

City of Franklin Common Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 17, 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, Anne McGuinness, Irene Nalley, Jennifer Price, Josh Prine, and Shawn Taylor answered roll call. Clerk-Treasurer Jan Jones, and City Attorney Lynnette Gray 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 March 3, 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

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

Approval of Ordinance 2025-02: An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Ordinance No. 2013-04: Sale and Use of Fireworks – Joanna Tennell stated this was introduced on March 3rd and tonight is the Public Hearing. Ms. Tennell briefly reviewed what was presented at the last meeting. Mayor Barnett opened the floor for Public Hearing, and as there were no comments, Mayor Barnett closed the floor. Councilor Price asked for clarification on who determines whether it is a violation of City Code or State Law. Ms. Tennell said the Police Officer will determine that. Attorney Gray provided additional information. Police Chief Kirby Cochran stated that generally, fireworks are not confiscated, but they are seeing larger, illegal fireworks and those can be. Councilor McGuinness made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-02, seconded by Councilor Taylor. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

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 25-03 Authorizing the Issuance of Sewage Works Revenue Bonds - City Attorney Lynn Gray, Bond Counsel from Barnes & Thornberg Rick Hall, and Financial Advisor Jeff Peters presented information regarding the process and procedures moving forward. Mr. Hall stated this resolution recommends to the City Council to issue bonds up to \$47,000,000.00, with the proceeds being used to pay for the projects listed in the resolution (available on online agenda). The bond sales would not take place until September. Council President Austin asked if we knew what the current bond rate was. Mr. Peters provided information about current and future rates, project timelines, and financial projections and options. Ms. Gray stated the City will not need to raise rates, as discussed at tonight’s Board of Works meeting, and that the Sewer Billing Office is included in the project list. Mayor Barnett noted that even with recent increase in sewer rates, Franklin is still one of the lowest in Johnson County and other comparable cities. This will be voted on at the next meeting on April 7th.

Request approval of Council Budgetary Resolution 25-01 for City's matching portion of Community Crossings Grant 2024 Part 2 - Mayor Barnett stated \$609,482.95 is the amount that will be moved. Councilor Price made a motion to approve Council Budgetary Resolution 25-01, seconded by Councilor Prine. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Introduction of Budgetary Ordinance 25-03 for permission to spend State's portion of Community Crossings Grant 2024 Part 2 - Mayor Barnett shared that the State has already given us their part, \$609,482.95, and this is asking for permission to spend. This will go for Public Hearing and vote at the next meeting on April 7th. Mayor Barnett asked for clarification on permissions needed for spending our part of the funds after approval. Clerk Treasurer Jones said she would check on this.

Yearly Tax Abatement Compliance Reports for Approval - Community Development Specialist Dana Monson stated it is time to submit CF1 Tax Abatement Compliance Forms; we have 55 abatements that will be reviewed, and 32 that have been reviewed by the Economic Development Commission presented tonight. Councilor Taylor, representative for the Council, stated these were positive, on track, and unanimously approved. Council President Austin noted that a few businesses were being removed from the books. Ms. Monson shared that many of the companies who struggled during COVID are making a comeback and moving forward. read the following for the record:

- C 2025-01: Aisin 21-10
- C 2025-02: B2S Life Sciences 20-25
- C 2025-03: BP Rex 19-04
- C 2025-04: Cat Reman 10-15
- C 2025-08: Dualtech 23-11
- C 2025-12: Franklin Tech Park 21-09
- C 2025-17: Innovative 3D 21-17
- C 2025-18: Innovative 3D 24-11
- C 2025-20: LA Crossroads 20-04
- C 2025-21: Laugle Properties 23-10

- C 2025-22: Malarkey Roofing 24-01
- C 2025-24: MTEA 23-07
- C 2025-26: MHICC 13-06
- C 2025-39: Overton Industries 16-21
- C 2025-41: Patch Development 17-10
- C 2025-44: Pure Development 21-28
- C 2025-46: Rapid Prototyping 18-01
- C 2025-48: RP & E 24-05
- C 2025-50: Shelby Gravel 20-17
- C 2025-52: Sunbeam 17-15
- C 2025-54: Sunbeam 19-07

- C 2025-23: Malarkey Roofing 24-02
- C 2025-25: MTEA 23-30
- C 2025-27: MHICC 13-29
- C 2025-40: Overton Industries 22-01
- C 2025-42: Patch Development 21-11
- C 2025-45: Rapid Prototyping 19-10
- C 2025-47: WK Investments 23-19
- C 2025-49: Airtomic 18-11
- C 2025-51: Shelby Gravel 20-18
- C 2025-53: Sunbeam 20-10
- C 2025-55: Sunbeam 23-05

Councilor McGuinness made a motion to approve the Yearly Tax Abatement Compliance Reports, seconded by Councilor Taylor. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

ERA Declaratory Request for Airtomic - Community Development Specialist Dana Monson presented that Airtomic (also known as Sergeant Aerospace), a billion-dollar company that repairs airplane engines and has been in Franklin for over 15 years, is seeking approval for the expansion of its current facility. Over the years, they have relocated from a 9,000 sq. ft. building to a 30,000 sq. ft. building, employing 60 people and planning to add 40 more. Their current property in The Franklin Business Park is not in an ERA. The EDC had the opportunity to tour Airtomic’s facility. The EDC recommended approval of the Resolution for the Declaratory for the Economic Revitalization Area. Ms. Monson requested the Council’s approval of the resolution and permission to publicize April 21st as the date for the public hearing regarding the confirmatory. Councilor McGuinness made a motion to approve the ERA Declaratory Request and request for Public Hearing on April 21st as presented, seconded by Council President Austin. A voice vote was taken with all members stating aye. The motion carried.

Other Business

Mayor Barnett handed information to Council Members regarding Community Crossings Grants and the upcoming paving schedule.

Council Comments

Councilor Josh Prine thanked retiring City Engineer Mark Richards and extended his best wishes.

Councilor Anne McGuinness thanked Mark Richards and wished him a well-deserved retirement.

Council President Ken Austin wished Mark Richards well and complimented him on all he’s accomplished.

Councilor Shawn Taylor thanked Mark Richards, saying he appreciated all his hard work throughout the City.

Councilor Todd Shuck stated Mark Richards was outstanding to work with and wished he had more years to work together.

Councilor Irene Nalley wished Mark Richards the best of luck and hoped he enjoys time with his granddaughter.

Councilor Jennifer Price said she echoed everyone’s sentiments and wished he and Gail well.

Mayor’s Youth Leadership Council Member Maddie McCullough introduced fellow members. Miss McCullough updated everyone on plans for a chili supper. They are also collaborating on a presentation with Franklin College for Camp Griz and working with Crissy Robertson from the City’s Public Art Advisory Commission to create art on the new generator outside City Hall. With the weather being better, the lights for pickleball court should be up within the next few weeks. Mayor Barnett suggested that the FMYLC talk to Councilor Prine regarding a potential project with the Elk’s Club.

Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Common Council, a motion and a second were made to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer
Enrolled: 03/20/25

Steve Barnett, Mayor

Attest:

Jan Jones, Clerk-Treasurer