

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 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 (6:07 p.m. arrival), Lester Levine, 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 Autin led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUESTS:

Alexis Rack, Chapter President, Franklin-Jeanerette Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, announced the celebration of Red and White Day. She stated that the organization will continue their efforts in public service to meet the challenging times in our community.

Mayor Foulcard presented Ms. Rack, on behalf of the organization, with a key to the City as well as a signed proclamation declaring Red and White Day in the City of Franklin.

Damara Middleton asked for the Mayor and Council's support in the Gun Amnesty Day she is organizing on July 15, 2023 and the Community Park Party (date to be determined) she intends to hold at Broussard-Harris Park.

Beth Luke addressed the council with concern of a dumpster located at 406 Main Street. She stated that the location of the commercial dumpster is an eye-sore and that it is often left open, attracting rodents, causing litter, and is unsightly to Main Street. She also discussed 300 Main Street; stating that the yard is overgrown with noxious weeds, vines are growing into the second floor windows, and the house is in need of painting.

Mayor Foulcard stated that he, Mr. Cremaldi and Mr. Todd will do research into her complaints. Discussion held.

Judge Greg Aucoin announced his candidacy for St. Mary Parish Clerk of Court and asked for voter support.

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

MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Mayor Foulcard presented his report. He stated that Chief Handy is 30 days into his tenure as Chief of the Franklin Police Department. He stated that it has been brought to his attention that a small number of people have been unhappy with Chief Handy and himself with a number of arrests that have been made over the last 30 days. It has come to his attention that a small number of people have been unhappy with him and the Chief with the number of arrests that have happened in the last 30 days. He stated that apparently they disapprove of Chief doing his job too well that they have decided to start a recall petition against him as Mayor. Mayor Foulcard stated that if you are upset that the Chief of Police is doing his job to get the senseless acts of gun violence and senseless acts of lawlessness under control you should know this is just the beginning.

Mayor Foulcard stated that he and the citizens of Franklin are fed up. He stated that if you choose to fire a gun or create havoc in the City of Franklin we are coming for you. If you have knowledge of a family member or friend that have engaged in a senseless act of gun violence you are just as much at fault now than they are. With several ways to give this information up confidentially you must do the right and moral act. One day we will all meet our maker. God help you if you never did what was right. He stated that if you feel Chief is doing his job too well then you better find somewhere else to live because we are only getting started.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

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

Chief Cedric Handy addressed the ordinance on the books concerning juvenile curfew as requested by Councilman Levine. He read aloud the days and hours which juveniles should not be present in any public place and expressed that a parent or guardian could be charged with the offense.

Councilman Levine stated that he brings this topic to the forefront when school lets out for summer as a way to remind juveniles and their parents that there is a curfew.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the April 18, 2023 Regular 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

ORDER APPOINTING ATTORNEY

Pursuant to La. R. S. 33:4762, and finding the owner of the building(s) to be absent from the state of Louisiana and/or unrepresented therein, the appointment of Joseph Tabb, attorney at law to represent the owner(s) in connection with all actions and proceedings conducted to demolish the building(s) situated at the relative address in Franklin, Louisiana, pursuant to La. R. S. 33:4761, et seq.

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to appoint Joseph Tabb to represent the owner(s) in connection with all actions and proceedings conducted to demolish the building(s) situated at 509 Martin Luther King Boulevard. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Guilbeau

CONDEMNATION HEARINGS

Mr. Cremaldi held Condemnation Hearing pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute Sections 33:3761-4763, relative to the properties submitted by Glenn Todd, Chief Building Official. Mr. Cremaldi asked if there was anyone present on behalf of any of the properties listed. Only a representative of 501 Third Street was present.

Mr. Todd stated that updated photographs taken the day before the hearing were provided at the hearing to the mayor and council. None of the properties have had any improvement since the packets were distributed to the council. He stated that the structures are blighted property, are unsafe, dilapidated, in dangerous condition, a public nuisance, and are unfit for human occupancy. A Damaged Building Report and current photographs have been presented giving the details of the structure and is present as a part of this hearing.

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to make an order for condemnation and the demolition of 1233 Josephine Street within zero (0) days. 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 Garrison to make an order for condemnation and the demolition of 1026 Oakdale Street within thirty (30) days. 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 Autin to make an order for condemnation and the demolition of 604 Robert Street within zero (0) days. Second by Councilman Robison 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 make an order for condemnation and the demolition of 504 Willow Street within zero (0) days. 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 Autin to make an order for condemnation and the demolition of 104 Bud Street within zero (0) days. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Guilbeau

Josalyn Alex was present and spoke on behalf of 501 Third Street. She is purchasing the property. Ms. Alex agreed that the structure does need to be torn down. She just needs time to do so.

A motion was made by Councilman Autin to make an order for condemnation and the demolition of 501 Third Street (rear structure, fronts Martin Luther King Blvd.) within thirty (30) days. 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 Autin to make an order for condemnation and the demolition of 1226 Weber Street within thirty (30) days. 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 Autin to make an order for condemnation and the demolition of 1042 Eagle Street within zero (0) days. Second by Councilman Robison 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 make an order for condemnation and the demolition of 1042 ½ Eagle Street within zero (0) days. Second by Councilman Levine 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 expand the agenda to include a Resolution committing city funds to Cayce Street Repairs, Planning, and Construction, FP&C Project Number 50-M94-19-01. Second by Councilman Levine 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 committing city funds to Cayce Street Repairs, Planning, and Construction, FP&C Project Number 50-M94-19-01. 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 Autin to adopt a Resolution accepting the low bid of \$290,767.00 by Hahn Enterprises, Inc. for design, provision, and installation of playground equipment for FY 2021 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Love

Louisiana Outdoor Program Playground Improvements; and authorizing the Mayor to sign, execute, and administer said agreement and any and all relevant documents. Second by Councilman Robison 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 adopt a Resolution authorizing the submission of an application for 2023 State Community Development Block Grant Clearance Program, certifying that said application meets an urgent need in the community and the requirements of the state CDBG program, and authorizing all actions necessary to implement and complete the activities outlines in said application. 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 adopt a Resolution adopting the list of approved structures and structure location map for the 2023 State Community Development Block Grant Clearance Program. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Guilbeau

PROCLAMATIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Proclamation declaring May 2023 as Building Safety Month in the City of Franklin. Second by Councilman Levine 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: Franklin City-Wide Clean-Up, Crohn's Awareness Day, and the Soul Food Festival.

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

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

ATTEST:

Karen LeBlanc
Clerk of the Council

EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR