

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, December 19, 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, Lester Levine, and Jaime Robison, and City Clerk Karen LeBlanc. Absent were Councilman Larry Guilbeau and City Attorney Russel J. Cremaldi.

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

GUESTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for items on the agenda):

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the November 21, 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

MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Mayor Foulcard discussed the recent unveiling of the Economic Vitality Committee which is the start of something positive and beneficial to the local economy. The business owners will be good will ambassadors to promote shopping, fueling, and playing local.

Mayor Foulcard also mentioned that funding that the City gets for projects must be spent on the intentions of the grant. When funds are earmarked for a purpose the City will spend the money on the intended purpose. He discussed Cayce Street and Yokley Dredging Projects and stated that they are both progressing.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Mayor Foulcard stated that the October 2023 Financial Statement was presented to the Council.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt Ordinance No. 3446 – 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.

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 Ordinance No. 3447 – An ordinance of the mayor and city council of the City of Franklin, Louisiana, authorizing the city to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement transferring immovable property owned by the City of Franklin to St. Mary Council on Aging. Second by Councilman Autin 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 adopt a Resolution for approval of the City of Franklin Utility Bill Collection Policy. 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 adopt a Resolution authorizing a prior period adjustment to the Utility Fund and Liquid and Solid Waste Fund of 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

Mr. Ed Hay gave a brief explanation of the resolutions. He stated that the Utility Bill Collection Policy is needed as there is currently \$716,000 of receivables on the books and 67% of that is over 60 days old – \$481,000. The policy will require payment in full to retain water service. He mentioned that our new policy is still more lenient than neighboring water systems. The prior period adjustment comes from the Utility Fund owing the Liquid & Solid Waste Fund \$2.2 million from many years ago. The Utility Fund has not been able to pay the funds back. It is unreasonable to assume we will ever be able to pay the money back. The auditors suggested that the adjustment be made to give a better reflection of the true equity in each of the funds.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept Change Order No. 1 for LCDBG Love Louisiana Outdoors Program, Playground Improvements. 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 the upcoming New Year's Eve Celebration.
Mayor and Council wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

Karen LeBlanc
Clerk of the Council

EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR