

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 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, Larry Guilbeau, Lester Levine, Jaime Robison, City Attorney Russell J. Cremaldi, and City Clerk Karen LeBlanc. Councilman Joseph Garrison was absent.

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

GUESTS:

Ed “Tiger” Verdin, City Public Relations Director, presented plaques to the winners of the Golf Cart Parade and Christmas Light Decoration Contest winners.

Ms. Beverly Domengeaux presented her yearly audit report for the St. Mary Council on Aging.

Evan Boudreaux introduced himself as the new Economic Development Director for St. Mary Parish. He expressed his eagerness to get St. Mary Parish and all its municipalities moving in a positive direction.

MAYOR’S EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Mayor Foulcard said he was pleased with the Christmas season and the activities that were held even during the Covid-19 pandemic. The lights at Parc Sur la Teche, the Golf Cart Parade, and the Christmas Light Decorating Contest were all a success. He also mentioned that the All Crews Mardi Gras Parade is cancelled for 2021 due to the pandemic as supported by the crews.

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

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to accept the December 15, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to introduce Ordinance #3409 – 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.

City Attorney Russel Cremaldi asked the council to amend the agenda item to include a correction in the description of Ordinance #3410. The tract “ABHEA” should be included.

A motion was made by Councilman Autin to amend the title of Ordinance #3410 to include the wording “and tract ‘ABHEA’”. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. No public comment heard. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to introduce Ordinance #3410 – An Ordinance to authorize the city to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement granting a right of use for driveway purposes over a portion of tract “ABCDA” and tract “ABHEA” as shown on a plan of land recorded in Book 146, Entry No. 298,492 of the Conveyance Records of St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, including term of right of use, consideration, and other terms and conditions.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Autin to adopt Ordinance #3407 - An ordinance establishing the water rates to be assessed as a monthly charge to all residents and customers receiving water services from the City of Franklin, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, with said income to be utilized for construction, renovation and operation of the City of Franklin's water system, or for any public purpose, defining the same; providing for billings to said resident and customers; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to adopt Ordinance #3408 – An ordinance amending Chapter 18 Section 18-8(e) and Chapter 18 Section 18-8(g) of the Franklin City Code. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Autin to adopt a Resolution regarding a Lease Purchase Agreement for the purpose of financing "SCBA's and Assessories". Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to adopt a Resolution supporting the Office of Cultural Development Local Government Assistance Program grant application. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to adopt a Resolution supporting the Office of Community Development's Community Water Enrichment Fund grant application. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to adopt a Resolution authorizing the use of facilities at Caffery Park by the Franklin Youth Organization for the operation Franklin Youth Baseball and Softball Program from February 1, 2021 through August 1, 2021. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

Mr. Cremaldi stated that the St. Mary Levee Board would like to be included in the Yokley Drainage Project with the City of Franklin, St. Mary Parish Council, and St. Mary Parish Drainage District No. 1. In addition, the contract with the attorney that is handling the matters, William Bourgeois with Bourgeois Law, LLC, needs to be re-executed.

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to expand the agenda to include a Resolution to execute a contract with a law firm as special counsel and a Resolution to amend the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for the Yokley Drainage Project. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. No public comment heard on the expansion. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to adopt a Resolution providing for the execution of contract with a law firm as special counsel for the City of Franklin, designating the terms and conditions of the contract, and granting the authorization therefore. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to adopt a Resolution authorizing Eugene P. Foulcard, Mayor of the City of Franklin, Louisiana, to execute an amendment to Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of Franklin, St. Mary Parish Council, Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1 and St. Mary Levee District relative to Phase II of Yokley Bayou State Project No. 576-51-0003. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Councilman Autin to approve the application and issuance of a liquor license to Main Express. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to approve Change Order No. 1 for Industrial Road. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to approve Substantial Completion for Industrial Road. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Garrison

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

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

ATTEST:

/s/Karen LeBlanc

Clerk of the Council

Director of Administration

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

/s/EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR