

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 18, 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 Levine led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUESTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for items on the agenda):

Ed Hay, Director of Finance, commented on the importance of residents paying their utility bill in the City being able to operate under the presented budget. He encouraged residents to keep up with their bill and manage leaks by turning off their water and making repairs.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the February 18, 2025 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 summarized his budget message for the amended and proposed budgets. He echoed Mr. Hay's comments in regards to customers paying their bills and managing their usage. He mentioned that the first phase of the water plant work will begin shortly. Progress is being made.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Mayor Foulcard stated that the January 2025 Financial Statements were presented to the council.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt Ordinance No. 3463 – An Ordinance amending the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year beginning May First (1st), 2024 and ending April Thirtieth (30th), 2025. 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 Councilwoman Rack to adopt Ordinance No. 3464 – An Ordinance amending the Capital Outlay Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year beginning May First (1st), 2024 and ending April Thirtieth (30th), 2025. Second by Councilman Garrison 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 Ordinance No. 3465 – An Ordinance adopting the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year beginning May First (1st), 2025 and ending April Thirtieth (30th), 2026. Second by Councilman Garrison 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 Levine to adopt Ordinance No. 3466 – An Ordinance adopting the Capital Outlay Budget for the Fiscal Years beginning May First (1st), 2025 and ending April Thirtieth (30th), 2030. Second by Councilman Garrison 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 Councilman Garrison to adopt a resolution authorizing Mayor Eugene P. Foulcard to enter into a 10 year Lease Purchase Agreement with Leasing 2, Inc. to finance the purchase of one (1) Spartan S180 Pumper in the amount of \$913,559.00 purchased from Delta Fire & Safety. 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 regarding a purchase agreement for the purpose of procuring an Enforcer Pumper fire truck from Siddons Martin Emergency Group, LLC. Second by Councilman Garrison 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 Mayor Eugene P. Foulcard to sign the Department of the Army Consent to Cross U.S. Government Easement at Franklin Canal Project, Government Easement No. DACW29-9-25-09, on behalf of the City of Franklin. 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 of Respect for Louisiana First Lady Alice C. Foster. 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 Councilwoman Rack to expand the agenda to include a resolution of Respect for Martin Bofill Duhè. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. No public comment heard. 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 of Respect for Martin Bofill Duhè. 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 lifting the open alcohol container law at Caffery Park for the Centerville Booster Club Softball Tournament to be held on March 28 and 29, 2025. No glass containers. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. No public comment heard. 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 lifting the open alcohol container law at Caffery Park for the Centerville Booster Club Softball Tournament to be held on March 28 and 29, 2025. No glass containers. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, Rack, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

PROCLAMATIONS

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Proclamation designating April 2025 as Fair Housing Month. 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 Garrison to adopt Proclamations honoring Coach Tommy Schexnayder and Coach Kerrell Maturin. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, Rack, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

Coach Schexnayder and Coach Maturin both acknowledged the mentors who shaped their journeys and the exceptional student athletes from Franklin High and Hanson Memorial, whose dedication and talent contributed to their shared success. Heartfelt gratitude was conveyed for the honor of being acknowledged by the Mayor and Councilmembers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ed "Tiger" Verdin made announcements for upcoming events including Dinner Under the Lamp Post, City-Wide Clean Up, Bayou to Main Marketplace, and Bayou Teche Bear Festival.

Mayor Foulcard and Councilmembers Rack and Levine expressed pride in the Franklin High School Hornets Boys Basketball Team on their back-to-back championship titles. Congratulatory sentiments were vocalized. A parade honoring the team is in the works.

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

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

Karen LeBlanc
Clerk of the Council

EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR