

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, December 17, 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, Pearl Rack, Joseph Garrison, Lester Levine, Jaime Robison, and City Clerk Karen LeBlanc. Absent was City Attorney Russel J. Cremaldi.

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

GUESTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for items on the agenda): None.

#### MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the November 19, 2024 Public Hearing and November 19, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

#### MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Mayor Foulcard presented his report. He thanked the citizens of Franklin for their overwhelming support of the police and fire 1% sales & use tax during this past election cycle. The tax will allow us to better serve and protect those that work so hard to protect and keep our community safe.

Mayor Foulcard thanked each and every family that took part in all the Christmas activities this season to help make lasting family memories at home. He stated that these events truly make Franklin the most beautiful and charming city. He thanked the City of Franklin's Public Works Department led by Mr. Jeremy Smith and Ms. Belva Notto for their hard work into transforming our beautiful city into a Hallmark movie.

Mayor Foulcard stated that citizens are tampering with water meters. He mentioned that there is an ordinance on the books that prohibits tampering of the meters. He warned that the customer will be responsible for the meter if damage is done. Customers should call City Hall if they are having issues with their meter.

Mayor Foulcard stated that he continues to work with the State of Louisiana, our Legislative Delegation and the Louisiana Department of Health in an effort to have the Boil Notice rescinded. We continue to work hard each and every day to rehab our 100 year old water distribution system and 60 year old water plant. He stated that the engineering phase rehab work on the water plant will begin in the New Year utilizing the \$2.4 million dollars allocated from State Capital Outlay funds from Senator Allain and State Representative St. Blanc. The New Year after grinding will also bring a complete rehab to Northwest Blvd.

He wished everyone a safe, happy, healthy and Merry Christmas on behalf of the City Council, City Employees, himself and his family.

#### DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Mayor Foulcard stated that the October 2024 Financial Statements were presented to the council.

#### RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a resolution authorizing Eugene P. Foulcard, Mayor of the City of Franklin, to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs of the State of Louisiana. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Councilman Garrison asked for clarification on the resolution (item 10-B on the agenda) pertaining to pedestrian traffic controls on Hwy 182.

Mayor Foulcard mentioned that the request is specific to the 1600 block of Main Street near Franklin High and soon-to-come Franklin Junior High. Mr. J Ina requested support in asking that the state conduct the traffic study to include crosswalks.

Councilwoman Rack mentioned concern with the left turn from Main to Weber Street and the lack of a turn signal. She asked if this was included in the request.

City Clerk Karen LeBlanc stated that the resolution was written specific to pedestrian traffic. We would have to do a different request for a study including the left turn.

Councilwoman Rack stated that she would like a resolution for the left turn.

Discussion held.

Mayor Foulcard asked the council to expand the agenda to include Councilwoman Rack's request to have a survey done on the left turn (from Main Street on to Weber Street).

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rack to expand the agenda to include a Resolution requesting the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to conduct a traffic study to implement a left turn signal on Louisiana Highway 182 (Main Street) at Weber Street in the City of Franklin. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. No public comment heard on the expansion. Roll call is as follows:  
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, Rack, and Robison  
NAYS: None.  
ABSENT: None.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rack to adopt Resolution requesting the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to conduct a traffic study to implement a left turn signal on Louisiana Highway 182 (Main Street) at Weber Street in the City of Franklin. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:  
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, Rack, and Robison  
NAYS: None.  
ABSENT: None.

A motion was made by Councilman Robison to adopt a resolution requesting the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to conduct a traffic study to implement pedestrian crossing traffic controls on Louisiana Highway 182 (Main Street) in the City of Franklin. Second by Councilman Levine. Motion failed due to the lack of a favorable vote. Roll call is as follows:  
YEAS: Councilman Autin  
NAYS: Councilmembers Rack, Garrison, Levine, and Robison  
ABSENT: None.

Councilwoman Rack stated that she is requesting that one resolution be sent for both requests.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rack to rescind the resolution requesting the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to conduct a traffic study to implement a left turn signal on Louisiana Highway 182 (Main Street) at Weber Street in the City of Franklin. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:  
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Rack, Garrison, Levine, and Robison  
NAYS: None.  
ABSENT: None.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rack to adopt a Resolution requesting the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to conduct a traffic study to implement pedestrian crossing traffic controls on Louisiana Highway 182 (Main Street) and to conduct a traffic study to implement a left turn signal on Louisiana Highway 182

(Main Street) at Weber Street in the City of Franklin. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a resolution authorizing the opening of a checking account at First National Bank of Jeanerette for City of Franklin General Fund Reserve Fund. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

A motion was made by Councilman Robison to adopt a resolution authorizing the opening of a checking account at First National Bank of Jeanerette for City of Franklin Capital Outlay Fund. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to approve the Liquor License Application for Foulcard Center, LLC located at 1400 Willow Street. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ed "Tiger" Verdin announced the winners of the Christmas Under the Lampposts Gulf Cart Parade and Christmas Lighting Contest Winners. Certificates were presented to those in attendance.

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

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

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Karen LeBlanc  
Clerk of the Council

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EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR