

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, November 19, 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 Levine led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUESTS:

Kristin Holcombe, Kolder, Slaven, & Company, LLC presented the FY 2023-2024 Audit Report. She reviewed a summary of the audit results. An unmodified opinion was issued on all units except for City Court and Marshall's Office. The financials of these entities can be obtained from them directly. A single audit was conducted as required and the schedules were fairly stated in relation to the financial statements overall; an unmodified opinion was issued on the single audit. Ms. Holcombe also discussed the evaluation of the city's internal controls but an opinion is not issued.

Ms. Holcombe referred to the schedule of findings. There were several findings reported under the financial audit related to financial statement adjustments, timeliness of vendor payments, two related to the Louisiana Governmental Budget Act, one related to the Open Meetings Law, and two related to non-compliance with debt agreements. Three of the seven were reiterated from the prior year. Management has properly responded and created an action plan to address these in the future.

Ms. Holcombe reviewed the summary of financial information. She stated that reserves are being depleted and recommended cutting expenses and increasing fees.

Joseph McDaniel to promote the 8th Annual Christmas Bike and Toys Giveaway and asked the public to support the event with donations.

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

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to accept the October 15, 2024 Public Hearing, October 15, 2024 Regular Meeting, and October 29, 2024 Special Meeting minutes.

Second by Councilman Levine 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 thanked everyone for their continued patience as we continue to do everything humanly possible to have the boil notice lifted. He mentioned that he had a meeting at the State Capital with Sen. Allain, Rep. St. Blanc, Parish President Sam Jones and the delegation from the Department of Health and Hospitals and Governor Landry's Office to discuss the issues with our plant. We have a 60-year-old plant and +100 year old water lines. He stated that he is thankful Sen. Allain and Rep. St. Blanc have worked on securing \$2.4 million in Capital Outlay Funding. Miller Engineers is currently working on plans and specs for the plant.

Mayor Foulcard thanked the Franklin Merchants Association and all the volunteers that made the Harvest Moon Festival a great success. I ask the community to continue to support the efforts of these merchants as they create many free events and opportunities for everyone in our community. Remember to Shop Local First, Eat Local First, Play Local First, Fuel Local First to not only support the merchants but ultimately help to increase tax revenues that the city needs to cover the 25% match on infrastructure improvements...such as the water plant, Cayce Street Rehabilitation, upgrading HVACs at both Community Centers and so forth.

He invited the community to join us for upcoming activities for the Christmas holidays. Events were listed. He mentioned that the city will not be conducting the New Year's Eve celebration this year due to declining numbers of attendance and budgetary concerns.

Mayor Foulcard publicly expressed his strong support for the Franklin Fire Department & Franklin Police Department and the proposed 1% sales tax for Public Safety on the ballots for December 7. He stated that these critical funds will be dedicated solely to operating and maintaining these essential departments. The revenue generated in this Public Safety proposal will support competitive salary increases, benefits, and ongoing training for all personnel, as well as provide life-saving equipment, advanced personal protective gear, public camera systems, and state-of-the-art technology for both fire and police services. It will also ensure the timely replacement of vehicles and equipment when needed. He asked everyone to go out and vote "yes" in support of the Franklin Fire Department and Franklin Police Department.

#### DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

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

#### ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt 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. 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 Ordinance No. 3461 – An Ordinance amending and restating Ordinance No. 3459 adopted on October 15, 2024, by the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana, 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 Garrison 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 two resolutions authorizing the opening of checking accounts at First National Bank of Jeanerette for the Revenue Bond Sinking Fund and State Grant Fund. Second by Councilman Garrison 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 authorizing the opening of a checking account at First National Bank of Jeanerette for City of Franklin Revenue Bond Sinking Fund. 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 Robison to adopt a resolution authorizing the opening of a checking account at First National Bank of Jeanerette for City of Franklin State Grant Fund. 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 Councilwoman Rack to adopt a Resolution designating the day and time of the Regular Council Meetings of the City of Franklin 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 Councilwoman Rack to adopt a Resolution authorizing Eugene P. Foulcard, Mayor of the City of Franklin, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Louisiana, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness for the Authorization of Public Assistance Funding. 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 Autin to adopt a Resolution authorizing Mayor Eugene P. Foulcard to make a grant application in the amount of \$50,000 to the Office of Community Development's Local Government Assistance Program Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and authorizing Mayor Foulcard to enter into contract with OCD should said grant be awarded. 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 Levine to adopt a Resolution authorizing Mayor Eugene P. Foulcard to make a grant application in the amount of \$50,000 to the Office of Community Development's Community Water Enrichment Fund Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and authorizing Mayor Foulcard to enter into contract with OCD should said grant be awarded. Second by Councilman Robison 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 approve Change Order No. 4 for HVAC System Upgrades at McKerral-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 Levine to approve the Substantial Completion for HVAC System Upgrades at McKerral-O'Niell & Broussard-Harris Community Centers. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ed "Tiger" Verdin announced the upcoming Christmas Under the Lampposts Gulf Cart Parade, Bayou to Main Marketplace, City-Wide Clean Up, Food Net Food Drive, Mingle and Jingle, Christmas Concert Series, Silver Screen Classics, and Magician Steve Holt performing at the Teche Theatre.

Mayor Foulcard asked the public to support police and fire by voting for the public safety tax proposition on the December 7, 2024 ballot.

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