

Village of Franklin
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes

July 6 , 2021

7:00 pm

Mayor Paul Turpin called the regular monthly meeting of the Village of Franklin Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, July 6, 2021 in the town hall. Trustees present in Village Hall were Abby Flynn, Wyatt Smith, Lauren Anders, Sarah Carter, and Amanda Ahlers.

Guest, GoPaul and Everett from Franklin AM/PM and Gerald from Excel Entertainment were in attendance. GoPaul and Everett were present to propose the Village of Franklin change their ordinance to allow for a second business to have a pour license and gaming. Gerald does not believe their business would compete with the current location for gaming in town. Excel Entertainment has the Green Wall as a client and would not want to affect their revenue. Excel Entertainment has worked with GoPaul and Everett for years at their other locations and believe highly in their business ethics, speaking with confidence they'll do a good job with the operation. Mayor Turpin said it'll be added to the agenda for the August meeting for the board to discuss.

Treasurer Susan Smith presented the Treasurer's Report for June. Wyatt Smith made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report for June. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Anders-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, and Amanda Ahlers-yes. The motion was carried. Abby Flynn made a motion to accept the Bills Paid and to be Paid for June. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Anders-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried.

Clerk Ashley Turpin presented the trustees with minutes from June. Wyatt Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from June. Lauren Anders seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Lauren Anders-yes, Sarah Carter-present, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried.

Andy Fairless presented his utility supervisor report. He recently spoke with Slabjackers and they will be in Franklin on September 9, 2021 at 9 am to begin work. On July 12, the office will be closed due to all three employees attending a court case. Andy is scheduling a meeting with Ameren engineers to show them our gas system for a proposal. Vanderverter is coming soon to perform their yearly service contract. Bodine Electric is also coming to fix the generator attached Lift Station 2. While disconnecting gas service at a residents, an unknown, abandoned tap was hit. Half of the town lost gas service for about an hour. Nick Speaks and Andy then spent the next 4 hours relighting customers and received 9 call outs on Saturday. Ameren is still bringing in the poles for the park cameras and then Jess Electric will install the poles. The bid proposal from Jess Electric came in around \$10,000 for the basketball court lights. The amount

will have to be paid upfront, but Ameren will reimburse approximately half of the cost. All of the GFI's at the park were replaced by July 4th. Andy also mentioned every five years we submit an operating permit renewal for the waste water facilities and irrigation. We've had Benton & Associates do it in the past. However, this time Andy filled it all out and will send it in to help save costs. He is also working on borrowing equipment to work on Lake Drive. The heavy trash pick-up went well and a lot of people were thankful for it. The only complaint Andy received was regarding the fact that the Village does not take appliances. Altogether the Village used 3 dumpsters. Lastly Andy discussed the need for a new service truck. Mayor Turpin said they did not end up applying for the grant because they wanted to save the possibility of receiving grant money for infrastructure needs. Andy presented a quote from Morrow Brothers Ford. The soonest he could receive a truck would be October. The current quote is \$64,470.00.

Buildings, Roads, and Drainage – Amanda Ahlers said she's received some complaints from residents about the semi's parking around the park. Mayor Turpin said that is the truck route and about the only spot for them to park. As long as they are not leaving it for days on end, it's not too much of a concern. Mayor Turpin also said he received a phone call during the July 4th Celebration that the storm sewer drain was flooding. He and Andy found water flowing out of the drain and thought it was a broken water main until they realized the fire hydrant was being used for a slip-n-slide event. Mayor Turpin spoke with Tami Thompson from the July 4th Committee and asked that next time they reach out to the Village prior to using water like that. The Village usually donates the water and electricity, but like to monitor the water usage with a meter.

Finance/Payroll – There is nothing new to report from this committee.

Insurance - There is nothing new to report from this committee.

Personnel - Amanda Ahlers received call that the park was not in good shape for the July 4th Celebration. There were complaints that it was full of sticks and non-village employees were weed-eating. Mayor Turpin said Andy was on vacation and it did rain all week leading up to the event. Sarah Carter suggested maybe in the future a Boy Scout Troop may be interested in coming in to clean it up prior to the event. Wyatt Smith also received complaints about the ditch near the railroad. He knows that does not belong to the Village, but said it is always full of trash. Lauren Anders said the same for the basketball court at the park. There are constantly pieces of shattered glass and trash lining the court and the road.

Utility Reconnect - There is nothing new to report from this committee.

Utilities – Mayor Turpin asked the trustees to send dates they are available for a special meeting with Liberty to discuss the gas business and review their proposal to purchase the system. Ameren is going to meet with Andy and provide us a proposal in the future. Both meetings will be open to the public so residents can attend and provide feedback. The proposal will be discussed in closed session per the agreement with Liberty. Mayor Turpin also provided a spreadsheet for the trustees to review profits and losses the gas business has experienced in the last several years. Some years the profit is great, others the business ends up losing money. Overall, it is usually profitable. Wyatt Smith changed the subject and asked why folks on the

water line coming into Franklin, but not residents of the Village, receive a water charge if they do not use the water out of the water tower in Franklin. Mayor Turpin explained that it's all part of our system. Wyatt also said he would like to encourage all of the trustees to discuss the possibility of selling our gas business with residents to get their opinions and encourage them to come to the meeting. They can also email their thoughts to the Village email address.

The property on West Street is going to trial for Property Legal Action.

The Panhandle Municipal Defense case is still on-going.

There are no quotes for the maintenance building at this time.

Andy reported the Heavy Trash Pick-Up results.

There are no updates for the new Village webpage.

Lauren Anders made a motion to purchase 1,000 credits at \$90 for the Text-em-All mass communication service for the Village. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Sarah Carter-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Lauren Anders-yes. The motion was carried.

Andy Fairless provided updates on Slabjackers for the sidewalks and moving and installing cameras in the park with Jess Electric, during his report.

Wyatt Smith brought his concerns back to the table regarding the Abandoned Vehicles ordinance. He spoke with a trustee from Jacksonville and they said they do not look for vehicles to be effected by the ordinance. What they do is if they receive a complaint, they follow through with the ordinance and send out a letter. Wyatt would like to take more of that approach. Mayor Turpin said it was up to the board. The reason this ordinance began being enforced more three years ago, was due to the board wanting to really clean up the Village and make it more aesthetically pleasing and welcoming to people. Wyatt said there are two on the list that were brought to the board as complaints and he does not have an issue with enforcing those. All trustees agree to take that approach.

Mayor Turpin added a discussion in regarding ordinances and vehicles. He recently received a complaint regarding side-by-sides and golf carts. When the Village passed the ordinance for off-road vehicles to drive on the Village streets, it was in the ordinance they must have current insurance, a Village permit, and the drivers must be 16 years or older with a license. Mayor Turpin received a call stating during the July 4th Celebration, half of the off-road vehicles do not have valid stickers from the Village and half of them are being driven by kids under the age of 16. He told the trustees that he feels we either need to crack down and enforce all of it 100% or get rid of the ordinance which would no longer allow those vehicles on the Village streets. The Village would then notify Morgan County Sheriff's Office to let them know the ordinance was no longer in effect and anyone driving them could be ticketed. Mayor Turpin receives regular phone calls, Facebook notifications and complaints regarding the ordinance on almost a weekly basis. Mayor Turpin is asking for the trustees to come to a resolution on how to deal with the situation. Lauren Anders likes the idea of sending a letter to the entire community by mail. In the letter the Village would explain what each off-road vehicle

needs and that the driver must be 16 years of age or older with a license. The letter will include what happens if the ordinance is violated. If the Village residents do not comply, the ordinance will be removed. Wyatt Smith agreed. He stated the Village does not make money on this ordinance. It was passed to help residents and at this point it's cost the Village more in attorney fees and court costs, not to mention a lot of extra time from Andy and Mayor Turpin.

Mayor Turpin said the company the board agreed to purchase the park benches from could not get them here in time for the July 4th Celebration. Abby Flynn made a motion to purchase the Global Industrial 6ft park benches in tan, 2 of those, plus 2 anchoring kits, which will not exceed \$1,400.00. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Anders-yes, and Sarah Carter-yes. The motion was carried.

Andy reported the bid from Jess Electric for the park basketball court lights. Lauren Anders made a motion to approve the park electric bid for \$10,621.00 with Jess Electric. Wyatt Smith seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Anders-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, and Amanda Ahlers-yes. The motion was carried.

The board discussed purchasing a new service truck. The trustees agree to push the purchase off for a while with the market the way it is currently. They would like to see a bid with the basics and not just what the grant requires to see if it would save anything.

Mayor Turpin received an email from Nicole Fromme stating she was resigning from the board as trustee due to moving out of the Village limits. Wyatt Smith made a motion to accept Nicole Fromme's resignation with regrets. Lauren Anders seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Anders-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried.

Mayor Turpin put forth Vickie Adkins as a new Village trustee. Wyatt Smith made a motion to appoint Vickie Adkins as new Village trustee. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Anders-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried.

Abby Flynn made a motion to accept the Interstate Municipal Gas Association Ordinance. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Lauren Anders-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried.

The board discussed the current status of the gas loan. The Village has currently collected around \$160,000.00. The original plan was to wait to make the first payment towards the loan until August 1, 2021. September is when gas prices will start to rise again. So far, no illegal action has been found in the high price increase from February. The board discussed waiting until September 1, 2021 in hopes more would pay their bill. Amanda Ahlers made a motion to start the process of paying a portion of the gas loan on September 1, 2021. Abby Flynn seconded the motion. The voting as follows: Sarah Carter-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Lauren Anders-yes. The motion was carried.

In addition, Mayor Turpin said we received an estimate cost for the plan to abandon the connection with Waverly. This is something that needs to be done because the state plans on doing work to 104. Our water line is in their way and must be moved since it is a state easement. The current quote is \$402,000.00. Abby Flynn asked what the status of our grant loan is. We paid \$5,000.00 to apply for the grant, but with no guarantee the Village would receive the grant money. Mayor Turpin said the Village has not heard or received anything in regards to the loan, partially due to COVID postponing a lot. The estimated cost to complete the project is \$1.5 million.

Mayor Turpin added one more discussion, asking the trustees to consider if they would want to start putting money aside in case another high price increase happens again for gas like it did in February 2021. FERC is still investigating the supplier to see if anything illegal was done, but the price increase was already cleared as legal.

Wyatt Smith made a motion to adjourn. Lauren Anders seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Anders-yes, and Sarah Carter-yes. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.