

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Special Session on Tuesday, January, 28, 2025, 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 Autin 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 December 17, 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 stated that as our community continues to recover from last week's historic winter storm, he wants to acknowledge the incredible teamwork that helped us navigate this unprecedented weather event. We approached this major freeze and snowstorm as if we were preparing for a hurricane, and he submitted a disaster declaration with the St. Mary Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security on Friday, January 17, 2025.

Mayor Foulcard stated that no amount of preparation could have prepared us for the historic amount of snowfall and arctic temperatures we experienced within just 24 hours. While our city was transformed into a picturesque winter wonderland, the sub-freezing temperatures began to strain our infrastructure, causing significant water line ruptures in multiple areas.

He stated that the City's extraordinary water distribution crew immediately sprang into action, working tirelessly for three consecutive days in extreme cold—from sunrise to well past sunset. While many of us were enjoying the rare snow with our families, these men worked without complaint to ensure water service was restored. Even now, they continue to address the remaining issues to normalize water pressure for every resident. Their dedication and professionalism in such adverse conditions are nothing short of inspiring.

Mayor Foulcard extended his heartfelt gratitude to everyone who played a role during this historic event, stating to the City of Franklin Water Distribution Crew that their hard work, resilience, and determination in sub-freezing temperatures has been remarkable; applauded the City of Franklin Water Plant Operators' hard work and determination in keeping our plant running 24/7 throughout sub-freezing temperatures. He thanked Fire Chief Chuck Bourgeois and the Franklin Fire Department for supporting the water distribution team with lights, generators, heaters, and medical supervision for hypothermia and other weather-related concerns. Their efforts in logistics and water distribution were invaluable. He thanked Police Chief Cedric Handy and the Franklin Police Department for keeping our city safe, assisting water personnel, and coordinate logistics for water distribution made a significant impact. He also thanked the Recreation Department, City Hall staff, and his administrative team for stepping up in countless ways to keep operations running smoothly.

Mayor Foulcard also extended gratitude to Pastor Josh Salter and Crossing Place Church for allowing the City to use your parking lot as a staging area for potable water distribution; Mr. Jamie Miller (St. Mary Parish Water District No. 4 for his assistance in supporting our efforts; Jimmy Broussard and Janet Marcotte with the St. Mary Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness/Homeland Security for their critical support during this historical weather event; State Representative Vincent St. Blanc for his help in securing potable water for our community when called upon; and Teche Talk, KBZE, KQKI, KWBJ, and the Lafayette stations for keeping our residents informed.

Mayor Foulcard thanked the community for their prayers, well wishes, and patience as we faced this historic winter storm. This event will be remembered for years to come, not only for the challenges it brought but for the strength and unity it revealed within our city. He stated that a community that comes together in times of adversity is a community that can never be broken.

Bernard Daniels, Utilities Director, stated that there were nine water main breaks which resulted in 85% of the water in storage. The storage tanks started off with 16 feet of water and drained down to three because of the breaks; 113 residents required assistance turning off their meters because of leaks at their homes.

Mr. Daniels discussed the ongoing improvements to water infrastructure. He stated that of the \$2.4 million (Capital Outlay) grant, \$1.9 million will be used at the plant and the remaining will be put toward new valves in the distribution system. A new backwash pump has been delivered and new turbidity meters will be installed soon.

Discussion held on the challenges the City faces with condition of water lines, materials they are made from and how shallow they were installed in the past. Residents were reminded that they are required to have a valve installed on their side of the water meter. Mr. Daniels also requested that residents do not drip their water lines in cold weather. They should turn off their valve and drain their lines.

Councilmembers expressed gratitude for City employees and thanked Mr. Daniels for the information.

Fire Chief Chuck Bourgeois asked residents not to do any open burning. The lower than usual water pressure and dead grass from the snow increases the risk of fire spreading.

#### DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

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

#### BIDS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to award the contract for the City Hall Interior Painting and Staircase Restoration bid to the lowest responsible bidder, Naquin's Painting & Waterproofing, Inc. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:  
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, Rack, and Robison  
NAYS: None.  
ABSENT: None.

#### RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rack to adopt a resolution authorizing the use of facilities at Caffery Park by the Franklin Youth Organization for the operation of Franklin Youth Baseball and Softball Program from February 1, 2025 through August 1, 2025. 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 Garrison to adopt a resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the special election held in the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, December 7, 2024, to authorize the levy of a sales and use tax therein. Second by Councilman Robison 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 Garrison to expand the agenda to include a resolution to adopt a TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) Plan. Second by Councilwoman Rack 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 Councilman Garrison to adopt a resolution to adopt a TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) Plan. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

#### INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rack to introduce Ordinance No. 3462 – An ordinance providing for the levy within the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana, effective April 1, 2025, of a 1% sales and use tax (the "Tax") upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption, and the storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and upon the sale of services in said City and for the assessment, collection, payment thereof and the dedication of the proceeds of said Tax and the purpose for which the proceeds of the Tax may be expended, said Tax having been authorized at a special election held in the City on December 7, 2024.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to approve the settlement of the suit filed by Jeannie Burnes. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Foulcard announced the February 8, 2025 City-Wide Clean Up.

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