

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 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 Garrison led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUESTS:

Mr. Jon Rask discussed Franklin being chosen in a nationwide study with NASA and The Human Factor to survey damages due to climate change, weather events, etc. and the effects on the economy.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for items on the agenda):

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the December 19, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Levine 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 presented his report. He asked everyone to remain steadfast and vigilant through this weekend as we experience temperatures below the freezing mark. Please continue to check on any Seniors that may live around you as they may be in need of assistance. Continue to follow the advice of local weather experts along with State, Parish and Local officials. Please only share information that comes from official sources.

He welcomed the research officials from NASA & The Human Factor for selecting Franklin and working with his administration. Climate Change is impacting our city more than ever before. From this summer's extreme heat and drought conditions which impacted our local industry and small businesses as well as tourism. Severe drought conditions impacted the Franklin Water System wherein on November 16, 2023 he issued an alert of high sodium levels into our water system. This resulted in the closure of the Charanton Canal and Hanson Canal flood gates to minimize the amount of salt into our drinking water. This impact of salt water intrusion was felt on our water system through the new year.

Mayor Foulcard thanked each and every person that has already spoken virtually with NASA officials in their effort to help and address the issues we face due to climate change especially in rural municipalities.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

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

Chief Cedric Handy discussed the Mardi Gras Parade. He expressed that there will be officers from other agencies assisting Franklin PD in keeping the public safe. He also stated that block parties will not be tolerated.

Chief Handy announced the Franklin Police Department's first P.A.C.E. Meeting (Police and Community Engagement) for the citizens of the City of Franklin. The event will take place on Thursday, February 1, 2024, from 5:00 PM until approximately 7:00 PM, at the Teche Theatre. This is an opportunity for the community to express concerns about community and police related issues, questions and answers, and to share ideas.

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Resolution supporting the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Office of Community Development Local Government Assistance

Program Grant Application. 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 supporting the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Office of Community Development Community Water Enrichment Fund Program Grant Application. Second by Councilman Garrison 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 Eugene P. Foulcard, Mayor of the City of Franklin, Louisiana, to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement Between the City of Franklin and South Central Planning and Development Commission Relative to the South Central Regional Construction Code Compliance Program. 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 to designate Tuesday, March 19, 2024, as Main Street Day in conjunction with the Main Street Day at the Capital. 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 Levine to adopt a Resolution authorizing the use of facilities at Caffery Park by the Franklin Youth Organization for the operation of the Franklin Youth Baseball and Softball Program from February 1, 2024 through August 1, 2024. Second by Councilman Garrison 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 lifting the open container law along the parade route from one hour before the Mardi Gras Parade until one hour after the Mardi Gras Parade on Mardi Gras Day, February 13, 2024. No glass containers. 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 a Citizen Participation Plan relative to the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program. 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 Levine to adopt a Resolution for the adoption of a Grievance Procedure for Section 504 Accessibility relative to the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program. 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 adopt a Resolution for the adoption of a Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan relative to the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program. 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 a Language Access Plan relative to the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Guilbeau

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to appoint of Joe Duck to the West St. Mary Port Commission to complete the term of Sam Jones expiring November 17, 2027.

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 City-Wide Clean Up and P.A.C.E. Meeting.

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

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

Karen LeBlanc
Clerk of the Council

EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR