



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, October 06, 2025 at 5:30 PM

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 5:32pm.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Matt Wilcher

Paul Ruppert

Vice Mayor Todd Hall

Mayor Brent Centers

Michael Aldridge

Debbie Fouts

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

There were two guests in attendance.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Centers led the pledge of allegiance.

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

A. September 15, 2025

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Ruppert.

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

Motion passed.

B. September 25, 2025

Motion made by Aldridge, Seconded by Fouts.

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

Motion passed.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Warren County Humane Society

Chief Hurley with the Warren County Humane Society was invited and asked to share information on how the City is remediating a stray cat issue on River Street and other downtown areas.

The Warren County Humane Society is a private, non-profit entity. She reviewed the work done by the Humane Society. One of their many services is that they host a monthly TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) clinic to reduce unowned cat population. Cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered and vaccinated, ear-tipped for easy identification, and returned to their outdoor home. The cost is \$25 per cat. Just removing the cats creates a vacuum effect and other cats will backfill the colony.

Out of 11 municipalities, Franklin generates the highest number of calls and ranks third in stray and surrender calls.

They did a TNR in Franklin last week, from 1am - 7am. They took into 27 cats that evening. Eight of those cats were pregnant. The organization asks for a civic donation to be able to provide services. Mason and Deerfield currently participate.

Mr. Westendorf proposed a \$15,000 contribution in 2026. Council agreed.

6. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Reception of Visitors at 5:57pm as none asked to be heard.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

A. ORDINANCE 2025-22 AMENDING THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO

The Ordinance proposes various amendments to Section 1115.04 "UDO And Official Zoning Map Amendments", Section 1115.05 "Planned Unit Developments And Planned Residential Conservation Developments", Section 1115.06 "Major Subdivisions", Section 1115.08 "Site Plans", and 1115.10 "Approvals By The Appeals Board". The text amendments are requested in order to increase the notification requirements to properties that are within 250 feet of any part of the subject parcel. Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the text amendments to Council during its July 9, 2025, meeting.

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Public Hearing at 5:59 pm as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Ruppert.

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

Motion passed.

B. ORDINANCE 2025-23 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOTES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$2,300,000 IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING LAND AND INTERESTS IN LAND, AND RETIRING NOTES PREVIOUSLY ISSUED FOR SUCH PURPOSE; AND AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING RELATED MATTERS (Jenna Trice)

This Ordinance authorizes the issuance of bonds of the City in the principal sum of not to exceed \$2,300,000. These funds will reimburse the general fund for property purchases.

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Public Hearing at 6:03 pm as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by Wilcher, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed.

C. ORDINANCE 2025-24 APPROVING THE RECORD PLAN FOR THE WILLIAM C. GOOD SUBDIVISION WHICH INCLUDES THE RIGHT OF WAY DEDICATION OF PARTS OF WILLIAM C. GOOD BOULEVARD, STATE ROUTE 123, BEAL ROAD AND CREATES TWO LOTS

This Record Plan for the William C. Good Subdivision includes the Right of Way Dedication for parts of William C. Good Boulevard, SR 123 and Beal Road and creates two lots. The two lots will be approximately 1.1899 acres and 21.302 acres. The land is owned by the City of Franklin. William C. Good Blvd. was extended to Scholl Road a few years ago.

After holding a public hearing on the request, Planning Commission voted at its September 10, 2025 meeting, unanimously (5-0) to make a recommendation to City Council to approve this Record Plan.

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Public Hearing at 6:04 pm as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Wilcher.

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

Motion passed.

- D. ORDINANCE 2025-25** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AMONG THE WARREN COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY, THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO, FORESTAR (USA) REAL ESTATE GROUP INC., AND THE HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK; AND AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF TAX INCREMENT FINANCING FUNDS FOR PAYMENT OF DEBT SERVICE WITH RESPECT TO A MAXIMUM AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$4,000,000 OF PORT AUTHORITY REVENUE BONDS TO BE ISSUED TO PAY COSTS OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS; AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING RELATED MATTERS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This ordinance authorizes the City to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the Warren County Port Authority, Forestar (USA) Real Estate Group Inc., and The Huntington National Bank to support the financing of public infrastructure improvements for the Shaker Farms residential development. The Port Authority will issue up to \$4 million in revenue bonds, to be repaid using tax increment financing (TIF) service payments and community development charges, with the City's approval of related matters to facilitate the project. After Mr. Westendorf's presentation to the Warren County Commissioners, the Commissioners understood and supported Franklin's need to utilize TIF for the Shaker Farms residential development.

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Public Hearing at 6:08 pm as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Aldridge.

Voting Yea: Wilcher, Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Aldridge

Voting Nay: Mayor Centers, Fouts

Motion passed.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. RESOLUTION 2025-66** APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE CITY OF FRANKLIN CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Section 7.04 of the City's Charter requires Council to appoint a Charter Review Committee at least every five years (The last Committee was appointed in 2021). The purpose of the Committee is to recommend to Council any changes to the Charter it deems advisable. The Committee will have until November 30, 2025 to submit any such proposed changes to Council for the May 2026 election. This deadline will give Council the necessary time to review the proposed amendments, if any, before deciding whether to place them on the May 2026 ballot. Their work may continue in 2026 for the November 2026 or May 2027 election.

Council appointed Sonny Lewis, Robyn Donisi, Dionne Swift, Rick Gabbared, and Robert Hogan.

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Vice Mayor Hall.

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

Motion passed.

B. RESOLUTION 2025-67 AMENDING POSITION DESCRIPTIONS WITHIN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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 a revised reporting structure due to changes made since the last updates.

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Vice Mayor Hall.

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

Motion passed.

C. RESOLUTION 2025-68 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OF OHIO, SUPPORTING THE OHIO COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL (AMERICA250-OH)

This resolution formally endorses AMERICA250-OH and its mission to engage all Ohioans in celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States, recognizing Ohio's role in the nation's history, and promoting education, preservation, innovation, and community celebration throughout the state.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

9. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Leaf pickup will begin on October 20.

Staff provided updates on upcoming October events, including the downtown Cruise-Ins, Blood Drive, Trunk or Treat event, Fourth Friday on Fourth Street, and Beggars' Night.

Several residents on Pam Drive have expressed concerns about increased traffic during school drop-off and pickup times; the school will assist in reminding drivers not to block driveways or mailboxes.

A Fire Levy Town Hall was held on October 2, with two additional sessions scheduled for October 18 at 9 a.m. and October 28 at 6 p.m. Mr. Westendorf shared a video from the Fire & EMS Open House, which drew over 200 attendees, and Chief Stitzel provided an update on the fire levy campaign.

The City received recognition through the APA Ohio "Because We Plan" Award for the Main Street Streetscape project, with 26 total applications judged by the Minnesota chapter.

Finishing touches and testing were completed at the Spray Park this week. Commissioner Jones and County Administrator Martin Russell joined staff and the Mayor for a tour of City parks, which included visits to Harmon Park, Community Park, and Dial Park to review history, updates, and ongoing challenges.

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mrs. Fouts had no comments

Mr. Aldridge thanked staff for connecting with the Warren County Human Society. He appreciates residents like Mr. West that come to Council and have a respectful conversation about issues. He didn't realize the issue was as prevalent as it is.

Mr. Wilcher said his daughter received compliments at her place of employment regarding the good changes occurring in Franklin.

Mr. Ruppert thanked Mr. Inman and his team for their quality of work, including the work done at the Spray Park. The efficiency and skill of our public works team is amazing.

He asked if results for environmental testing at the boxboard property had been issued. Mr. Westendorf reported that staff had only received preliminary results. He will have a meeting soon and learn about the remediation efforts that are needed. He will update Council when he receives more information.

Vice Mayor Hall said that his grandson was at the Spray Park that day and he loved it. Great work to staff and thank you. He regretted missing the Fire Levy Townhall and Fire & EMS Open House because he was out of town.

Mayor Centers said the tour with Commissioner Jones went well. They also reviewed the need for funds for the Riverfront plans and she was very receptive to discussing it further.

He encouraged Council to attend the Fire Levy Townhalls as he regrettably had scheduling conflicts. He will be attending the Chamber lunch on October 20th to speak about the Fire Levy.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed. Council adjourned at 6:53pm.

Brent Centers, Mayor

Khristi Dunn, Clerk of Council