committing city funds to the Franklin Sidewalk Improvement Project funded by the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development Transportation Alternatives Program. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. No public comment heard on the expansion. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Resolution of the City of Franklin committing city funds to the Franklin Sidewalk Improvement Project funded by the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development Transportation Alternatives Program. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Guilbeau

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to approve the Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Hospital Service District No. 1 of the Parish of St. Mary d/b/a Bayou Bend Health System. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to approve the Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Family Dollar Stores of Louisiana, LLC d/b/a Family Dollar #21857. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Guilbeau

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Foulcard made announcements for upcoming events including Bayou to Main Marketplace, Franklin City-Wide Clean-Up, and Harvest Moon Festival. He also discussed Halloween Trick-or-Treat and Boo on the Bayou to be held on October 31, 2023.

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

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

Karen LeBlanc
Clerk of the Council

EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR