WEST FRANKFORT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026

THE MAYOR STATED BEFORE WE BEGIN TONIGHT'S MEETING, I DO WANT TO READ, BECAUSE WE DO FOLLOW ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER FOR THE MEETINGS. IN A BOARD OF OUR SIZE, THERE ARE SPECIAL PROCEDURES, AND THIS WOULD BE 4921, AND IT SAYS, PROCEDURES IN SMALL BOARDS, IN A BOARD MEETING WHERE THERE ARE NOT MORE THAN ABOUT A DOZEN MEMBERS PRESENT, SOME OF THE FORMALITY THAT IS NECESSARY IN A LARGE ASSEMBLY WOULD HINDER BUSINESS.THE RULES GOVERNING SUCH MEETINGS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE RULES THAT HOLD IN OTHER ASSEMBLIES IN THE FOLLOWING RESPECTS. ONE, MEMBERS, MEANING US, MAY REMAIN SEATED WHILE MAKING MOTIONS OR SPEAKING. TWO, MOTIONS NEED NOT BE SECONDED. NUMBER THREE, THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF TIMES A MEMBER CAN SPEAK TO A DEBATABLE QUESTION. APPEALS, HOWEVER, ARE DEBATABLE UNDER THE REGULAR RULES.THAT IS, EACH MEMBER EXCEPT THE CHAIR CAN SPEAK ONLY ONCE AND DEBATE ON THEM WHILE THE CHAIR MAY SPEAK TWICE. THAT DOESN'T REALLY RELATE TO US EXCEPT TO SAY THAT THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF TIMES A MEMBER CAN SPEAK TO A QUESTION. NUMBER FOUR, INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF A SUBJECT IS PERMITTED WHILE NO MOTION IS PENDING. TYPICALLY, YOU HAVE TO MAKE A MOTION AND A SECOND TO DISCUSS THE TOPIC. WE DON'T REQUIRE THAT. NUMBER FIVE, WHEN A PROPOSAL IS PERFECTLY CLEAR TO ALL PRESENT, A VOTE CAN BE TAKEN WITHOUT A MOTION HAVING BEEN INTRODUCED. WE CALL THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA. UNLESS AGREED TO BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT, HOWEVER, ALL PROPOSED ACTIONS MUST BE APPROVED BY A VOTE UNDER THE SAME RULES AS IN LARGER MEETINGS, EXCEPT THAT A VOTE CAN BE TAKEN INITIALLY BY A SHOW OF HANDS, WHICH IS OFTEN A BETTER METHOD IN SMALL MEETINGS. WHAT THAT MEANS IS, IN THE CONSENT AGENDA, IF ONE OF THE COMMISSIONERS WANTED TO TALK ABOUT AN ITEM SEPARATELY, WE WOULD DO THAT. THERE WOULDN'T BE UNANIMOUS CONSENT AT THAT POINT, SO IT WOULD BE REMOVED. NUMBER SIX, THE CHAIR NEED NOT RISE WHILE PUTTING QUESTIONS TO A VOTE. NUMBER SEVEN, IF THE CHAIR IS A MEMBER, I AM, HE MAY, WITHOUT LEAVING THE CHAIR, SPEAK IN INFORMAL DISCUSSION AND IN DEBATE AND VOTE ON ALL QUESTIONS. IN FACT, IN A SMALL BOARD, THE CHAIR CAN EVEN MAKE A MOTION. SO THOSE ARE THE ROBERTS RULES OF ORDERS THAT WE FOLLOW SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE WE ARE A SMALL BOARD, AND NOW I WANT TO ALSO SPEAK TO THE QUORUM IN THE MEETING, BECAUSE WE DO HAVE RULES AND OUR ATTORNEY BEFORE THE

PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE SPEAKING TO. BUT I WOULD ASK EVERYONE TO RESPECT THOSE RULES WHILE YOU'RE HERE IN THE MEETING. WE DON'T NEED COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE. THAT WOULD BE FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS. THIS IS A TIME FOR THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST FRANKFORT, TO VOTE ON DIFFERENT BILLS AND THINGS AND CONDUCT OUR BUSINESS. WE CAN'T MEET EXCEPT IN THIS FORMAT. THIS IS HOW WE CONDUCT OUR BUSINESS, AND INTERRUPTIONS TO THAT CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH US BEING ABLE TO CONDUCT OUR BUSINESS. I WOULD ALSO ASK ALL THE COMMISSIONERS, WHENEVER THERE ARE PUBLIC COMMENTS, TO NOT RESPOND TO THOSE PUBLIC COMMENTS. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE COUNCIL, DON'T EXPECT AN ANSWER. WE'RE NOT BEING RUDE. WE JUST CHOOSE NOT TO ANSWER BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT TO GET INTO A BACK AND FORTH WITH ANYBODY.

1. MAYOR ARVIEW CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M. REQUESTING A ROLL CALL. ALL COMMISSIONERS WERE IN ATTENDANCE INCLUDING, THE CITY ATTORNEY AND CITY CLERK.

2. MAYOR ARVIEW ASKED FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA. THE MAYOR STATED I SEE NOTHING THAT REALLY NEEDS CHANGED ON IT. I DO HAVE AN ITEM THAT I'LL BE DISCUSSING WHEN WE GET TO IT, BUT WE DON'T NEED TO AMEND OR ADD ANYTHING TO THE AGENDA AT THIS TIME. I WOULD ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR USE FOR THIS MEETING. COMMISSIONER HARKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WARREN. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR ARVIEW VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED. THE MAYOR STATED NOTE THAT I DID SAY THE RULES STATE THAT WE DON'T NEED A SECOND, BUT OUR PAST PRACTICE HAS BEEN THAT WE DO SECOND EVERYTHING BUT THE ADJOURNMENT. WE DON'T NEED A SECOND FOR THE ADJOURNMENT, BUT WE DO ASK FOR A SECOND WITH THE OTHER ITEMS JUST TO MAKE SURE THAT WE FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES.

3. MAYOR ARVIEW ASKED FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 10TH, 2026 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING. THE MAYOR STATED I ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HOWARD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STANLEY. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR ARVIEW VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

4. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL OF A DONATION TO THE OLD KING COAL COMMITTEE IN THE AMOUNT OF $10,000.00 FROM THE TOURISM FUND. THE MAYOR STATED THIS IS THE SAME DONATION WE'VE GIVEN IN THE PAST. COMMISSIONER STANLEY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WARREN. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR ARVIEW VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

5. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT OF WATER PURCHASE AND SALE CONTRACT BY AND BETWEEN REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF WEST FRANKFORT WITH AN INCREASE IN COST OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS. THE MAYOR STATED WE DON'T REALLY HAVE MUCH CHOICE BECAUSE WE HAVE NO OTHER SOURCE FOR THIS. COMMISSIONER HOWARD STATED I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE EVERYBODY UNDERSTANDS WHAT THE RATES ARE. I HOPE WE HAVE A COPY WE CAN GIVE PEOPLE IF THEY'RE INTERESTED IN WHAT THE RATES ARE. THE MAYOR STATED WE CAN EVEN PUT THAT ON THE WEBSITE. COMMISSIONER STANLEY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HOWARD. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR ARVIEW VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

6. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED NEW COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND LOCAL 2402 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS, AFL-CIO,CLC TO COVER THE PERIOD OF MARCH 1ST, 2026 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28TH, 2030. THE MAYOR STATED SOME CHANGES OF NOTE. I'M NOT GOING TO READ THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT BECAUSE IT IS SEVERAL PAGES. SPECIFICALLY, THE RATES OF PAY, MARCH 1ST, 2025, BASE PAY RATE, AND 2025 IS $20.59, MARCH 1ST, 2026 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28TH, 2027, A RAISE OF 0%. MARCH 1ST, 2027 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28TH, 2028, A RAISE OF 3%. MARCH 1ST, 2028 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28TH, 2029, A RAISE OF 3%. AND MARCH 1ST, 2029 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28TH, 2030, 3.5%. THIS IS AGREED UPON BY BOTH PARTIES. THESE AREN'T THINGS THAT WE'RE DICTATING TO THEM. THESE ARE THINGS THAT WE DISCUSS TOGETHER. ALSO, WE WILL BE ADDING THREE BARGAINING UNIT MEMBERS PRESENT ON SHIFT AT ALL TIMES. AND UNLESS THEY HAVE AN EMTB LICENSE, THEY DON'T COUNT TOWARD THAT. I BELIEVE THAT IN THE LONG RUN, THIS WILL SAVE THE CITY MONEY BECAUSE WE PAY A LOT IN OVERTIME FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND ADDING FIREFIGHTERS WILL ACTUALLY REDUCE THAT OVERTIME. AND THOSE WERE THE THINGS I FELT LIKE WERE PROBABLY OF THE PUBLIC'S INTEREST MORE THAN ANY OF THE OTHERS. COMMISSIONERS HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW THE CONTRACT. OUR ATTORNEY HAS

APPROVED IT. I'VE LOOKED IT OVER AND APPROVED IT. I WOULD JUST ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS CONTRACT. COMMISSIONER HARKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WARREN. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR ARVIEW VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

7. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF THE FIRE CHIEF. THE MAYOR STATED THIS IS THE ONE THAT I WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS. I AM ACTUALLY GOING TO TABLE THIS ITEM. THE REASON THAT I AM TABLING IT IS BECAUSE THERE IS SOME VERBIAGE IN HIS RESIGNATION LETTER THAT IS QUESTIONABLE THAT WE NEED TO IRON OUT BEFORE WE ACTUALLY ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION. SO, WE'RE GOING TO TABLE THAT. AND OUR ATTORNEY IS LOOKING IT OVER AND WE'LL BE TALKING ABOUT IT. THEN HOPEFULLY NEXT MEETING WE'LL HAVE SOMETHING ONE WAY OR ANOTHER FOR THAT. THIS ITEM WAS TABLED.

8. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE DECLARING SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING SALE OF OLD CAST IRON JUNK WATER METERS. THE MAYOR STATED THERE'S NOT REALLY A WHOLE LOT TO TALK ABOUT WITH THIS. WE'RE GETTING RID OF JUNK WATER METERS. COMMISSIONER STANLEY STATED THEY'RE OLD, THEY CAN'T BE REPAIRED OR FIXED. WE HAVE A CHANCE TO GET RID OF THEM. COMMISSIONER WARREN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STANLEY. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR ARVIEW VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

9. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL TO PAY AN INVOICE FROM WEEKS CHRYSLER DODGE RAM FIAT IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,206.74 FOR A DRIVESHAFT, WATER PUMP, THERMOSTAT, BELT IN UNIT NUMBER SIX FOR THE WEST FRANKFORT POLICE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER HARKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HOWARD. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR ARVIEW VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

10. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL TO PAY AN INVOICE FROM CERTIFIED BALANCE AND SCALE IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,818.00 FOR THE CALIBRATION OF LAB EQUIPMENT. THIS IS FOR THE SEWER LAB. COMMISSIONER HOWARD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STANLEY. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR ARVIEW VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

11. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL TO PAY AN INVOICE FROM K&E TECHNICAL INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,969.07 REGARDING REPAIRS TO THE 2013 CASE BACKHOE BOOM CYLINDER FOR THE STREET DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER STANLEY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WARREN. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR ARVIEW VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

12. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL TO REVIEW BIDS AND POST-BID ANALYSIS FOR THE SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM REHABILITATION 2022 PHASE 1 PROJECT AND POSSIBLY ISSUE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD TO THE LOW BIDDER, WHICH IS THE WIGS EXCAVATING INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF $896,730.00. MATT TOSH FROM BROWN & ROBERTS STATED, THE CITY ADVERTISED THIS PROJECT FOR PUBLIC BIDS. IT WAS OPENED MARCH 18TH, 2026. THE CITY RECEIVED FOUR BIDS. LOW BIDDER WAS FROM WIGS EXCAVATING IN THE AMOUNT OF $896,730.00 THE HIGH BID WAS KIEFER BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,793,529.26. THERE WERE A COUPLE OF BIDS IN BETWEEN. THE POST-BID ANALYSIS FUNDS, THE LOW BID IS UNDER THE ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE. THE ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE GOING INTO THIS WAS A TOTAL PROJECT OF $1,395,460.00 WITH A LOW BIDDER'S BID, IT COME IN TO $1,121,272.00. THIS PROJECT IS POSSIBLE THROUGH AN OFFER THROUGH IEPA, WHICH IS 45% GRANT AND 55% LOW INTEREST LOAN OR A 1% LOAN OVER 30 UP TO POSSIBLY 40 YEARS. AT THAT POINT, THE NEXT STEP IS IF THE CITY WANTS TO ISSUE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO THE LOW BIDDER, AND THAT'S BASICALLY CONTINGENT UPON EPA GIVING THE FUNDING, THEN THE PROJECT GOES FORWARD. THE MAYOR STATED SO WE WOULD NEED A BID TO APPROVE AND ISSUE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD TO THE LOW BIDDER CONTINGENT UPON? MR. TOSH STATED THE NOTICE OF INTENT SAYS THAT, UPON THE FUNDING FROM IEPA. THE MAYOR STATED APPROVE ACCEPTING THE BID AND ISSUING A NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD TO THE LOW BIDDER WIGS EXCAVATING. DO WE HAVE A MOTION FOR THAT? COMMISSIONER STANLEY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WARREN. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR ARVIEW VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

THE MAYOR STATED THANK YOU, MATT. AND FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO MAY NOT BE AWARE, SAY, WHY DID THAT GUY GET TO GET UP AND TALK? HE'S NOT REALLY A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC. HE

IS OUR ENGINEER. SO, HE'S PART OF THE CITY'S PERSONNEL.

13. THE NEXT ITEM WAS THE CONSENT AGENDA:
    a. APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS.
    b. APPROVAL TO PAY AN INVOICE FROM ILLINOIS PUBLIC RISK FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF $23,088.00 REGARDING MAY 2026 WORKERS COMPENSATION.

COMMISSIONER HOWARD MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STANLEY. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR ARVIEW VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

BUILDING AND SIGN PERMITS ~ NO PERMITS

14. **MAYORS REPORT~**

MAYOR ARVIEW STATED OLD KING COAL IS COMING UP. THAT'S EXCITING. THE OLD KING COAL ALWAYS JUST MAKES ME FEEL LIKE THAT IT'S SORT OF LIKE THE OTHER SIDE OF CHRISTMAS. I'M HAPPY TO SEE THAT COME IN.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS~

COMMISSIONER HARKINS STATED FIRE DEPARTMENT'S BEEN BUSY. OF COURSE, I'M SURE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAD TOO. WE HAD A LITTLE MISHAP ON THE RAILROAD TRACK NORTH OF TOWN. BUT I BELIEVE THE RAILROAD'S GETTING THAT STRAIGHTENED OUT. OTHER THEN THAT, I THINK EVERYTHING'S OK.

COMMISSIONER HOWARD STATED DON'T HAVE ANYTHING NEW REALLY TO REPORT. JUST TALKING ABOUT OLD KING COAL, I'M SURE YOU'LL HEAR, BUT THIS YEAR IS ALSO THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES BEING IN EXISTENCE. THEY'RE TRYING TO MAKE EVERYTHING, INCLUDING THE FLOWERS AND EVERYTHING, RED, WHITE, AND BLUE, TO CELEBRATE THAT.

COMMISSIONER STANLEY STATED WE HAD A LITTLE CAVE-IN ON EMMA STREET. AND THE GUYS GOT IT ALL CUT OUT, AND HALF OF IT PULLED BACK. THEY'LL FINISH THE OTHER TOMORROW. THEY'VE BEEN WORKING ON THAT AND THE ROAD WORK. AND JAKE'S BEEN BUSY WITH WATER BREAKS. HE'S CATCHING ON PRETTY QUICK. MIKE, I GUESS YOU'RE DOING ALL RIGHT OUT THERE, BUB? YES. I'M DOING GOOD, YES, THANK YOU.

COMMISSIONER WARREN STATED WE'RE GETTING READY TO REV UP WITH THE LAKE BOARD WE HAVE SEVERAL PEOPLE ON THAT COMMITTEE. WE'RE GOING TO CALL A MEETING. WE'LL MAKE IT PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE WHEN IT HAPPENS. AND WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO WITH THE NEW LAKE. I WANT TO LOWER THE LAKE. THAT'S MY MAIN THING, SO THAT PEOPLE CAN WORK ON THEIR DOCKS AND THINGS LIKE THAT. WE'VE GOT TO GET THINGS SCHEDULED FIRST. SOON, YOU'LL BE HEARING ABOUT THE NEW LAKE AND PROGRESS THAT WE'RE GOING TO MAKE OUT THERE. THAT'S ALL I HAVE RIGHT NOW.

15. **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**- A COUPLE OF UPDATES ON THE OLD LAKE. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO RECALL, WE OPENED BIDS RECENTLY. THAT SALE LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO CLOSE LATER THIS WEEK. THE CITY WILL, UNLESS SOMETHING HAPPENS IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS, THE CITY WILL NO LONGER OWN THE OLD LAKE. BY THE END OF THE WEEK. WE WILL TURN OUR FOCUS TO THE BUSINESS INCUBATOR AND FOR THE PUBLIC'S INFORMATION. BECAUSE WE CURRENTLY HAVE AN OFFER FOR AT LEAST 80% OF THE APPRASIED VALUE OF THE BUSINESS INCUBATOR, WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY DECLARED AS SURPLUS PROPERTY. THAT ONE WILL NOT GO TO PUBLIC BIDDING IF THE COUNCIL ACCEPTS THAT. BUT IF ANYONE KNOWS ANY COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE INVESTORS OUT THERE, THERE IS NO SIGNED CONTRACT YET. SO, THE CITY MAY END UP SIGNING WITH SOMEONE ELSE. WE CURRENTLY HAVE AN OFFER FOR EXACTLY 80% OF THE APPRAISED VALUE. AND THEN I'LL SHIFT TO, AS THE MAYOR MENTIONED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, EXPLAINING A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT PUBLIC SPEAKING AND OPEN MEETINGS ACT RULES. I'LL TRY TO BE SHORT. WE OBVIOUSLY HAVE A MUCH CALMER GROUP TONIGHT. AS THE MAYOR ALLUDED TO JUST EARLIER WHEN OUR ENGINEER SPOKE, ONE OF THE THINGS IN ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER SO THE MAYOR IS CALLED THE CHAIR, IF YOU EVER BOTHER TO LOOK AT THOSE VERY BORING RULES. HE'S THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING. ANYONE THAT THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES IS ALLOWED TO SPEAK. IN OTHER WORDS, HE CAN ASK SOMEONE TO SPEAK, AND THAT'S PERFECTLY FINE. WHEN YOU GET TO THE PUBLIC COMMENTS PORTION OF THE MEETING, LET ME BACK UP. BEFORE THAT, NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO INTERRUPT A MEETING. WE'RE JUST HERE BECAUSE THE ILLINOIS OPEN MEETINGS ACT REQUIRES THE CITY COUNCIL, WHICH INCLUDES THE MAYOR, TO MAKE CERTAIN DECISIONS IN PUBLIC

AFTER AN AGENDA HAS BEEN POSTED FOR AT LEAST 48 HOURS SO THE PUBLIC KNOWS WHAT THE COUNCIL IS GOING TO BE VOTING ON. OBVIOUSLY, THEY DON'T VOTE ON MINOR DAY-TO-DAY DECISIONS. THERE ARE EMPLOYEES THAT ARE ENTRUSTED, THAT HAVE DISCRETION TO DO VARIOUS THINGS ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS. BUT CERTAIN THINGS THAT AFFECT THE POLICY, THE DIRECTION THAT THE CITY IS GOING TO GO, HAVE TO BE DECIDED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, AND THOSE ARE THE THINGS THAT THEY VOTE UPON DURING THESE OPEN MEETINGS. SO, THEY'RE REQUIRED TO DO THAT IN PUBLIC, AND THE PUBLIC IS NOT ALLOWED TO INTERRUPT OR INTERFERE WITH THAT PROCESS. NOW, SUBJECT TO THE FACT THAT IT IS REQUIRED TO HAVE A PUBLIC COMMENTS PERIOD UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, WHICH IS WHAT WE'RE GETTING READY TO HAVE. SO, DURING THE PUBLIC COMMENTS PERIOD, UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT. DURING THE PUBLIC COMMENTS SECTION.THE PUBLIC IS ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL. WE HAVE A MICROPHONE AND A LIVE STREAM SYSTEM. WE ASK THE SPEAKERS TO COME UP SO THAT FOLKS AT HOME CAN ALSO HEAR WHAT'S BEING SAID. AND THOSE COMMENTS SHOULD REALLY BE DIRECTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL. AND THEY CAN BE POSITIVE. THEY CAN BE NEGATIVE. YOU CAN ASK QUESTIONS, BUT KEEP IN MIND THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, THE MAYOR, DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS. AND A LOT OF TIMES, THEY'RE HUMAN. THEY EXERCISE THEIR JUDGMENT. IF IT'S A SIMPLE, EASY QUESTION, THEY MAY RESPOND, BUT THEY'RE NOT REQUIRED TO. BECAUSE THE CITY HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN LITIGATION RECENTLY AND IS STILL INVOLVED IN SOME LITIGATION, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I ADVISE THE COUNCIL NOT TO ENGAGE WITH THE PUBLIC. THAT'S BECAUSE I KNOW THEY'RE SAYING SOMETHING, IT'S BEING RECORDED. I DON'T WANT SOMEONE TO TAKE IT OUT OF CONTEXT AND USE IT AGAINST US IN A LAWSUIT LATER, WHICH HAS HAPPENED, BY THE WAY. I'M NOT BEING RUDE IF I DO THAT. I'M TRYING NOT TO BE RUDE, AT LEAST. I'M TRYING TO DO WHAT'S BEST FOR THE CITY, TRYING TO KEEP US OUT OF TROUBLE. BUT THOSE ARE THE RULES IN A NUTSHELL. AND LIKE I SAID, ANYONE WHO WANTS TO SPEAK IS ALLOWED TO COME UP HERE AND VOICE THEIR CONCERNS AND BE NEGATIVE TOWARDS THE COUNCIL IF THEY WANT TO, SO LONG AS THEY DO IT IN AN ORDERLY FASHION. BUT KEEP IN MIND THAT THE COUNCIL DOESN'T HAVE TO RESPOND IF THEY DON'T FEEL LIKE RESPONDING. AND WE ARE ALLOWED TO HAVE THE TIME LIMITS

UNDER THE ILLINOIS OPEN MEETINGS ACT. THAT'S FIVE MINUTES PER PERSON.

16. **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**: THE MAYOR STATED SO HE PRETTY MUCH COVERED A LOT OF THE RULES. I WILL JUST KIND OF COVER THE ORDINANCE. IT IS LIMITED TO FIVE MINUTES. THAT IS AT OUR DISCRETION. IF WE DECIDE SOMEONE IS SAYING SOMETHING, WE WANT TO ALLOW THEM TO GO LONGER, WE CAN. IF I FEEL LIKE IT'S BEING DISRUPTIVE, WE CAN STOP IT. AS YOU SAID, WE CAN'T CONTROL WHAT YOU SAY TO US. IF YOU DON'T LIKE US, YOU CAN SURE SAY THAT. BUT IT DOES HAVE TO BE ORDERLY AND NOT DISRUPTIVE. YOU CAN'T GET THE WHOLE CROWD CHANTING OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. BUT YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY WELCOME TO VOICE YOUR OPINION. I WOULD ASK EVERYONE TO RESPECT THAT FIVE MINUTE LIMIT. WITH ONE EXCEPTION, AND WE CAN MAKE THIS A PRECEDENT. I DON'T MIND. A GENTLEMAN ASKED ME BEFORE THE MEETING IF I WOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE HIM 10 MINUTES, AND I AGREED TO DO THAT. IN THE FUTURE, IF SOMEONE WANTS TO SAY SOMETHING AND THEY KNOW IT'S GONNA TAKE LONGER THAN FIVE MINUTES, IF YOU TELL ME BEFOREHAND, I'M WILLING TO ALLOW THAT. BUT WHEN IT IS TIME TO STOP, PLEASE STOP. SO THAT WE CAN RESPECT OTHER PEOPLE'S TIME TOO. AND HAVING SAID THAT THEN, I WILL OPEN THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC.

17. **AUDIENCE COMMENTS/QUESTIONS-**

DANNY LOEH. I'M VICE CURATOR OF THE MILITARY MUSEUM. I DEFINITELY WANT TO SEND A BIG THANK YOU OUT TO OUR CITY COUNCIL FOR ALL THEY'VE DONE TO HELP US WITH THE MUSEUM. OUR MUSEUM LOOKS AS GOOD AS ANYBODY'S GOT ANYWHERE, AND I'M PROUD OF IT. I RECEIVED SOME PHONE CALLS FROM TWO BIG VETERAN'S GROUPS THAT ARE GONNA CALL AND THEY'RE GONNA SCHEDULE TO COME DOWN TO THE MUSEUM FOR A TOUR.
I'VE HAD SEVERAL OTHER INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE GONNA CALL HIM TO COME DOWN TO THE MUSEUM TO CHECK OUT WHAT WE HAVE. I WAS AT THE V.A. HOSPITAL TODAY AND I WAS TALKING WITH SOME VETERANS AND I MADE A COMMENT ABOUT THE VETERANS MILITARY MUSEUM. I HEAR IT ONE HUNDRED TIMES A WEEK. WELL, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A MUSEUM. AND THEY NEED TO COME DOWN. AND I HAND THEM FLYERS AND GIVE THEM FLYERS. EVERYWHERE I GO, I HAND OUT FLYERS. MY WIFE AND I WAS SHOPPING AT MCCORDS AND A WOMAN CAME OUT ON THE MCCORDS AND SHE THANKED ME FOR MY SERVICE. AND I REACHED IN MY GLOVE BOX AND I HANDED HER A FLYER. HER FAMILY JUST MOVED BACK HERE. AND SHE SAID,

ANYTIME YOU NEED HELP TO HELP CLEANING AND SO FORTH, I WOULD BE MORE THAN GLAD TO COME UP TO HELP. I APPRECIATE THAT.

THE MAYOR STATED THIS IS THE GENTLEMAN WHO ASKED ME FOR THE 10 MINUTES.

RICK HANNERS. I'M A LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER AND FORMER WEST FRANKFORT PAID ON CALL FIREFIGHTER. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MAYOR FOR GRACIOUSLY GIVING ME A FEW MORE MINUTES. I THINK MY BACK HALF IS GONNA BE MOSTLY IN SUPPORT OF YOU ALL. LAST MEETING WAS PRETTY CONTENTIOUS. JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT I'M NOT HERE TO ATTACK ANYONE. I THINK EVERY DEPARTMENT IN THIS CITY WORKS VERY HARD AND THEY ALL DESERVE RESPECT. MR. SNELL, I'M NOT PRIVY TO ANY PERSONAL ISSUES THAT SOMEONE MAY HAVE WITH YOU. WHAT I WILL SAY IS I WILL NEVER FAULT SOMEONE WHO ARE TRYING TO IMPROVE THEMSELVES. CHEIF WILLIS, THE PEOPLE OF WEST FRANKFORT SEE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT STEPPING THEIR GAME UP AND APPRECIATE IT. MR. STANLEY, I THINK IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT YOU RUN A WELL-OILED MACHINE AT THE STREET DEPARTMENT. THANK YOU. WHAT I AM HERE TO TALK ABOUT IS DECISION-MAKING. ABOUT 15 YEARS AGO, THE CITY HAD A SERIOUS PROBLEM WITH THEIR AMBULANCE BILLING SERVICE. AT THE TIME, THEY WERE ONLY BRINGING IN ABOUT 30% OF WHAT WAS BILLED OUT. AND AS YOU KNOW, NO BUSINESS CAN SURVIVE. FIRE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED THE PROBLEM, CAME UP WITH A SOLUTION AND FIXED IT. REVENUE JUMPED TO OVER $300,000.00 A FEW YEARS AGO, DEREK SAILLIEZ IDENTIFIED A SPECIAL MEDICARE PROGRAM. HE DID THE DUE DILIGENCE AND PRESENTED IT TO THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. THEY DISMISSED IT AS, AND I QUOTE, TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE. YEARS LATER, HE PRESENTED IT TO THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION AND THEY IMPLEMENTED IT. AMBULANCE REVENUE INCREASED FROM JUST UNDER $600,000.00 IN 2023 TO OVER $900,000.00 IN 2025. AND AT THE SAME TIME, DEREK WAS BEING PAID ABOUT $80,000.00 AS THE FIRE CHIEF, WHILE HIS SUBORDINATE CAPTAINS WERE BEING PAID AROUND $90,000.00, HE ASKED FOR A $14,000 ADJUSTMENT AND WAS DENIED. SO, TO BE CLEAR, SOMEONE IDENTIFIES A PROBLEM, DEVELOPS A SOLUTION, AND INCREASES CITY REVENUE BY OVER $300,000.00, RESPONSE IS, IS TO DENY HIM A $14,000.00 PAY ADJUSTMENT. THAT'S NOT JUST A FINANCIAL DECISION. IT RAISES A BIGGER QUESTION ABOUT HOW DECISIONS ARE BEING MADE. BECAUSE WHEN SOMEONE PRODUCES REAL MEASURABLE RESULTS AND THIS IS THE OUTCOME, PEOPLE ARE GONNA ASK WHY. AND I THINK THIS SETS A PRECEDENT. IT SHOWS HOW PERFORMANCE IS EVALUATED AND THAT MATTERS,

ESPECIALLY IN A DEPARTMENT WHERE EXPERIENCE AND RESULTS DIRECTLY IMPACT PUBLIC SAFETY. THE QUESTION IS SIMPLE. ARE DECISIONS BEING MADE BASED ON RESULTS OR SOMETHING ELSE? BECAUSE DECISIONS MADE IN THIS ROOM DON'T JUST AFFECT BUDGETS.THEY DETERMINE WHETHER PEOPLE RUNNING INTO DANGER FOR THIS COMMUNITY FEEL VALUED. NOW, I'D LIKE TO FOLLOW THAT UP WITH WHAT I JUST SAID BECAUSE I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO ADD SOME CONTEXT. THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS A LOT OF PASSIONATE SUPPORTERS IN THIS COMMUNITY. IT IS NOT BY ACCIDENT, ITS BECAUSE ON PEOPLES WORST DAYS THEY ARE THE GUYS THAT SHOW UP. EMOTIONS CAN BE HIGH ON THESE TOPICS. I WANT TO BE CLEAR ABOUT SOMETHING. I DON'T VIEW THE MAYOR, OR THE CITY COUNCIL AS THE OPOSITION. I VIEW THEM THE SAME WAY AS I VIEW THE VOLUNTEER FIREMAN OR POLICE OFFICER. WE ARE ALL JUST REGULAR PEOPLE IN THIS COMMUNTIY WHO ANSWERED THE CALL TO SERVE. NO BODY SIGNS UP ALREADY KNOWING EVERYTHING. YOU STEP INTO THE ROLE AND YOU FIGURE IT OUT. THE EXPECTATIONS ARE IMMEDIATE. IM SURE THAT PRESSURE IS REAL.THE REALITY IS EVERY SMALL TOWN IN THIS COUNTRY IS STRUGGLING RIGHT NOW. REVENUES ARE DOWN; COSTS ARE UP. AND THE CITY'S ARE GETTING NICKLED AND DIMED JUST LIKE WE ARE. I UNDERSTAND THAT. THIS ISNT ABOUT TEARING ANYONE DOWN. THIS IS ABOUT MAKING SURE THAT WERE MAKING THE BEST DECISIONS WE CAN FOR THE CITY. THE TRUTH IS WE HAVE A LOT OF SMART PEOPLE IN THIS COMMUNITY. PEOPLE WITH EXPIRENCE, PEOPLE WHO WANT TO HELP. I THINK WE ALL BENEFIT FROM UTILIZING THOSE PEOPLE. LEANING ON THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE WORK, AND TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THAT KNOWLEDGE THAT IS ALREADY HERE. EVERYONE WANTS THE SAME THING. A CITY THAT RUNS WELL DEPARTMENTS THAT ARE SUPPORTED, A COMMUNITY THAT IS TAKEN CARE OF. MR MAROY IF YOU EVER WANT TO EVER SIT DOWN AND WANT TO HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE OR AN ADULT BEVERAGE, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK. IN CLOSING I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE CITIZENS OF WEST FRANKFORT, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU ALL TO DO YOUR BEST TO SHOP LOCALLY AS MUCH AS YOU CAN. THAT IS ONE OF THE SIMPLIST WAYS WE ALL HELP THE CITY BE THE BEST IT CAN.

18. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION PURSUANT TO 5 ILCS 120/2(C) (1), 5 ILCS 120/2 (C)(5) (6), AND 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (11). PERSONELL, BUYING AND SELLING REAL ESTATE, AND LITIGATION. AT 6:35 P.M. COMMISSIONER HARKINS MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STANLEY. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR ARVIEW VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

19. WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED ON A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HARKINS AT 7:23 P.M.

MAYOR, TIM ARVIEW

ANDREA BOLEN, CITY CLERK