



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 05, 2024 at 6:00 PM

1 Benjamin Franklin Way Franklin, Ohio 45005

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CLERK'S JOURNAL

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Hall called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

D. Denny Centers

Paul Ruppert

Vice Mayor Todd Hall

Michael Aldridge

Debbie Fouts

Matt Wilcher

ABSENT

Mayor Brent Centers

Mr. Westendorf, Mr. Yoder, Ms. Trice, Ms. Dunn, Ms. Steed. Chief Colon, Chief Stitzel, Mr. Miller, Ms. Chibis, and 5 guests were also in attendance. There was one member of the press.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chief Colon led the pledge of allegiance.

4. APPROVE THE CLERK'S JOURNAL AND ACCEPT THE TAPES AS THE OFFICIAL MINUTES

A. January 8, 2024

Motion made by Aldridge, Seconded by Ruppert.

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

Motion passed.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Warren County Career Center Bond Issue: Joel King, Superintendent and Cathy McMonigle, Treasurer

Mr. Joel King, Superintendent of Warren County Career Center, shared facts about the upcoming Bond Issue. The issue is on the March 19 primary ballot. The Career Center was approached by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission to collaborate on a new facility. WCCC is at 100% capacity for high school career tech programs for the 2023-2024 school year. There were 800 applications for only 534 spots, resulting in over 250 students not getting into the career program they wanted. They do not want to turn any more students away.

Vice Mayor Hall said that there is definitely a need. The building has been around forever and they have managed it well. He hopes the bond issues goes well. Mrs. Fouts agreed and said she sees a large need. Mr. Ruppert shared a story of success about a neighbor in the program.

Mr. Wilcher asked if operating funds would be needed. Mr. King replied that additional operating funds are not anticipated to be needed. The increase in students would provide additional state funding.

B. Introduction of New Medical Director

Dr. Gebhardt is taking on new responsibilities at the hospital in Mason and unable to continue as the City's Medical Director. Chief Stitzel introduced Dr. Parvinder Singh as the City's new medical director. He said that Dr. Singh is similar minded as they both would like to lead the way in the industry. Dr. Singh's goal is to make sure that our team is prepared well and equipped well. Council welcomed Dr. Singh. Vice Mayor Hall said he hopes this is another long-standing relationship.

C. Committee Reports

Mr. Ruppert gave an update from the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting held on January 22, 2024.

The rates for 2024 were discussed and set. Resident rates for the pool remained the same as 2023. Shelter rental fees for residents will remain at \$25 for all shelters. Non-resident pool and shelter fees increased. Shelter rentals will now be available in 4-hour increments.

The Water Main extension project starts in March. The new above ground water storage tank behind the old JEMS building adjacent to Community Park will begin in August. Staff will open up the back entrances to the park. Millard field will be closed after the FRA season is over. Staff will work with the contractors to see how much of the front entrance will be open and when.

Mr. Inman is working with all the local recreation leagues to schedule practices for the upcoming seasons.

Staff is working on the installation of a berm around the new playground equipment, and possibly the tennis courts.

Mr. Inman reported that the tennis courts will need to be resurfaced in June. This is needed every five years. The cost is \$45,000 for the tennis courts at Community Park. Resurfacing the basketball courts is \$30,000. He has found a new option that he'd like to try at Harmon Park. The cost \$28,000/court for and lasts 20 years.

The new shared use path in Community Park connects to Hazelwood Park, which contains a dog-park. The Committee asked staff to bring back changes to the Code that allow for dogs, while including leash regulations and not exposing the City to liability.

Staff will work with the team at Bricker to explore offering staff discounted rates to the pool.

The Committee decided not to offer pool entry/pass donations.

Staff does not feel that a 4th of July festival this year, or next, is feasible with the entrance of the park being at least partially blocked. The Committee asked staff to bring the topic to Council for further discussion. Council continued this discussion during the City Manager's report.

Mr. Aldridge asked about collaboration and cost-sharing on the tennis courts. Mr. Ruppert reported that there was not currently any cost-sharing.

6. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Vice Mayor Hall opened and closed the Reception of Visitors at 6:27pm as none asked to be heard.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION 2024-04 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE WARREN COUNTY ENGINEER’S OFFICE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WARREN COUNTY JOINT SALT PURCHASING PROGRAM

This is the seventh year we have contracted with the Warren County Engineer’s Office to purchase road salt. Last year we received our salt from Cargill at a price of \$89.05 per ton. We used approximately 1,156 tons of salt for the 2023 season. We have to provide the County Engineer with an estimate of salt needed for the 2024 season before they go out to bid. We have estimated our purchase at 2,000 tons; although we are only required under the program to purchase what we need, which could be less than the 2,000 tons we are estimating.

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed.

B. RESOLUTION 2024-05 ENACTING THE FINAL LEGISLATION AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) TO COMPLETE THE EAST SECOND STREET RESURFACING PROJECT

This Resolution is the final legislation required by ODOT for the resurfacing of East Second Street (SR 73) from River Street to Deardoff Road (PID No. 115746). The project consists of pavement planing, pavement repair, resurfacing, and pavement marking, along with curb and gutter, sidewalk, and curb ramp upgrades. The City share of the project will come from the ODOT Program Fund. The final estimate for the project is \$2,119,813.91. The City’s share of the project is \$919,896.00.

Motion made by Wilcher, Seconded by Fouts.

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

Motion passed.

C. RESOLUTION 2024-06 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A COST SHARING CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF FRANKLIN AND FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY, OHIO FOR PAUL E. FITZGERALD POOL OPERATIONAL COSTS

This Resolution authorizes the City Manager to sign a contract setting forth the respective obligations of the City of Franklin and Franklin Township to share in the operational costs associated with the Paul E. Fitzgerald Pool for the next five (5) years. According to the contract, Franklin Township will contribute: (i) \$30,000 annually towards pool operational costs in 2024-2026; and (ii) \$35,000 annually towards pool operational costs in 2027-2028. The City of Franklin will pay the remaining balance of pool costs each year.

Motion made by D. Centers, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed.

D. RESOLUTION 2024-07 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 9 AND 11 E. SIXTH STREET, FRANKLIN, OHIO 45005 (WARREN COUNTY AUDITOR’S PARCEL NOS. 0431138020 AND 0431138021)

This Resolution authorizes the City Manager to sign an agreement on the City’s behalf to purchase the 9 and 11 E. Sixth Street parcels for a total of \$125,000.

Motion made by Aldridge, Seconded by Wilcher.

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

Motion passed.

E. RESOLUTION 2024-08 AMENDING THE POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR THE UTILITY BILLING ADMINISTRATOR AND WATER PLANT SUPERINTENDENT

As we prepare for the upcoming retirement of the Utility Billing Administrator, we've updated the job description to more accurately depict the duties of the position.

The Water Plant Superintendent is an unclassified position. The job description is being corrected to accurately reflect this status.

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed.

F. RESOLUTION 2024-09 AMENDING RESOLUTION 2023-85 AND AUTHORIZING POSITION TITLES AND THE NUMBER OF POSITIONS FOR EACH TITLE FOR CITY OF FRANKLIN PERSONNEL FOR THE YEAR 2024

In preparation for the upcoming retirement of the Utility Billing Administrator, an additional position is being added to allow for a training period of the new Administrator.

Motion made by Aldridge, Seconded by Fouts.

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

Motion passed.

G. Electricity Aggregation Program

The electric aggregation contract with Constellation for the City's residents expires this May. Staff is exploring options with consultants to secure the best rate and term for our residents. We request a motion authorizing the City Manager to execute a new electricity supplier contract for the City's electricity aggregation program based on the recommendation of the City's program consultant

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Wilcher.

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

Motion passed.

8. INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

A. ORDINANCE 2024-01 AMENDING CHAPTER 935 OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN CODIFIED ORDINANCES

9. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Westendorf reported that bid documents were being prepared for the beautification project at SR-73/75. The bids will be opened on February 27 and brought to Council to award in March.

He gave an update on the Sixth Street (SR 123) Water Main Extension and Water tower project. Construction of the water tower and pumphouse will extend throughout this summer, and into next year. The construction of the Roundabout next summer will also impact accessibility to community park and impact the festival as well.

Staff did not feel that a Fourth of July festival this year, or next, is feasible with the entrance of the park being at least partially blocked. After Council discussion, it was decided that no Fourth of July festivities could be hosted due to safety, accessibility and traffic flow issues.

Mr. Westendorf gave an update on the Downtown construction. Fourth Street was open and should remain open until the next phase. Duke was scheduled to be on site the next week. Flaggers are used as needed.

The RAISE grant application process was going well. Staff was seeking endorsement from Senator Vance's team. They had gathered letters of support from a variety of groups.

KLH is the lighting vendor the City is using downtown. Staff is working with them to explore lighting Lion's Bridge. The engineering survey is \$3,800, design is \$18,000, and will provide concept images to work into the downtown plan. Mrs. Fouts said this portion of the project is extremely important. Mr. Wilcher agreed.

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Wilcher had no comments.

Mr. D. Centers thanked Mr. King and Mrs. McMongile. He is a huge advocate of the Warren County Career Center. His brother was an instructor. He's heard lots of stories about kids who come in with bad home situations and were able to get great jobs.

Mrs. Fouts was excited about the work to be done along Second Street. There is a business on Millard that recently caught fire. She said people are dumping on that property and asked staff to investigate it. She said the downtown construction is exciting.

Mr. Ruppert thinks staff should move forward with the engineering of lighting the Lion's Bridge. It will only cost more in the future. He appreciates construction crews working at night and is surprised at how well it goes. They are very efficient. He is apprehensive about the resurfacing of 2nd Street as people routinely travel at a high rate of speed.

Mr. Aldridge had no comments.

Vice Mayor Hall said he knows the construction is a pain, but it will be worth it once it's complete. He thanked staff for their hard work that has been put into motion. It is what Council has pushed for. He appreciates it more than he can say. He doesn't think people understand how long it's been since the infrastructure has been upgraded and how long it's been needed. When it is complete, we will have a celebration!

He thinks the back entrances being open at the park will mitigate the everyday entrance issues. Having a large crowd, like on the Fourth of July, would be an issue for safety.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. To consider the employment, appointment, and compensation of a public employee or official pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(1).
- B. To consider the purchase of property for public purposes pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(2).
- C. Conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(5).

Motion to enter executive session made by Ruppert, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed. Council entered into executive session at 7:26PM.

Motion to exit executive session made by Fouts, Seconded by Ruppert.

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

Motion passed. Council exited executive session at 9:19pm. Mr. Aldridge had been excused during the executive session.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Fouts, Seconded by Ruppert.

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

Motion passed. Council adjourned at 9:19pm.

Brent Centers, Mayor

Khristi Dunn, Clerk of Council