

The Mayor and Council of the City of Franklin met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 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, Jaime Robison, and City Clerk Karen LeBlanc. Absent were Councilman Lester Levine and City Attorney Russel J. Cremaldi.

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

GUESTS:

Mrs. Carla B. Pellerin announced her candidacy for St. Mary Parish School Board District 7 and asked for voter support.

PUBLIC COMMENT (for items on the agenda):

Mrs. Dianne Wiltz asked the council to support the resolution lifting the open alcohol container law for Dinner Under the Lamp Posts hosted by the Main Street Merchants. She also promoted the event.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rack to accept the January 28, 2025 Special Meeting minutes. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Rack, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Levine

MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Mayor Foulcard read aloud his budget message for the amended and proposed budgets in lieu of his usual report.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

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

In Chief Cedric Handy's absence Lt. Gabriel Louis addressed the Mardi Gras parade. He stated that the parade is a family friendly event and stated that the Police Department will have a presence throughout the route. He reminded the public that it is illegal to conceal or carry a handgun at a parade. City codes related to disturbing the peace and holding unlawful assemblies were discussed. It was expressed that block parties will not be tolerated. Discussion held.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to introduce Ordinance No. 3463 – An Ordinance amending the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year beginning May First (1st), 2024 and ending April Thirtieth (30th), 2025.

A motion was made by Councilman Robison to introduce Ordinance No. 3464 – An Ordinance amending the Capital Outlay Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year beginning May First (1st), 2024 and ending April Thirtieth (30th), 2025.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rack to introduce Ordinance No. 3465 – An Ordinance adopting the Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year beginning May First (1st), 2025 and ending April Thirtieth (30th), 2026.

A motion was made by Councilman Autin to introduce Ordinance No. 3466 – An Ordinance adopting the Capital Outlay Budget for the Fiscal Years beginning May First (1st), 2025 and ending April Thirtieth (30th), 2030.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt Ordinance No. 3462 – An ordinance providing for the levy within the City of Franklin, State of Louisiana, effective April 1, 2025, of a 1% sales and use tax (the "Tax") upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption, and the storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and upon the sale of services in said City and for the assessment, collection, payment thereof and the dedication of the proceeds of said Tax and the purpose for which the proceeds of the Tax may be expended, said Tax having been authorized at a special election held in the City on December 7, 2024. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Rack, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Levine

RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a resolution lifting the open container law along the parade route from one hour before the Mardi Gras Parade until one hour after the Mardi Gras Parade on Mardi Gras Day, March 4, 2025. No glass containers. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Rack, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Levine

A motion was made by Councilman Robison to adopt a resolution lifting the open alcohol container law on Main Street for Dinner Under the Lampposts to be held on April 5, 2025. No glass containers. Second by Councilman Garrison and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Rack, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Levine

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a resolution lifting the open alcohol container law at Caffery Park for the Centerville Booster Club Softball Tournament to be held on March 14 and 15, 2025. No glass containers. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Rack, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Levine

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a resolution authorizing municipal purchases through the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC). Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Rack, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Levine

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rack to adopt a resolution adopting a Citizen Participation Plan relative to the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Rack, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Levine

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a resolution for the adoption of a Grievance Procedure for Section 504 Accessibility relative to the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program. Second by Councilman Autin and carried. Roll call is as follows:
YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Rack, and Robison
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: Councilman Levine

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rack to adopt a resolution for the adoption of a Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan relative to the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Rack, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Levine

A motion was made by Councilman Garrison to adopt a resolution adopting a Language Access Plan relative to the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program. Second by Councilman Robison and carried. Roll call is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Autin, Garrison, Rack, and Robison

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Levine

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Foulcard and Councilmembers congratulated Councilwoman Rack on being unopposed in the Special Election to fill the remainder of the Council District C seat term.

Councilwoman Rack thanked her constituents for their vote of confidence.

Mayor Foulcard made announcements for upcoming events including the Mardi Gras Parade, City-Wide Clean Up, Dinner Under the Lamp Post.

Ed "Tiger" Verdin announced the upcoming Bayou to Main Marketplace events for 2025.

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

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

Karen LeBlanc
Clerk of the Council

EUGENE P. FOULCARD, MAYOR