

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Special Session on Monday, July 1, 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, City Attorney Russel J. Cremaldi, and City Clerk Karen LeBlanc.

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

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

Mayor Foulard said a few words in honor of the late Councilman Larry Guilbeau. He stated that Councilman Larry Guilbeau served the City of Franklin with distinction and honor. His tireless efforts and unwavering dedication to the betterment of our city have left an indelible mark on our community. He was a true advocate for the people, always working diligently to ensure that Franklin remained a place of opportunity, growth, and prosperity for all its residents.

Larry's leadership, vision, and compassionate spirit will be deeply missed. He was not only a colleague but also a friend to many. His legacy of service, kindness, and dedication will continue to inspire us all.

He stated that as we mourn the loss of Councilman Guilbeau, we also celebrate his life and the many contributions he made to our city. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this time of sorrow. We hope they find comfort in the cherished memories and the lasting impact he made on the City of Franklin.

Mayor Foulcard said that unfortunately we per our City's Charter we are bound by law to make an appointment to fill any vacant seat within 10 days. Although Councilman Guilbeau leaves behind a great legacy of service to the Franklin community he has also left a big role to fill for the next Council Person to fill.

A moment of silence was held in Honor of the late Councilman Larry Guilbeau. Mayor Foulcard offered prayers that God continue to comfort his family during this time.

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to nominate Pearl Barnes Rack to fill the vacancy in the office for Councilperson for City Council District "C" and providing for notification to the Secretary of State of the State of Louisiana. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Proclamation calling for a Special Election to fill the vacancy in the office for Councilperson for City Council District "C" and providing for notification to the Secretary of State of the State of Louisiana. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

Mayor Foulcard read aloud the Resolution of Respect for Councilman Larry J. Guilbeau.

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Resolution of respect for Councilman Larry J. Guilbeau. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

INAUGURATION/SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

The Honorable Judge Gregory P. Aucoin conducted the swearing-in of Councilwoman Pearl Barnes Rack.

Councilwoman Rack expressed gratitude for her appointment. She stated that God allowed her through the mayor and city council to be appointed as a servant for the people. She stated that she will serve with an honor and a privilege. She is humbled by the appointment and does take it seriously. Councilwoman Rack stated that her children and grandchildren are the wind beneath her wings; they have pushed and motivated her to be the best she could be. She also thanked her brothers, friends, church members, members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the mayor and council, and many others for their support. She stated that she will serve with loyalty, honesty, and prayer.

Councilwoman Rack mentioned that she had a special student named Larry Guilbeau who said she was his “favorite teacher.” Councilwoman Rack reminisced on the many fond memories she shared with the late Councilman Guilbeau. She stated that if you ever knew Larry, you knew he was sincere, generous, and loving. He was a joy who became ill and died too soon. Long live the memory of Larry Guilbeau.

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Autin to adopt a Resolution appointing Council Committees based on the Committee Chart. 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 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

CERTIFICATE

I, Karen LeBlanc, do hereby certify that I am the City Clerk of the City of Franklin, Louisiana, and that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the City Council of Franklin at its special call meeting of July 1, 2024, at which meeting a quorum was present and acting throughout.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Franklin, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, this 1st day of July, 2024.

Karen LeBlanc
City Clerk