

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 15, 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 Joseph Garrison, Lester Levine, and Jaime Robison, and City Clerk Karen LeBlanc. Absent were Councilmembers Chuck Autin, Larry Guilbeau, and City Attorney Russel J. Cremaldi.

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

GUESTS:

Mr. Xavier Ellis announced his candidacy for Governor. He presented his platform and asked for voter support.

Sen. Bret Allain presented an update on the Legislative Session. He discussed several upcoming local projects funded during the session. The first roundabout in St. Mary Parish will be constructed on Hwy 3211; expected construction in January 2025. In January 2024 Hwy 3211 will be overlaid from the railroad tracks to Hwy 182. There is \$5 million in Priority 5 to continue the four-lane on Hwy 182 from the railroad to Hwy 182. Hwy 90 re-surfacing projects from Lafayette to Hwy 1 have begun in New Iberia. He stated that the Port of West St. Mary now has funding to construct the warehouses.

Sen. Allain mentioned the completion of the Wellness Center and its success to date. Capital Outlay funding for the City Hall Third Floor Archives Project, Cayce Street construction, and various Water Projects were allocated.

Sen. Allain stated that he is term-limited and will soon leave office. He is proud of the work he has done during his tenure.

Mrs. Dianne Wiltz represented the Franklin Merchants Association. She promoted the Harvest Moon Festival and associated events and encouraged the public to attend.

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

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 Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Autin and Guilbeau

MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Mayor Foulcard presented his report. He stated that on October 25, 2022, Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the 5th St Fishing Pier/Kayak Launch which created the only loop paddle trailhead in the State of Louisiana. In January, 2023, the Fishing Pier/Kayak Launch was installed and made available to the public to use for fishing, launching a kayak or simply sitting by the water and enjoying the outdoors. This project was the result of a grant issued by the State of Louisiana through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Recreational Trails Program.

He stated that 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. 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 is continued today during his second term of office. Mayor Foulcard stated that his Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Tammy Rogers and Public Relations Director/Main Street Director, Ed "Tiger" Verdin applied for the grant through the Office of Recreational Trails and saw it through its many challenges of its 3 1/2 year process. He mentioned that the project is not complete; improvements to the parking area, additional lighting and family seating are currently in the works.

Mayor Foulcard was pleased to announce that on August 5, 2023, the City of Franklin was recognized by the Louisiana Municipal Association for this project by being awarded first

place for the Louisiana Municipal Association Community Achievement Award in the category of “Economic Development” for its development of the 5th St Fishing Pier/Kayak Launch. He stated that this is a project that the City is very proud of and he and the Council know it will be utilized and enjoyed by many local citizens as well as tourists over the many years to come.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

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

Ms. Jondra Lowe gave a report on the Recreation Department’s Summer Programs as requested by Councilman Levine.

Chief Cedric Handy discussed driver safety in School Zones. He asked motorists to be aware of school zones and their speed limits. The Police Department has been patrolling these areas.

RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Hardy Andrews with Foley & Judell, LLP was present to answer any questions there may be about the items on the agenda concerning the Limited Tax Bonds and Water Revenue Bonds.

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not to exceed Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) of Limited Tax Bonds of the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Autin and Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not to exceed Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000) of Water Revenue Bonds of the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Autin and Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Resolution lifting the open alcohol container law on October 27 and October 28, 2023 for the Harvest Moon Festival; no glass containers. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Autin and Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to adopt a Resolution lifting the open alcohol container law on October 7, 2023 for Bikers on the Bayou; no glass containers. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Autin and Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Resolution authorizing Mayor Eugene P. Foulcard, on behalf of the City and Council, to sign a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana for Capital Outlay Project FP&C Project No. 50-M94-23-01, Water Treatment Facility, Booster Pump Station, and Distribution System Improvements. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Autin and Guilbeau

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to expand the agenda to include the introduction of Ordinance No. 3444 – An Ordinance 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 Robison and carried. No public comment heard on the expansion. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Autin and Guilbeau

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to introduce Ordinance No. 3444 – An Ordinance 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.

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to introduce Ordinance No. 3442 – An ordinance authorizing the incurring of debt and issuance of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) of Limited Tax Bonds, Series 2023, of the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to introduce Ordinance No. 3443 – An ordinance authorizing the issuance of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000) of Water Revenue Bonds of the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Resolution confirming the appointment of Special Litigation Counsel to represent the City in the claims for damages and contamination from lead-wrapped cables. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Autin and Guilbeau

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Foulcard made announcements for the upcoming Franklin City-Wide Clean-Up.

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

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

ATTEST:

Karen LeBlanc
Clerk of the Council

EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR