

**City of Franklin Common Council**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**March 3, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Franklin, Indiana was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 70 E. Monroe Street, with Mayor Steve Barnett presiding. Council members Kenneth Austin, Todd Shuck, Irene Nalley, Jennifer Price, Josh Prine and Shawn Taylor answered roll call. Clerk-Treasurer Jan Jones and City Attorney Lynnette Gray were also present. Anne McGuinness was absent.

Mayor's Youth Leadership Council Members Ella McGuinness, Noah Woods, Taylor Trueblood, Kalli Cadwell, Addie Jefry, Ben Worland, Lizzi Worland, and Taylor McHenry were also present.

Mayor Barnett opened the meeting and asked the Clerk-Treasurer to call the roll.

Bryan Ries offered an invocation and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Announcements & Public Comments**

There were no Announcements or Public Comments.

**Consent Agenda**

Mayor Barnett presented the consent agenda for approval.

- Approval of the February 19, 2025 Common Council Minutes

Council President Austin made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Councilor Price. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

**Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

**New Business**

Council President Austin made a motion to read New Business by title only, seconded by Councilor Nalley. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

- **Introduction of Ordinance 2025-02: An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Ordinance No. 2013-04: Sale and Use of Fireworks** - City Attorney Lynn Gray stated last year Councilor Nalley brought concerns with Ordinance 2013-04 before the Council. Ms. Gray met with Senior Planner Joanna Tennell to look at our current ordinance and see to what extent local entities can regulate fireworks and enforce those regulations. Ms. Tennell said a committee comprised of herself, Councilor Nalley, the Fire Dept., and the Police Dept., which included the Evidence Technician, worked to update this ordinance.

Ms. Tennell stated that instead of amending our existing regulations, it was easier and more concise for an ordinance to repeal and replace. The new ordinance aligns with State Code and has clearly defined language. These include, but are not limited to:

- All fireworks permitting goes through the State and both State and Municipal Codes must be met
- Users being 18+ years of age or if under 18 years old use under supervision
- Hours of use as permitted by State code
- Special discharge permit requires proof of insurance approved by the Board of Works
- Approval is granted on private property of the person, private property of another person who has given permission, or at a special discharge location (which requires a permit obtained at the State level)
- Fireworks may not be discharged on school, church, City property, or in a Public Right-of-Way without express written permission (including the name of the person obtaining permission, the address, and dates)
- Officers can request to see the written consent; if not provided, that would be a violation and a citation issued at the officer’s discretion
- The Officer has the discretion on whether they issue a municipal code violation or a violation of Indiana Code. Violation of Indiana Code can range from a Class C infraction to a Level 6 felony, violation of Municipal Code is tiered per offense, 1<sup>st</sup> - \$50.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$100.00, and each following offense is \$500.00

Ordinance 2025-02 repealing and replacing Ordinance 2013-04 will be open for Public Hearing at the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Insurance Presentations** - Franklin Insurance & Gibson Insurance - Mayor Barnett opened the floor for twenty-minute presentations from both parties. David Wheatley (Property/Casualty), Anthony Gregory (Employee Benefits), and John Seltzer (Commercial Insurance/Managing Advisor) presented on behalf of Gibson Insurance. John Auld and Andy Brown presented on behalf of Franklin Insurance. Discussion ensued, and City Council Members had the opportunity to ask both parties questions. The floor was closed. Council President Austin made a motion to approve Gibson Insurance as the City of Franklin’s new provider, seconded by Councilor Shuck.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor President Ken Austin	Yes
Councilor Todd Shuck	Yes
Councilor Irene Nalley	Yes
Councilor Jennifer Price	No
Councilor Josh Prince	Yes
Councilor Shawn Taylor	No
Councilor Anne McGuinness	Absent

The motion passed 4 Yes to 2 No.

Resident Lester Zimmer questioned why the number of votes is not the same as the number of people on the bench. Ms. Gray explained that seven members are on the Council, but one was

absent this evening. As a Council of seven, only four members are needed for a quorum, and once there is a quorum, all that is needed is a majority vote.

**Other Business**

There was no Other Business.

**Council Comments**

Mayor's Youth Leadership Council Member Ella McGuinness had the following members introduce themselves: Kalli Cadwell, Noah Wood, Taylor Trueblood, Anna Brumley, Ben Worland, Addie Jefry, Lizzi Worland, Taylor McHenry. Last week's meeting was canceled, but they are waiting on the weather to install the lighting. Elections for next year are coming up.

Councilor Shuck shared his outstanding experience at Iozzo's.

Councilor Taylor stated that despite his vote against the Gibson group, he appreciates their efforts and looks forward to all the hard work they will put into the City to help us save money.

Council President Austin stated tonight's vote was not personal as he does business with Mr. Auld and Mr. Brown. It was purely a business decision to save the City money and represent the constituents who elected him.

City Attorney Lynn Gray thanked Clerk Treasurer Jones for all her work and commended Mayor Barnett for making this conversation public and taking the Council's consideration in this decision. Ms. Gray commended everyone for making tough calls.

**Adjournment**

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer  
Enrolled: 03/06/25

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Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

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Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer