WEST FRANKFORT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2021

1. MAYOR JORDAN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M. REQUESTING A ROLL CALL. ALL COMMISSIONERS WERE IN ATTENDANCE. THE CITY CLERK WAS ABSENT.

2. MAYOR JORDAN ASKED FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 10TH, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING. COMMISSIONER HARKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SIMPSON. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

3. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL TO PAY CITY BILLS AND PAYROLL IN THE AMOUNT OF $211,422.54. COMMISSIONER SIMPSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STANLEY. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

4. DISCUSSION, WITH POSSIBLE ACTION, REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF LOTS FROM THE FRANKLIN COUNTY TRUSTEE LIST. THESE ARE ALL PROPERTIES THAT HAVE HOUSES ON THEM. THEY HAVE BEEN ABANDONED, AND FOR THE LAST THREE (3) YEARS THE TAXES HAVE NOT BEEN PAID. THE MAYOR STATED HE HAS PERSONALLY DROVE AROUND TO LOOK AT THESE PROPERTIES AND THEY ARE DERELICT BUILDINGS THAT NEED TO COME DOWN. WHAT WE ARE ASKING THE COUNCIL TO DO IS PURCHASE EACH PROPERTY FOR $816.00 THAT INCLUDES THE $750 PURCHASE PRICE AND THE $66.00 RECORDING FEE. ONCE THEY ARE DEMOLISHED, WE WILL PUT THESE LOTS UP FOR SALE. THE ADDRESSES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

605 S. ODLE	901 E. ELM	1107 W. OAK
604 W. JONES	206 E. 4TH	1310 E. CLARK
712 S. DOUGLAS	712 N. PALMER	207 N. MONROE
1104 W. ST LOUIS	314 N. HORN	501 N. HORN

COMMISSIONER SIMPSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HARKINS. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION

CARRIED.

5. THE NEXT ITEM WAS DISCUSSION, WITH POSSIBLE ACTION, FOR APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENSE. THIS IS FOR NIFTY SWIFTY, THIS APPLICATION HAS BEEN RAN WITH A BACKGROUND CHECK AND HE PASSED. WE ARE JUST TRANSFERRING THE LICENSE FROM THE CURRENT OWNER TO THE NEW OWNER. COMMISSIONER STANLEY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WARREN. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

6. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODES OFFICER ORDINANCE CH 2.64. THE MAYOR STATED THIS IS A CHANGE TO THE ORDINANCE THAT WE HAD. THE ORDINANCE THAT WE WERE WORKING UNDER WAS AN APPOINTED PART TIME POSITION, HIRED BY THE MAYOR. WHAT THIS ORDINANCE IS GOING TO DO IS THE POSITION WILL NOW BE A FULL TIME POSITION, AND WILL BE HIRED BY THE COUNCIL, NOT AN ELECTED OFFICE. AFTER COMPLETION OF ANNUAL FIREARMS TRAINING THE CODES, OFFICER WILL BE ABLE TO CARRY A FIREARM AS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY. WE WILL BE CHECKING STATE STATUTES. WE WANT OUR CODES OFFICER TO HAVE A WEAPON, IF ITS APPROVED. IF THIS TURNS OUT THAT IT ISNT POSSIBLE; WE WILL MAKE AN AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE. COMMISSIONER HARKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WARREN. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

7. APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR HVAC UNIT AT 228 E. MAIN. THEY MAYOR STATED WE HAVE WENT TO JEFFERSON AND MAIN (WHO THIS BUILDING IS GOING TO BE LEASED TO) AND CHECKED THIS OUT. THERE ARE TWO (2) UNITS THERE AND UPON LOOKING AT THEM WE THINK THEY CAN BE REPAIRED INSTEAD OF REPLACED. WE WERE THINKING THEY HAD TO BE REPLACED SO THAT IS WHY THIS WAS PLACED ON THE AGENDA. IF THE BID COMES BACK AND ITS MORE THAN $1,500.00; WE WILL HAVE TO GET BIDS FOR THIS. SO, THIS ITEM; WAS TABLED UNTIL WE SEE WHAT IT WILL COST FOR REPAIRS.

8. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF AN INVOICE FROM MIDWEST PETROLEUM & EXCAVATING, INC TO INSTALL DOORS FOR BLOWERS AT THE WWTP IN THE AMOUNT OF $6,000.00. COMMISSIONER WARREN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STANLEY. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

9. THE NEXT ITEM WAS CONSIDERATION OF BIDS ON EDA PROJECT CONTRACT 2 WITH POSSIBLE AWARD. MIKE ROBERTS OF BROWN & ROBERTS STATED THIS IS FOR ALL THE ROAD WORK FOR PART OF THE EDA CONTRACT 2. CONTRACT 1 WAS THE HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING AND LIGHTING. THIS IS THE LARGEST OF ALL THE PROJECTS BY THE MALL AREA. WE HAD THREE (3) BIDDERS ALL IDOT QUALIFIED. THE BIDS RANGE FROM $2.8 MILLION UP TO $3.5 MILLION. SAMRON WAS THE LOW BIDDER IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,867,153.95. IT WAS BELOW THE ENGINEERS ESTIMATE AND BELOW BUDGET. OUR RECOMMENDATION IS THAT YOU AUTHORIZE TO AWARD THIS TO SAMRON. COMMISSIONER STANLEY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SIMPSON. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

10. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF INVOICE #19 FROM BROWN & ROBERTS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF $9,468.42 REGARDING I-57 AND IL149 INTERCHANGE MODIFICATION PHASE 1 ENGINEERING. MR. ROBERTS STATED WE'VE WORKED ON THIS PROJECT A LOT AND YOU GET BILLS EVERY MONTH AND SOMETIMES YOU DO NOT SEE PROGRESS BUT WE ARE REALLY CLOSE TO HAVING ANOTHER CITIZEN'S ADVISORY GROUP MEETING. AND PROLY NOT TOO FAR AFTER THAT A PUBLIC MEETING TO INTRODUCE THE PUBLIC TO WHAT IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE OUT THERE. THERE HAS BEEN DISCUSSION ABOUT THE MEETING BEING VIRTUAL SO YOU WOULD NOT HAVE TO SHOW UP IF YOU DO NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE. THE C.A.G MEETING WILL MOST LIKELY BE A VIRTUAL MEETING. IDOT AND THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME TYPE OF VIRTUAL MEETING SO PEOPLE WHO ARE LEGITIMATELY CONCERNED CAN COME TO THE MEETING THE PUBLIC MEETING. WE WANT PEOPLE TO BE PART OF THE DISCUSSION AND TO GET FEEDBACK. COMMISSIONER STANLEY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED

BY COMMISSIONER WARREN. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

11. THE NEXT ITEM WAS APPROVAL TO TRANSFER LAKE LOT #11 W ½ FROM DON LUCAS; DECEASED TO JOYCE LUCAS, JAYNE DURHAM, MIKE LUCAS, AND DANA ORLANDO. COMMISSIONER SIMPSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STANLEY. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

12. BUILDING AND SIGN PERMITS: THIS IS A SIGN PERMIT FROM SCOTT STINSON OF CENTRAL REALTY, LLC FOR OLLIE'S AT 3 WEST FRANKFORT PLAZA THE OLD KMART BUILDING. THE PERMIT IS FOR ZIGLIN SIGNS; MATT MEYER.MR. SNELL STATED THAT ACCORDING TO OUR ORDINANCE THE NEW SIGN THEY SUBMITTED IS TOO BIG. MR. SNELL ASKED THE CITY ATTORNEY IF WE CAN AMEND THAT ORDINANCE TO ACCOMMODATE THEM. MR. SNELL ALSO STATED THERE ARE SOME WAIVERS ON THE SIGN APPLICATION THAT ARE NOT PART OF THE ORDINANCE THAT NEEDS TO BE DELETED. THE MAYOR ASKED THE CITY ATTORNEY CAN WE ISSUE A VARIANCE SINCE THE SIGN IS BIGGER THAN OUR ORDINANCE SAYS WE CAN GIVE THEM. MR. RIVA STATED THAT YES THAT WOULD BE FINE. THE OLLIE'S SIGN IS 60X12 FT MR. SNELL STATED. THE MAYOR STATED THERE WILL ALSO BE A NEW SIGN OUT FRONT WITH ALL THE BUSINESSES LISTED ON IT. WE WILL JUST APPROVE THIS PERMIT AND THEN AMEND THE ORDINANCE LATER ON. COMMISSIONER STANLEY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SIMPSON. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO APPROVE. MOTION CARRIED.

13. MAYORS COMMENTS: STATED HE THAT THAD SNELL OUR NEW CODES OFFICER WAS THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY. WHEN WE WERE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE EVERYTHING THAT I HAD AS A PREREQUISITE FOR SOMEONE TO DO THIS JOB WAS SOMEONE THAT CAN DEAL WITH THE PUBLIC, SOMEONE WHO CAN WRITE A TICKET AND FOLLOW UP ON IT, HAS COMPUTER SKILLS, HE WELCOMES HIM ABOARD, AND BELIEVES HE IS GOING TO BE GREAT ASSET.

COMMISSIONER HARKINS STATED HE HIS DEPARTMENTS ARE DOING ALRIGHT. WE HAVE TWO (2) AMBULANCES THAT ARE DISABLED AT

THIS TIME. ONLY ONE IN OPERATION, THE ONE THAT NEEDS A RADIATOR IS STILL ON BACKORDER. CHIEF ALLEN SAID THE RADIATOR IS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE TOMORROW. SO, WE HAVE BEEN WITH ONE AMBULANCE ALL WEEKEND. ABBOTT AND MEDIC ONE HAS CAME IN TO HELP. THE MAYOR ASKED CHIEF ALLEN WHATS THE PROGRESS ON THE NEW ONE? CHIEF ALLEN STATED THEY ARE STILL WAITING ON THEM TO LOCATE ONE. COMMISSIONER HARKINS ASKED CHIEF PRUDENT HOW THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS DOING. CHIEF PRUDENT STATED THEIR NEW OFFICER STARTED THE POLICE ACADEMY HE IS UP THERE DOING WELL AND WILL BE THERE UNTIL DECEMBER. CHIEF PRUDENT HE IS STILL ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT UNTIL SEPTEMBER 11, 2021. WE HAVE NINE APPLICATIONS IN SO HOPEFULLY WE WILL FILL THE POSITION OF ONE RETIRING IN MARCH.

COMMISSIONER SIMPSON STATED THAT SHE JUST EXCITED ABOUT THE NEW CODES OFFICER. ALSO STATED THE REED GIRLS ARE HAVING A GOSPEL SING OCTOBER 2ND, 2021 AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HERE ON MAIN STREET NEXT TO SONIC. THEY ARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS AT THE DOOR TO HELP DISADVANTAGE CHILDREN AT CHRISTMAS TIME. THEY HAVE DONE A GREAT JOB CLEANING UP THE BUILDING AND GETTING THINGS PREPARED FOR THIS GOSPEL SING. SO MAKE SURE TO PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDARS.

COMMISSIONER STANLEY STATED THAT RIGHT NOW LARRY AND HIS CREW ARE BUSY WITH ROAD WORK. THEY ARE BUSY GETTING THE ROADS READY FOR OIL AND CHIPPED. THEY ARE ALSO BUSY DOING SIDEWALKS, TILES, AND KEEPING THE ALLEYS & DITCHES CLEAN. PLUS TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH THE MOWING.

COMMISSIONER WARREN STATED SEWER AND WATER IS WORKING HARD. REPAIRING AND INSTALLING METERS. EVERYONE IS DOING GOOD.

14. AUDIENCE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

THAD SNELL THE NEW CODES OFFICER STATED HE WENT TO THE CITY OF MARION ON MONDAY. HE LEARNED A LITTLE BIT OF WHAT THEY DO AND HOW THEY DO IT AND HOW THEY ARE EFFECTIVE. I GOT INTO A LITTLE BIT OF STUFF THIS AFTERNOON. A LOT OF TIMES WHEN WE ARE HANDLING COMPLAINTS; WE ARE SENDING LETTERS OUT, THEN YOU HAVE TO WAIT FOR MAIL TO GET A RESPONSE. I

WOULD RATHER DO DOOR HANGERS; HE BROUGHT AN EXAMPLE OF THE ONE MARION USES. HE CAN TAKE PICTURES TO PROVE HE WAS THERE. HE BELIEVES THE DOOR HANGERS ARE MORE IMMEDIATE, IMPACTS A LOT FASTER. THE DOOR HANGERS THEY USE IN MARION OF COURSE IT HAS THEIR INFORMATION ON IT. THERE ARE A COUPLE OF THINGS THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE CHANGED TO MATCH OUR ORDINANCE ALSO TO MATCH WHAT WE WANT TO DO. THE FIRST THING ON HERE IS A DATE TO GET CORRECTIVE ACTION THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, THE CITY OF MARION GIVES 7 DAYS FOR NOT MOWING THEIR YARD, TAKING CARE OF THEIR PROPERTY THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD TIME FRAME. THE NEXT THING WE NEED TO DECIDE IS HOW MUCH WE ARE GOING TO CHARGE IF WE HAVE TO CORRECT THE ISSUE FOR THEM IF THEY DON'T DO IT IN THE TIME FRAME. WE WOULD HAVE TO CLEAN IT UP FOR THEM AND THEN CHARGE THEM AN AMOUNT. THE CITY OF MARION CHARGES $250.00. WE DON'T WANT TO CHEAT OURSELF EITHER AND LOSE MONEY SO THERE IS AN AMOUNT THAT WE NEED TO COME UP WITH THAT WE ARE GOING TO PUT ON THERE. THE MAYOR ASKED DO WE WANT TO HAVE OUR STREET CREWS TO DO IT OR WOULD WE WANT TO CONTRACT IT OUT TO A PRIVATE LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER WITH INSURANCE? HE ASKED COMMISSIONER STANLEY AND COMMISSIONER HARKINS WHAT THEY THINK THEY SHOULD DO. $250.00 IS APPROPRIATE STATED COMMISSIONER STANLEY AND IT COULD BE MORE DEPENDING ON WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, SOME OF THEM NEED TO BE A BIT MORE. MR. SNELL SAID UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO HERE IS TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM HABITUALLY HAVING US DO THE CLEAN UP FOR THESE HOMES. YOU DON'T WANT PEOPLE THINKING THAT THE CITY WILL BE BACK AND MOW FOR THEM AGAIN IF WE ARE ONLY CHARGING $60.00. SO, YOU WANT TO MAKE IT AN AMOUNT THAT DETERS PEOPLE FROM MAKING US DO A WHOLE BUNCH MORE WORK. THE MAYOR ASKED IF ANYONE IN THE COUNCIL HAD A PROBLEM WITH CHARGING $250.00? THEY WERE ALL IN AGREEMENT THAT THAT WAS A FAIR PRICE. COMMISSIONER SIMPSON ASKED WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY DO NOT PAY THE $250.00? MR. SNELL STATED AT THAT POINT WE CAN PUT A LIEN ON THE PROPERTY, WE CAN ALSO WRITE CITATIONS TO MAKE THEM APPEAR IN COURT. THEY HAVE A HUGE SUCCESS RATE WITH THIS IN MARION THAT'S WHY IM TRYING TO MIRROR WHAT THEY DO. MOST PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TO PAY THE FINE SO THEY KEEP THEIR PROPERTIES UP. THE MAYOR STATED HE WANTED THAD TO BRING THESE DOOR

HANGERS UP TO THE BOARD SO WHEN SOMEONE STARTS YELLING AT US ABOUT HAVING TO PAY $250.00 EVERYONE ON THE COUNCIL KNOWS WHAT WE ARE GOING TO START DOING. THE MAYOR STATED THIS IS A MINIMUM OF $250.00 IT CAN BE A HIGHER AMOUNT DEPENDING ON IF THERE ARE TREES, TRASH ETC THAT THEY HAVE TO CLEAN UP AS WELL. IF THERE IS A BIG PROJECT YOU CAN ACCESS YOUR COST AND CHARGE A HIGHER RATE. THE MAYOR STATED WE WILL HAVE THESE MADE UP AND START USING THESE IMMEDIATELY. MR. SNELL STATED HE HAS BEEN USING A GENERAL FORM AND LEAVING THEM ON THE PROPERTY THE LAST TWO DAYS UNTIL THE DOOR HANGERS COME IN. THE MAYOR ASKED WHO MOWS THE YARDS IN MARION? MR SNELL STATED THAT THE STREET DEPARTMENT DOES THE MOWING. THEY RECEIVE A LIST AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK OF WHICH HOUSES NEED TO BE MOWED. THE MAYOR SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO GET SOMETHING ON THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING ABOUT DISCUSSING ALL OF THIS. WETHER TO HAVE THE CITY MOW OR HIRE A CONTRACTOR. IF WE HIRE IT OUT, THEY WILL HAVE TO HAVE LIABILITY INSURANCE AND WE WOULD CONTRACT THEM OUT. WE NEED TO BE THINKING ABOUT THIS AND WHAT WE WANT TO DO. THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL FINES AND COURT COSTS. THE MAYOR SAID HE THINKS MR. SNELL HAS HAD A GOOD COUPLE OF DAYS AND IS HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION TO CLEANING UP WEST FRANKFORT.

A LADY IN THE AUDIENCE ON EAST MANILLA WANTED TO THANK THE STREET DEPARTMENT FOR THE ROAD WORK. ALSO WANTED TO KNOW IF THE BIG DITCH BY HER HOUSE ON JACKSON AND MANILLA COULD BE SCRAPED OUT. AS IT IS OVERFLOWING WITH WEEDS AND IF A LARGE RAIN HAPPENS AGAIN THERE IS CONCERN FOR FLOODING. MR. PRESLEY STATED HE WILL GO CHECK IT OUT IN THE COMING DAYS.

15. MAYOR JORDAN ASKED FOR APPROVAL TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS, PERSONNEL, LAND ACQUISITION AND/OR PENDING LITIGATION, WITH POSSIBLE ACTION. COMMISSIONER HARKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SIMPSON. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS ALONG WITH THE MAYOR VOTED YES. MOTION CARRIED. THE COUNCIL WENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:41 P.M.

16. THE COUNCIL RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION AT 7:16 P.M. ON A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HARKINS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SIMPSON. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL COMMISSIONERS ALONG WITH MAYOR JORDAN VOTED TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. MOTION CARRIED.

17. WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED ON A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HARKINS AT 7:17 P.M.

MAYOR TOM JORDAN

ANGELA BAKER DEATON, CITY CLERK