

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 16, 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, Joseph Garrison, Lester Levine, Jaime Robison, City Attorney Russell J. Cremaldi, and City Clerk Karen LeBlanc.

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

GUESTS:

Stephanie Guidry, CEO, and Kevin Romero, Director of Marketing and Business Development with Franklin Foundation Hospital announced the addition of a Wellness Center to the Franklin Foundation Campus. The site will be the home to many medical and health services and is being constructed at a cost of \$19 million. A layout of the facility was displayed. Ms. Guidry also announced the future development of an urgent care facility across the street from the Wellness Center.

MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Mayor Foulcard thanked the Water Distribution Department and other City workers for working through prolonged freezing temperatures fixing water lines during the winter storm that was experienced in late February.

Mayor Foulcard read aloud the letter that accompanies the budget and discussed the reasoning for the increase in water rates by \$3.00 to \$11.00 per 1,000 gallons. He explained that city water is a bargain at \$0.011 per gallon compared to a gallon of bottled water costing anywhere from \$0.80 to \$1.29 a gallon. The rate increase is needed for the City to meet its debt obligations to the state and to help with making needed upgrades to the distribution system.

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

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the February 18, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Garrison, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to introduce Ordinance #3416 – An Ordinance fixing the rates of tax to be assessed by the municipal corporation of the City of Franklin, Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, subject to taxation therein, for the year 2021.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt Ordinance #3411 – An Ordinance amending the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year beginning May First (1st), 2020 and ending April Thirtieth (30th), 2021. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Garrison, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to adopt Ordinance #3412 – An Ordinance amending the Capital Outlay Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year beginning May First (1st), 2020 and ending April Thirtieth (30th), 2021. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Garrison, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

A motion was made by Councilman Robison to adopt Ordinance #3413 – An Ordinance adopting the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year beginning May First

(1st), 2021 and ending April Thirtieth (30th), 2022. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt Ordinance #3414 – An Ordinance adopting the Capital Outlay Budget for the Fiscal Years beginning May First (1st), 2021 and ending April Thirtieth (30th), 2026. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to adopt Ordinance #3415 – An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 3406 adopted on December 15, 2020, by the City Council of the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana, authorizing the issuance of One Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,800,000) of Water Revenue Bonds of the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana, prescribing the form, fixing the details and providing for the payment thereof, providing for the sale thereof and entering into certain other covenants and agreements in connection with the security and payment of said Bonds and providing for other matters in connection therewith. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

PROCLAMATIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to declare the month of April 2021 as Fair Housing Month. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

A motion was made by Councilman Robison to declare the week of April 5-9, 2021 as National Community Development Week. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Guilbeau, Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Foulcard extended condolences to the families of Lt. Frank Edwards (Franklin Police Department, 1973-2001) and Ms. Louise Gray (Mother of Mrs. Mary Simmons, City of Franklin Utility Department).

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

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

ATTEST:

/s/Karen LeBlanc

Clerk of the Council

Director of Administration

/s/EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR