

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 21, 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 Garrison led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### GUESTS:

Mr. Ed Jones, representing the 100 Black Men of St. Mary Parish, promoted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Soul Food Festival to be held on June 14-15, 2024.

Mrs. Ella Hamilton, Franklin resident, requested that the Council make changes to the Home Rule Charter; to include how many meetings a council person could miss during their service and to also make sure the person is living in their district.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT (for items on the agenda):

#### MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the April 16, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Robison 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 thanked the Downtown Merchants for hosting Dinner Under the Lampposts and expressed the economic impact on such events. He thanked the Crossing Place for the various events they have been conducting for the children and also thanked the organizers of Sunday Funday in the Park.

Mayor Foulcard stated that Cayce Street project is nearing completion. The project addressed the collapsing street, drainage issues, and sewer issues.

Mayor Foulcard stated that due to the HVAC system not being complete at Broussard-Harris Recreation Center the kids at that center will be bussed to McKerall-Oniel Recreation Center for the Summer Feeding Program.

#### DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Police Chief Cedric Handy gave a report of the successes during his first year as chief. He thanked the community for their cooperation and tips that have led to the arrest of several suspects. He boasted a 42% decrease in felony crimes in Franklin. Staffing of officers has increased from 10 to 24. He has reestablished relationships with the District Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Office, other departments within the parish, and the School Board. Chief Handy stated that there is still a long way to go but he believes the foundation has been laid.

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

#### INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

A motion was made by Councilman Autin to introduce Ordinance No. 3453 – An Ordinance increasing the rates of tax not to exceed the prior year's maximum rate to be assessed by the municipal corporation of City of Franklin, Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, subject to taxation therein, for the year 2024.

A motion was made by Councilman Levine to introduce Ordinance No. 3454– An Ordinance an fixing the adjusted rates of tax to be assessed by the municipal corporation of City of Franklin, Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, subject to taxation therein, for the year 2024.

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Resolution proclaiming April 2024 as Fair Housing Month in the City of Franklin. Second by Councilman Levine 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 Autin to approve the Official Journal Certificate selecting the Franklin Banner-Tribune as the City of Franklin's Official Journal for the period beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025. 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 Levine to approve the FY 2023-2024 Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire. 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 Autin to accept Change Order No. 1 for Bayou Yokely Drainage Improvements. 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 accept Change Order No. 1 for HVAC System Upgrades at McKerall-O'Niell & Broussard-Harris Community Centers. 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 Robison to accept Change Order No. 2 for HVAC System Upgrades at McKerall-O'Niell & Broussard-Harris Community Centers. 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 announced upcoming events including City-Wide Clean Up and the St. Mary Parish Soul Food Festival.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Autin. 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