

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 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, 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 Autin led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUESTS:

Mr. Carmelo Figueroa, 701 Trowbridge Street, and his daughter, Ms. Destanee Figueroa were present announcing Ms. Figueroa's attendance at the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, DC.

MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Mayor Foulcard presented his report. He stated that the City of Franklin held its Third Annual New Year's Eve Celebration ringing in 2023. DJ Fab, Scott Burdett's band the Undivided Band as well as Corey Ledet Creole Zydeco and all were outstanding. All-in-all it was another great night celebrating together Under the Lampposts.

On Monday, January 9, he and members of his administration had the walk through portion meeting of the Complete Streets Program that we began last October in an effort to address the accessibility and safety of the sidewalks, crosswalks and heaviest pedestrian areas throughout our City. Franklin was selected as one of nine municipalities across our State for this program. Working with La DOTD, LSU Ag Center, Atchafalaya National Heritage Area and the Acadiana Regional Transportation Safety Council, he is thankful for their guidance and counsel in navigating the application process with his administration.

Mayor Foulcard stated that construction began on the new Franklin Paddle Trail Kayak/Canoe Floating Dock and Fishing Pier on Fifth Street at the mouth of the Franklin Canal. This will help in creating the only loop paddle trail in the State of Louisiana helping to increase eco-tourism in Franklin. Construction continues with the parking lot so it will remain taped off until full completion. About 20 years ago Councilman Joseph Garrison advocated for a fishing pier to be placed at this location due to the many people walking to fish the Franklin Canal from that location. He stated that in 2019, when he took office, he vowed to begin a Revitalization Movement throughout the City. At that time his administration began to meet with all State agencies and began requesting grants that would benefit our community; as we continue to do today during his second term of office. His administrative assistant, Mrs. Tammy Rogers and Public Relations Director/Main Street Director, Ed "Tiger" Verdin applied for this grant through the Office of Recreational Trails and saw it through its many challenges of its three and one half year process.

He stated that the mantra he has used since 2018 has been "It's All Here Under the Lampposts". We even use the hashtag on our social media platforms. We "Christmas Under the Lampposts". We "Mardi Gras Under the Lampposts" and soon we will begin to "Paddle Under the Lampposts". "Under the Lampposts" has stood for the entirety of our community; one community all literally rowing in one direction causing the Revitalization Movement in Franklin to not only be seen but felt and talked about across our state. Still till today we are leaving no stone unturned in every opportunity afforded to our community especially infrastructure. He thanked the City of Franklin's Public Works Department, Police Department, Fire Department, Recreation Departments and his administration for their hard work in helping to prepare for the days event. He thanked Reid Miller and Miller Engineers, Bucky Lovell, Dale Rogers with FRISCO Industrial Contractors and the installers with EZ Dock.

Mayor Foulcard stated that Wednesday, January 11, 2023 was a very positive day for economic development in the City of Franklin and a shot in the arm for the Revitalization Movement. He stated that Kumho Tire, one of the world's leading tire manufacturers, signed a contract with The Melis Group, Inc. to construct and operate a 350,000 square foot state-of-the-art Distribution Logistics Center to be located in Franklin, Louisiana. Kumho Tire is currently operating eight manufacturing facilities located in Korea, China, the U.S. and Vietnam with its US Headquarters being located in Atlanta, Georgia. The Melis Group, Inc. CEO, Reginald Delasbour as stated, "Today is the beginning of what started a 2 year process of vision and hard work by many entities to help create high quality jobs with livable wages, opportunity and a spark to a place I call

home." The project will move forward in negotiation with Louisiana Economic Development and the State of Louisiana and Port of New Orleans. The City of Franklin began its Revitalization Movement in 2018 and has opened more than 40 new small businesses since the start of the pandemic. The energy in our city is currently being seen and felt throughout Louisiana and far beyond becoming attractive to investors and developers. This is the cumulative effort of City, Parish and State efforts to bring this multi-million dollar investment to Franklin, St. Mary Parish and State of Louisiana.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

The City's Financial Statement for the month of November 2022 was presented to the council.

Mr. Ed Hay, Director of Finance, announced that landfill and garbage rates will be increased to reflect the increase in rates charged to the City; garbage from \$14.50 to \$18.50 and landfill fees from \$3.50 to \$4.00. The City is required to cover those costs in order to maintain the bond coverage we have with the State. He stated that if we do not increase the rates, we are looking at a \$73,000 shortfall in the budget this year and a \$125,000 loss next year.

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

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the December 20, 2022 Regular Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Levine

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Resolution authorizing a grant application with the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism for a Community Public Art Grant. 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 expand the agenda to include a Resolution adopting a "Complete Streets" policy for the City of Franklin, Louisiana, stating guiding principles and practices so that transportation improvements are planned, designed and constructed to encourage walking, bicycling and transit use while promoting safe operations for all users. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. No public comment heard on the expansion. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Guilbeau and Levine

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to appoint Lt. Terrance Moore to the Civil Service Board as Police Department Board Member filling the unexpired term ending July 29, 2023. 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 accept Change Order No. 1 for the Franklin Trails and Paddle Trailhead Project. 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 accept the Substantial Completion Certificate for the Franklin Trails and Paddle Trailhead Project. 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:

Mayor Foulcard made announcements for the upcoming Franklin City-Wide Clean-Up.
A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Autin. Second by Councilman Robison and carried.

ATTEST: CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

Karen LeBlanc
Clerk of the Council

EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR