

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

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

GUESTS:

Efremzimbalist Randle discussed his efforts to bring amateur boxing back to the city.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for items on the agenda):

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the June 18, 2024 Public Hearing, June 18, 2024 Regular Meeting, and July 1, 2024 Special Meeting & Inauguration 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 made brief statements. He asked for prayers for the late Councilman Guilbeaux's family and also for the nation. He welcomed Councilwoman Rack to her first official meeting and thanked her for answering the call.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Mayor Foulcard stated that the May 2024 Financial Statement was not available due to Mr. Ed Hay being on vacation. It will be provided to the council at next month's meeting.

Discussion on the impending water and sewer rate study and review of street light charges was held.

Mayor Foulcard stated that in response to information the City has received from the Louisiana Department of Health, the City has requested a third party evaluation of our water and sewer rates and, also, the rates charged for other services provided by the Utility Department. The Rural Water Association of Louisiana has been contacted to provide those services. The Department of Health has in the past accepted, as appropriate, rate studies done by the Rural Water Association. Mayor Foulcard believes that this is the best way forward for the City to be assured that the appropriate funding is available for the maintenance and improvement of its water and sewer system.

Mayor Foulcard also mentioned that the street light charge from Cleco has risen by 30% over the last two years from \$176,000 per year to \$233,000 per year. This cost has not been passed on to citizens as necessitated by good fiscal policy. He stated that the state requires the City to act fiscally responsible and pass that cost on to our citizens. That said, the charge for street lighting will have to be increased by \$1.50 or 30% for each unit.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to introduce 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.

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to introduce 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.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

City Clerk Karen LeBlanc requested that the council take no action on Ordinance No. 3455. She stated that the Revenue Anticipation Note had some terms and conditions that did not meet the

needs of the City. A new ordinance may be presented for introduction at the next meeting for an improvement bond.

No action taken on Ordinance No. 3455.

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Resolution authorizing Mayor Eugene P. Foulcard, on behalf of the city and council, to sign various Cooperative Endeavor Agreements with the State Department of the Treasury. Second by Councilman Levine and carried. Roll call is as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS

The clerk read aloud the following Announcement of Public Meeting:

Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at its regular meeting place, the City Hall, 300 Iberia Street, Franklin, Louisiana, the Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana, plan to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana to authorize the levy of a sales and use tax therein.

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to approve the application for Beer License for The Fairfax House, LLC, 99 Main Street. 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 Councilwoman Rack to approve the Re-appointment of Edward Delone to the Civil Service Board as Governing Authority Board Member for a three year term.

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 Garrison to approve the appointment of Granderson Hamilton to the Historic District Commission. Second by Councilwoman Rack 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 the appointment of Granderson Hamilton to the Zoning Board of Adjustments as an alternate member. Second by Councilman Autin 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 Back to School Community Fair.

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

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

Karen LeBlanc
Clerk of the Council

EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR