

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 20, 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, Pearl Rack, Joseph Garrison, Lester Levine, and Jaime Robison, and City Clerk Karen LeBlanc. Absent was City Attorney Russel J. Cremaldi.

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

GUESTS:

Debby Torline and Maurine Alfred with the Roots and Ribbons Foundation promoted their upcoming event, "Puttin' on the Pink – 2024" to be held at Morey Park in Patterson on October 5, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for items on the agenda):

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the July 16, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Robison 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 the following report. At the end of August a delegation of the City Council, members of my administrative team including myself attended the Louisiana Municipal Association Conference held in Shreveport. Besides attending educational classes as well as re-certification and informative sessions we attend the gala that includes the LMA Community Achievement Awards. Once again I would like to announce that the City of Franklin was awarded the statewide Community Achievement Award for Outstanding Community Improvement in Technology & Creativity for the Historic Downtown Franklin Pocket Park Mural Project. This project was made possible by the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Percent for Art Program, Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, City of Franklin with contributions by Mr. Al Kuhlman and the Kuhlman family and Bargain Barn Too. This project within the Pocket Park will help create a direct economic and tourism impact for the City and our merchants by increasing foot traffic and tax revenues in our beautiful city.

So as our revitalization movement continues to grow we must still find other grants and funding sources to keep the momentum of revitalizing our city's infrastructure and city services. The council and myself have been discussing each and every option that our community faces with our CFO, Mr. Ed Hay, and weighing against each and every infrastructure need within our city. Although since this administration has taken office we have begun the process of rehabbing our water distribution system by leveraging any and all option available through Federal, State and Local monies available. Thankfully, Senator Bret Allain and State Representative Vinney St. Blanc allocated Capital Outlay funding in the amount of \$2.4 million dollars, however, with that said we are unlikely to receive the full amount of funds needed so we must try other avenues.

A large portion of city budget goes to cover expenses for safety and security of our city for fire and police protection. As you can imagine the costs of a ladder and tanker fire unit or police unit and equipment can be astronomical. Although both units get as much grant funding as possible through their own grant writers the council will look to address this coverage of costs through vote for a percent sales tax for both police and fire Municipalities may utilize increase in property tax or percent of sales tax to build large sports complexes that only serve a small percentage of their community. However, putting a price on safety and security as well as helping to alleviate years of neglected replacement of our City's water distribution lines is something myself and this council feel our community will get behind as we see the need and hear the complaints of our constituents. Again, we don't get millions or billions of dollars in free foreign aid and whatever grant money's we do receive the City must put up at least a 25% match. I, along with the Council, feel this is a must to helping our city address our aging 100 year old water distribution lines by freeing up funds for the Police and Fire Departments through the City budget. Know that what impacts your family also impacts ours.

Councilmembers Garrison, Rack, and expressed gratitude for being able to attend the LMA conference. It offers opportunity for education and networking with other communities.

Councilman Garrison was recognized at the LMA Conference for serving six consecutive terms in office.

Councilwoman Rack, Chairwoman of the Education Committee, expressed interest in calling an Education Committee meeting in the near future.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Mayor Foulcard stated that the May and June 2024 Financial Statements were presented to the council.

Chris Barrilleaux, Recreation Director, gave a report on summer recreation and feeding program.

Chief Cedric Handy discussed the juvenile curfew, school zones, and laws related to motorized bicycles and gulf carts on city streets.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to introduce Ordinance No. 3458 – an ordinance increasing the rate to be assessed as a monthly charge for street light services to all residential customers to six and one half (\$6.50) dollars per month and commercial customers by thirty percent (30%); providing for billing to said residents and customers; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt Ordinance No. 3456 – 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. 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 Ordinance No. 3457 – An Ordinance 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. Second by Councilman Robison 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 expand the agenda to include a Resolution of Respect for Mr. Oray Rogers. Second by Councilman Autin 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 accepting the successful completion of Bayou Yokely Drainage Improvements flood control project under the Statewide Flood Control Program. 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 Autin to adopt a Resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana, to authorize the levy of a sales and use tax therein, making application to the State Bond Commission and

providing for other matters in connection therewith. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Mr. Brennan Black, representing Foley & Judel, LLP, was present to answer any questions pertaining to the sales tax election and the bond issuance.

A motion was made by Councilman Robison to adopt a Resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not to exceed Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000) of Revenue Bonds of the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Mayor Foulcard read aloud the Resolution of Respect for Mr. Oray Rogers.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to approve Change Order No. 3 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, Rack, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to approve Change Order No. 2 for Bayou Yokely Drainage Improvements. 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 upcoming City-Wide Clean Up and Bayou to Main Marketplace.

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

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

Karen LeBlanc
Clerk of the Council

EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR