



SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 8:30 AM

1 Benjamin Franklin Way Franklin, Ohio 45005

www.FranklinOhio.org

CLERK'S JOURNAL

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Centers called the meeting to order at 8:31AM.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

D. Denny Centers

Paul Ruppert

Vice Mayor Todd Hall

Mayor Brent Centers

Michael Aldridge

Debbie Fouts

ABSENT

Matt Wilcher

Mr. Westendorf, Ms. Dunn and two guests were also in attendance.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Centers.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. To consider the purchase of property for public purposes pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(2).

Motion made by D. Centers, Seconded by Ruppert.

Voting Yea: D. Centers, Ruppert, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Fouts

Voting Nay: Vice Mayor Hall

Motion passed. Council entered into executive session at 8:33AM.

Motion to come out of executive session made by D. Centers, Seconded by Ruppert.

Voting Yea: D. Centers, Ruppert, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Fouts, Vice Mayor Hall

Motion passed. Council exited executive session at 8:51AM

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Authorization to Apply for RAISE Grant

Mr. Westendorf gave an update on the RAISE grant application process. Staff had met with the grant writer for approximately four hours the previous day. She expressed confidence in the strength of the application and likelihood of receiving funds.

Mr. Westendorf explained the bank stabilization that needs to occur due to erosion of the riverbank, as well as traffic safety improvements needed. There was a pedestrian fatality on the west side of the Lion's Bridge that warrants the need for dramatic safety improvements at that intersection, as well as relief of congestion that already occurs.

Mr. Aldridge had no concerns. He is fully supportive of the grant as written. Mr. D. Centers said he felt better after Mr. Westendorf's presentation.

Mayor Centers asked for a motion authorizing the City Manager to file a RAISE Grant seeking \$25M for this project as described and submit a Letter of Commitment to the Secretary of Transportation providing up to \$2,700,000 of municipal funds as local cost-share towards the project.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Aldridge.

Voting Yea: D. Centers, Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Fouts

Motion passed.

Mr. Aldridge was excused at 10:12AM.

B. Discussion- Streetscape Update

Mr. Westendorf gave an update on the Streetscape project. Pavers will arrive mid-March and work will continue for 166 days until all pavers are complete. Contractor should be done with work between Fourth and Fifth Streets in April. They will move from Fifth to Sixth until mid-June.

6. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Westendorf offered to stay and go over any further detail as needed if any members had additional questions. He would be attending the Ohio City Manager conference the following week and will be on vacation following the March 4 Council meeting.

7. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mrs. Fouts had no comments.

Mr. D. Centers had no comments.

Mr. Ruppert had no comments.

Vice Mayor Hall thanked staff for all their hard work.

Mayor Center wished good health to Mr. Wilcher. He mentioned the dedication of the new Franklin High School scheduled for the following Saturday. He appreciates the work that went into the RAISE grant application and the meeting that day.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by D. Centers.

Voting Yea: D. Centers, Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Mayor Centers, Fouts

Motion passed. Council adjourned at 10:20AM

Brent Centers, Mayor

Khristi Dunn, Clerk of Council