



# CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 10, 2025 at 5:30 PM

1 Benjamin Franklin Way Franklin, Ohio 45005

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## CLERK'S JOURNAL

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Centers called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

### 2. ROLL CALL

#### PRESENT

Matt Wilcher

Paul Ruppert

Mayor Brent Centers

Michael Aldridge

Debbie Fouts

#### ABSENT

Vice Mayor Todd Hall

Staff: Mr. Westendorf, Ms. Steed, Ms. Trice, Ms. Dunn, Chief Stitzel, Mr. Damian, Mr. Inman, Mr. Miller, Chief Colon, Ms. Chibis

Council members elect Mr. Ryan Roberts and Mr. Robert Lipps were present.

There were eight guests, one on duty police officer, and a member of the press in attendance.

### 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Brent Centers led the pledge of allegiance.

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. RESOLUTION 2025-75 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A QUALIFIED PERSON TO THE VACANT COUNCIL SEAT TO SERVE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

Motion to appoint Ryan Roberts made by Aldridge, Seconded by Fouts.

Voting Yea: Wilcher, Ruppert, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Fouts

Motion passed.

#### B. Swearing In New Member of Council (Judge Ruppert)

Judge Ruppert swore in Ryan Roberts as a member of Council.

Council recessed from 5:34pm - 5:36pm.

**5. APPROVE THE CLERK’S JOURNAL AND ACCEPT THE TAPES AS THE OFFICIAL MINUTES**

A. October 20, 2025

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Wilcher.

Voting Yea: Wilcher, Ruppert, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Fouts, Roberts

Motion passed.

**6. RECEPTION OF VISITORS**

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Reception of Visitors at 5:37pm as none asked to be heard.

**7. PUBLIC HEARING**

**A. ORDINANCE 2025-26 AMENDING THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO**

The Ordinance proposes various amendments to Chapter 1103 Definitions, Table 1107.04-1:

Agricultural, Residential, and Parks and Recreation Districts Use Table, Table 1107.04-2: Nonresidential Districts Use Table, and Sections 1107.12(d) and 1103.01 regarding the addition of “Model Home” as a temporary use. increase the notification requirements to properties that are within 250 feet of any part of the subject parcel.

The City of Franklin is proposing text amendments to the City’s Municipal Code to add “Model Home” as a permitted temporary use in the R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, MU-1, RMU, TN-1, and TN-2 zoning districts. Use-specific standards are proposed for the use to limit model homes during the construction of the subdivision. A definition for “Model Home” is also proposed.

Planning Commission recommended approval of the text amendments to Council during its September 10, 2025, meeting.

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Public Hearing at 5:44pm as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Aldridge.

Voting Yea: Wilcher, Ruppert, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Fouts, Roberts

Motion passed.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. RESOLUTION 2025-76 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ILIA FUNDS THROUGH THE MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION FOR STP FUNDING FY31 (Eric Damian)**

Resurfacing of the eastbound travel lanes along 1.03 miles of S.R. 73 from the city limits at the Butler/Warren County line to the S. Main Street/Dixie Highway intersection. The westbound lanes will be completed separately as part of Phase II of the project.

This Resolution is the first step in the application for funding process, with funds to be distributed in 2031. If funding is received, the City's local share would be approximately 25% of the overall project cost for the State Route 73 Improvement Project.

The Engineer's estimated cost for this Project is \$1,200,960 (estimated Local Share \$340,740).

This Project is scheduled for the first quarter of the State's 2031 fiscal year

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Aldridge.

Voting Yea: Wilcher, Ruppert, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Fouts, Roberts

Motion passed.

**B. RESOLUTION 2025-77 AMENDING POSITION DESCRIPTIONS**

During conversations with the Premier Health Employer Based Clinic, staff reviewed the pre-employment screenings for Public Works and has decided that the lift requirement should be standardized across all job descriptions to 50lbs. These amendments reflect that standardization and also update older job descriptions for ADA Compliance. The Recreation Coordinator position is being updated to reflect duties being performed and to account for the pool closing.

Motion made by Aldridge, Seconded by Fouts.

Voting Yea: Wilcher, Ruppert, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Fouts, Roberts

Motion passed.

**C. RESOLUTION 2025-78 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE 2026 FRANKLIN REGIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT**

This agreement establishes the 2026 Operations, Maintenance, and Management Services Agreement for the Franklin Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. This is an agreement between Warren County, City of Franklin, City of Carlisle, City of Germantown, and the Great Miami Wastewater Authority. The Municipalities desire that Warren County, which has extensive experience operating and maintaining wastewater treatment plants, serve as the exclusive operator and manager of the Franklin Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. This agreement formalizes that arrangement, effective January 1, 2026. The Public Works Committee reviewed the agreement at their October 30, 2025 meeting and unanimously approved recommending passage to Council.

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Wilcher.

Voting Yea: Wilcher, Ruppert, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Fouts, Roberts

Motion passed.

**D. RESOLUTION 2025-79 ACCEPTING THE ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO, PURSUANT TO AN ANNEXATION PETITION FILED WITH AND GRANTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WARREN COUNTY, OHIO, AS PROVIDED FOR IN OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 709.023**

On July 8, 2025, a petition was filed with Warren County for the annexation of 10.003 acres in Franklin Township to the City of Franklin. On August 5, 2025 the Warren County Commissioners approved the proposed annexation. Passage of this resolution accepts the annexation.

Motion made by Aldridge, Seconded by Wilcher.

Voting Yea: Wilcher, Ruppert, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Fouts, Roberts

Motion passed.

**E. RESOLUTION 2025-80 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN ANNEXATION AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 709.192 WITH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP RELATING TO THE CITY'S ANNEXATION OF WARREN COUNTY, OHIO PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBERS 824126002, 824101002, 824176002, 824200005, AND 824400033**

City staff recommends that Council approve this annexation agreement, which, following Franklin Township approval, will allow for an Expedited Type 1 annexation petition to be filed with the Warren County Board of County Commissioners in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 709.022.

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Aldridge.

Voting Yea: Wilcher, Ruppert, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Fouts, Roberts

Motion passed.

## **10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Camp Chataqua annexation is going to Montgomery County Commissioners for approval later next week.

Chief Colon gave an update on Staff Development within the Division of Police. Sgt Holland, Sgt Colvin, Sgt Shannon, and Sgt Reimer have completed supervisory training. Captain Pacifico is tentatively attending the FBI National Academy in April 2026. Officers in Charge must have attended a supervisory training to be OIC on duty.

Other agencies continue to use the shooting range. There are 8-10 paying agencies that help contribute to range upkeep and enhancements. There are currently no vacancies on the police force.

Staff conducted a follow up meeting with Ohio Valley Cruisers after the completion of the first year of hosting their weekly cruise-in in downtown. Throughout the season, there were over 1,100 individual participants, despite the challenging weather. They are happy with how the year played out. The club may change the time next year to 5-8pm and would like to add additional events and possibly combine their trunk-or-treat event with the City's trunk-or-treat event.

The Fury 5K was to be held on Saturday, November 15. Participation was up from last year, as were sponsorships.

A Very Merry Main Street was also scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm with the tree lighting at 6:00pm.

The Northwest Warren County Chamber is hosting the Window Wonderland Spectacular again this year.

Mr. Westendorf reminded Council about the 6th & Main and 6th & River ODOT and Ohio Rail Commission project and said it is ongoing.

He thanked the community for the Fire Levy passage. Chief Stitzel also thanked the community, his crews, and Council for their support. He is working to fill vacant positions as quickly as possible.

There is a Council Meeting on Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup> to award the water main project. Finance committee will meet that evening as well to discuss the 2026 budget.

The new water meters have been delivered and radio antennae's installed. Staff are deciding on app for residents to use to track consumption. The goal is to have all meters installed by July 2026.

## **11. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Roberts had no comments.

Mrs. Fouts said that everything is looking great on Main Street with the decorations. She is excited about the decorations and lights.

There have been so many improvements made under Chief Colon in the Division of Police. Great work.

Mr. Aldridge congratulated the Division of Fire & EMS on the levy passage and thanked staff and everyone who campaigned for the levy. Great job on educating and raising awareness. This is a victory for the Division and for the residents.

He loves that Chief Colon is bragging on his team. Leaders develop leaders. He is doing a great job building a strong department.

He welcomed Mr. Roberts to Council.

Mr. Wilcher thanked everyone for voting. He congratulated Mr. Roberts, Mr. Aldridge and Mr. Lipps. He is confident they will do great things for City.

Serving on Council is one of the best jobs he has had. He passed along advice to trust staff saying that council is a part-time position and staff are dedicated and care about our City. Keep moving our City the directions it's going.

Mr. Ruppert congratulated the Division of Fire & EMS. The city needs to update our equipment and he is so glad that we are able to now. We are growing and need to provide these emergency services.

He thanked Chief Colon and said it is so good to hear that officers are getting training.

The town is looking great.

The Mayor congratulated Mr. Aldridge, Mr. Roberts, and Mr. Lipps. He said that we have a great staff, and you're going to enjoy working with Council and staff. He is sad to see Mr. Wilcher go. He has enjoyed working with him, has learned from him, and it's a loss to the City.

The Fire levy passing is great. It's a vote of confidence in the City and Fire & EMS who shows up professionally. He is so excited and appreciative of the community and those who helped educate the voters.

The School levy did not pass. The Mayor has been in communication with the school board president and said that Council will continue to support schools and work with them.

Committees for 2026 will be discussed soon. He asked Council to send Ms. Dunn and requests for next year.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Aldridge, Seconded by Fouts.

Voting Yea: Wilcher, Ruppert, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Fouts, Roberts

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm

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Brent Centers, Mayor

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Khristi Dunn, Clerk of Council