

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 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 Councilmembers 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:

Mr. Marcus Johnson to discussed the success of his previous Crohn's Awareness event and invited the public to attend this year's Crohn's Awareness event to be held at Parc Sur La Teche on May 18, 2024.

Joseph McDaniel, Damara Middleton, and Coco Depass announced the Sunday Funday event to be held in Broussard-Harris Park on May 5, 2024 and invited the public to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for items on the agenda):

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the March 19, 2024 Public Hearing Meeting minutes. 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 accept the March 19, 2024 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 discussed current projects. He stated that the Yokely Widening Project is nearing completion; Cayce Street overlay and drainage project is ongoing, HVAC replacement at both Recreation Centers is ongoing. He mentioned the ribbon cuttings for the new playground equipment at all of the parks were held recently thanks to grant funding through the Love Louisiana Outdoors Program. The Fifth Street fishing pier is now open. This has been a long awaited vision of Councilman Garrison. Capital Outlay funding is secured for Water Treatment Plant improvements as well as water distribution valve replacement throughout the city. Planning is currently under way for those water projects. The mural in the Pocket Park is currently being painted by renowned muralist Robert Daffort.

Mayor Foulcard stated that he mentions all of these projects because many times people think that these funds can be utilized for other projects. These are ear-marked dollars and we have to work within the parameters of the funding sources. Some have 25% matches. He reminded the public to shop, play, eat, and fuel local to generate tax dollars. The price for the Cayce Street Project increased nearly 40% with increased materials costs. He assured the public that the City will spend ear-marked dollars on what the funding is intended for.

Mayor Foulcard addressed gossip comments that the City should have used the \$22 million that built the Wellness Center for our water lines. The City of Franklin had nothing to do with this project. These were Medicaid Capacity dollars that Senator Brett Allain, Representative Vinny St. Blanc, and Representative Sam Jones fought for since 2013. Those dollars could only be used for medical related projects. If they did not get those dollars into our community it would have went to another community. We cannot take credit for that; it was a Bayou Bend Heath System project.

Mayor Foulcard stated that the tax dollars we give to the government is turned over in our cities. This administration has been aggressive in going after different dollars to do projects

all over Franklin. It takes a community effort. Without a vibrant Main Street we cannot do some of the things we do all around the city. He thanked his staff for working hard to ensure that things are done decent and in order.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Mayor Foulcard stated that the February 2024 Financial Statement was presented to the Council.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

No action was taken on Ordinance No. 3452. City Clerk Karen LeBlanc stated that the ordinance was introduced prematurely; new ordinances will be introduced at next meeting to reflect the results of re-assessment.

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not to exceed Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000) of Revenue Anticipation Notes of the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana; providing certain terms of said Notes; making application to the State Bond Commission for approval of said Notes; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Guilbeau

PROCLAMATIONS

A Proclamation declaring May 10, 2024 as Lupus Day in the City of Franklin was unanimously accepted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Foulcard announced upcoming events including Dinner Under the Lampposts, Sunday Funday, City-Wide Clean Up, Crohn's Awareness Event, and the St. Mary Parish Soul Food Festival. He also announced Love the Boot, state-wide community clean-up that is scheduled for April 20, 2024 in the City of Franklin.

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

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

Karen LeBlanc
Clerk of the Council

EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR