

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, October 15, 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, 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:

Terri Bolden spoke on the electrical service connection process and code enforcement. Ms. Bolden expressed frustration with getting her power re-connected after a neighbor's tree fell on her electrical service and did minor damage outside business hours. Her concern was mainly the expense of the required upgrade to meet current code requirements and the four days of not having power. She expressed worry for those that cannot afford such upgrades.

Michael Paradelas, Deputy Building Official, South Central Planning and Development Commission, discussed code enforcement and the service they provide to the city of Franklin. He stated that they do plan reviews for construction, conduct inspections, and enforcement of codes adopted by the State of Louisiana. All inspectors are multi-discipline certified. He stated that there are emergency policies in place to have utilities re-connected. When repairing, replacing, or upgrading service equipment you have to meet code requirements.

Mayor Foulcard expressed the importance of safeguarding and protecting residents and property through code enforcement. He stated that the process for emergency power re-connection has been reviewed for future similar situations.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for items on the agenda):

Dale "Sonny" Iverson asked about the status of the boil order that has been in place since August.

Mayor Foulcard stated that he would discuss this under his executive report and departmental reports. He mentioned that no bacteria have been found in the water. He has a telephone call scheduled with LDH Secretary Michael Harrington the next morning and will ask why the boil advisory is still in effect.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the September 17, 2024 Education Committee 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.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rack to accept the September 17, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Garrison 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 his report. He read aloud the following statement:

The Louisiana Department of Health advised us on August 19 to issue a Boil Notice for deviations in our turbidity from January 1, 2024 through July 18, 2024. Notice immediately was sent to the public via the St. Mary Parish Red Alert One Call system, Social Media, traditional media and direct mail together with our previously imposed Boil Notice. Per that release it was stated, "This boil notice is to remain in effect until rescinded by the Franklin Water System after Louisiana Department of Health clearance." With installation of

computerized turbidity monitors on August 26, the Franklin Water System has now been monitoring turbidity (every 15 minutes) 24 hours per day.

On Monday, August 26, I met with consultants with Thornton, Musso & Bellemin as well as Miller Engineering to finalize the planning and engineering specifications for the \$2.3 million Capital Outlay funding from Senator Allain and State Representative St. Blanc to begin water plant and water distribution upgrades.

September 3, 2024, the Louisiana Department of Health visited the Franklin Water System to monitor equipment installed to better our system monitoring of the turbidity of water. From August 19 through today's date myself along with Mr. Bernard Daniels has been in constant contact with the Louisiana Department of Health by sending daily turbidity reports fulfilling and satisfying each and every written request from LDH within five days as required from August 19.

I have had constant contact with our Senator and State Representative on this matter as the five day deadline was met by the Franklin Water System.

On September 27 LDH reported from testing throughout many addresses in Franklin that results from the 9 address tested negative. However although testing negative, we remained under the boil order.

On October 9 LDH reported from testing throughout nine addresses in Franklin those results from the nine address tested negative yet again. However, although testing negative, we once again remain under the boil notice.

Unfortunately after in person visits and the City of Franklin having satisfied turbidity parameters as requested by LDH we continue to wait on the Louisiana Department of Health to rescind the Boil Notice.

He expressed that he hopes to leave the city better than he found it. He asked for God to bless the city and asked for prayers as we work to get this situation rectified.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Mayor Foulcard stated that the August 2024 Financial Statements were presented to the council.

Bernard Daniels, Utilities Director, discussed the current status of the boil advisory and water treatment system. He reiterated Mayor Foulcard's statements.

Fire Chief Chuck Bourgeois to discuss the 1% sales tax proposition to be used for the purpose of providing funds for operating and maintaining the police department and the fire department of the City. Chief Bourgeois expressed the importance of having up-to-date and adequate equipment for firefighters. He discussed the effect of not having adequate equipment and water flow has on insurance rates within the city. Discussion was held on the cost of equipment and fire trucks and manning Station No. 2. He asked the voters to support the proposition.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to introduce Ordinance No. 3460 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Franklin, Louisiana to amend Section 82-27 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Franklin.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt Ordinance No. 3459 – an Ordinance providing for the incurring of debt and issuance of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000) of Revenue Bonds, Series 2024, of the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

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

NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

[Ordinance No. 3459 was inadvertently adopted by council without the interest rate; therefore, it cannot be enacted. Ordinance will be re-introduced as a new ordinance at a later date.]

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a Resolution for City of Franklin Capital Outlay request for certification for non-state funding. 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 Levine to adopt a Resolution lifting the open alcohol container law at Caffery Park for the Centerville High School Football Co-ed Softball Tournament to be held on November 2 – 3, 2024. No glass containers. 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 Robison to adopt a Resolution granting all establishments selling beverages of low and high alcoholic content at retail and wholesale permission to renew their City of Franklin liquor license for the year 2025. 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 adopt a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with La DOTD for a grant under 49 CFR 5311, Formula Grant for Rural Areas. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Levine, Rack, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to authorize Mayor Eugene Foulcard to settle the claim of Tamikia Babineaux not to exceed \$1,824.47. Second by Councilman Levine 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, Harvest Moon Festival, and Boo on the Bayou.

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

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

Karen LeBlanc
Clerk of the Council

EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR