

COMMON COUNCIL  
December 11, 2023

The Common Council met in a regular meeting on December 11, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers, 301 East Clinton Street, Frankfort, Indiana.

Mayor Judy Sheets called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Mayor Judy Sheets, John Large, Brandt Fuller, Joe Palmer, Megan Sheets, Clarence Warthan, and Eric Woods. Steve Beardsley was absent. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Carol Bartley and City Attorney Alicia Albertson.

MINUTES:

The minutes for the November 13, 2023, regular meeting were presented. Councilmember Sheets made a motion to pass the minutes from the November 13, 2023 meeting, seconded by Councilmember Warthan. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ed Rodriguez of 11746 Lawndale, Plymouth Indiana addressed the council and asked them to consider a resolution in support of senate bill 248. As the bill will not be presented to the senate until 2024, Mr. Rodriguez and his supporters will be returning in February to follow up with the council. Mayor Sheets informed the attendants that a resolution would not be presented at this meeting.

Jenny Moreno of 720 E County Road 100 N., Frankfort Indiana addressed the council and spoke about her issues with becoming a legal driver after arriving in the United States from El Salvador and spoke of her support of the senate bill.

PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 23-28: Mayor Sheets called a recess of the meeting at 7:13 P.M. and opened a public hearing to discuss any comments or questions about the ordinance which will allow a fire truck to be purchased for the new fire station. There were no comments or questions, Mayor Sheets closed the public hearing at 7:15 P.M. and reopened the council meeting.

ORDINANCE 23-28: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE (FIRE TRUCK)

Councilmember Woods made a motion to pass ordinance 23-18 on second reading, seconded by Councilmember Large. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC HEARING RESOLUTION 23-28: Mayor Sheets called a recess of the meeting at 7:16 P.M. and opened a public hearing to discuss any comments or questions about the resolution for the Donaldson tax abatement. There were no comments or questions, Mayor Sheets closed the public hearing at 7:17 P.M.

RESOLUTION 23-28: CONFIRMATORY RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA

Councilmember Palmer made a motion to pass resolution 23-28, seconded by Councilmember Warthan. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Motion carried 6-0.

ORDINANCE 23-17: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF FRANKFORT ARP FUND PLAN

Clerk-Treasurer Carol Bartley reminded the council that this ordinance is a requirement for the city to remain compliant on the receipt of ARPA funds. Councilmember Sheets made a motion to pass ordinance 23-17 on second reading, seconded by Councilmember Fuller. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Motion carried 6-0.

ORDINANCE 23-19: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE NUMBER OF RESERVE OFFICERS PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE § 36-8-3-20

City Attorney Alecia Albertson reminded the council that the Indiana code requires the city to establish the number of reserve officers they have and this ordinance will keep us compliant. Councilmember Woods made a motion to pass ordinance 23-19 on second reading, seconded by Councilmember Palmer. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Motion carried 6-0.

ORDINANCE 23-20: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING ORDINANCE 23-14 SETTING THE SALARIES AND HOURLY WAGES FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CIVIL CITY OF FRANKFORT, INDIANA

Councilmember Palmer made a motion to read ordinance 23-20 by title only, seconded by Councilmember Woods. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Motion carried 6-0. Clerk-Treasurer Carol Bartley read the title of the ordinance.

Clerk-Treasurer Carol Bartley advised the council that this ordinance is to add crossing guards that were not included in the raise as well as amending the title for the police crime scene investigator. Also included are changes to the CT payroll clerk and court clerk.

Councilmember Fuller made a motion to suspend the rules and pass ordinance 23-20 on first and second readings, seconded by Councilmember Sheets. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilmember Fuller made a motion to pass ordinance 23-20 on first and second readings, seconded by Councilmember Palmer. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION 23-24: A RESOLUTION DIRECTING TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS (BLDG SVCS)

Clerk-Treasurer Carol Bartley informed the council that this resolution is to transfer funds for the building services department for the end of the year.

Councilmember Sheets made a motion to pass resolution 23-24, seconded by Councilmember Large. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION 23-25: A RESOLUTION DIRECTING TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS (STREET)

Clerk-Treasurer Carol Bartley informed the council that this resolution is to encumber the funds necessary to pay for a new Freightliner.

Councilmember Woods made a motion to pass resolution 23-25, seconded by Councilmember Fuller. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION 23-26: A RESOLUTION DIRECTING TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS (PARK)

Clerk-Treasurer Carol Bartley informed the council that this resolution is to transfer the funds needed to cover the shortfall on line striping at Dorner Park and also to provide funds for the Neighborhood Center door replacement.

Councilmember Warthan made a motion to pass resolution 23-26, seconded by Councilmember Sheets. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION 23-27: A RESOLUTION DIRECTING TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS (POLICE PENSION)

Clerk-Treasurer Carol Bartley informed the council that this resolution is to transfer funds to the police pension from their personal services.

Councilmember Palmer made a motion to pass resolution 23-27, seconded by Councilmember Large. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION 23-29: A RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE PHASE I FRANKFORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREA AND PHASE II FRANKFORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREA

City Attorney Alicia Albertson informed the council that this resolution is to allow the Frankfort Redevelopment Commission is amending their economic development plan and in order to do that the plan has to be approved by the council and the city plan commission.

Councilmember Warthan made a motion to pass resolution 23-29, seconded by Councilmember Fuller. Upon a roll call vote, six ayes were recorded. Motion carried 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilmember Palmer informed the council that the Frankfort Redevelopment Commission had approved the payment of \$250,000.00 towards the purchase of the new fire truck.

NEW BUSINESS:

City Attorney Alicia Albertson spoke to the council about the replacement of the bridge on Kelly Road and there is an opportunity to put in a pedestrian walkway. The cost to install a pedestrian bridge would be approximately \$400,000.00 and the funds would not be needed till 2028. The county offered an interlocal agreement to the city and Alicia Albertson presented it to the council and also informed them a payment schedule would have to be decided upon at a later date. The council discussed possible options to obtain the funds needed such as grants. The county has asked that the city make a decision regarding the bridge at the first meeting in January 2024.

Clerk-Treasurer Carol Bartley presented the meeting schedule for 2024, and the schedule was approved by consensus.

Mr. Forsythe presented the council with the Pazer rating on the roads in Frankfort and informed them that over half of the roads are rated in good condition. He also spoke to the board about the importance of rejuvenation to keep the newly paved roads in good condition.

Mayor Sheets addressed the council and informed them that Councilmember Palmer has been on the council from 1991 to 2023, and in thanks for his years of service presented him with a key to the city.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilmember Palmer moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Fuller. Mayor Sheets adjourned the meeting at 8:52 P.M.

