



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Monday, October 17, 2022 at 6:00 PM

1 Benjamin Franklin Way Franklin, Ohio 45005

www.FranklinOhio.org

CLERK'S JOURNAL

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:02PM.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

D. Denny Centers

Paul Ruppert

Vice Mayor Todd Hall

Mayor Brent Centers

Michael Aldridge

Debbie Fouts

Matt Wilcher

Mr. Westendorf, Mr. Yoder, Ms. Dunn, Ms. Steed, Lt. Pacifico, Chief Riddiough, Mr. Conway, Mr. Inman, Ms. Chibis and 9 guests were also in attendance.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge was led by Mayor Centers.

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

A. October 3, 2022

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Vice Mayor Hall.

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

B. October 4, 2022

Motion made by D. Centers, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Good Neighbor Award

Mr. Westendorf and City Council presented four representatives from Gracepoint Church with a Good Neighbor Award. Gracepoint conducted a community cleanup event on October 7th and 8th. They had over 50 volunteers and helped 20 plus property owners.

- B. Committee Reports
 - a. Finance Committee

Mr. D. Centers gave an update from the Finance Committee meeting that was held earlier that evening. Income Tax Revenue was up approximately \$2 million. There was an appropriation request on that night's agenda. The committee suggested passing the appropriation ordinance as submitted.

6. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

The Mayor opened the Reception of Visitors at 6:13 PM.

Patrick Engle of 5 Maple Street asked to be heard. Mr. Engle has concerns about happenings in his neighborhood. There are quad runners that are continuously racing on the streets, especially on the weekends and around 3:00 PM on weekdays. These are often operated by juveniles. He said there is confusion with the police department on what is allowed on roadways. He is concerned about safety. He sees criminal activity at Harmon Park and cleans up the park often. Lt. Pacifico will be reviewing the concerns and increasing patrol in the area.

Peggy Jeromos of 4915 Robinson Vale Drive asked to be heard in her capacity with Franklin City Schools. The Schools are asking for a formal endorsement of Issue 4, the renewal levy on the upcoming ballot. The levy was last renewed in 2018 and is strictly operating funds.

Motion made by D. Centers, Seconded by Wilcher.

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

Motion passed. Council unanimously voted to endorse Issue 4.

Michael Faulkner of 6339 Gorsuch Road asked to be heard. He came in to get an update on the storm water issue on Gorsuch Road. Mr. Westendorf reported that some repairs had been made that resulted in big improvements. There was a topographical survey done and another solution is in engineering review. Staff is targeting mid-November for another residential meeting to review proposed solution.

The Mayor closed the reception of visitors at 6:29PM

7. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. **ORDINANCE 2022-25 AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE NAME OF HIGHLAND AVENUE (ALSO KNOWN AS CHARLES AVENUE) CHANGED TO CHARLES STREET PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE, SECTION 723.04 (Barry Conway)**

Highland Avenue from State Route 73 to Virginia Avenue was originally dedicated with the Rose Ellison Subdivision in Plat Book 2 Page 297 in 1941. Since then, it has also been called Charles Avenue. This Ordinance would officially change the name to Charles Street. The Map Room at Warren County could not find any record of this name change and requested legislation.

This name change would be consistent as to what dispatch and the water department are using for the street name.

The Mayor opened and closed the Public Hearing at 6:32 PM as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

- B. ORDINANCE 2022-26** AMENDING ORDINANCE 2022-21 TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Jonathan Westendorf)

This ordinance will adjust appropriations to the following funds:

- **General Fund**
 - Increase of \$35,000 to Police Division Other for Fuel & Lubricants (\$22,000) and Maintenance – Vehicles (\$13,000) for rising gas prices and higher maintenance costs.
 - Increase of \$55,000 to Law Department Other for Legal expenses
 - Increase of \$30,000 to Finance Department Other for increase in Professional Services to cover Interim Finance Director expense.
 - Increase of 1,235,230 to Other Financing Uses for transfer to Econ Dev Fund for Purchase of Properties
 - Increase of \$5,000 to Special Events
- **Capital Improvement Fund**
 - Increase of \$150,000 to Other for 73/75 Beautification
- **ODOT Program Fund**
 - Increase of \$225,000 to Other for Roundabout Engineering (\$100,000) ODOT STP Engineering (\$25,000) and (\$100,000) Additional Construction Costs
- **Economic Development & Rehabilitation Fund**
 - Increase of \$200,000 to Other Contractual Services (50,000) Downtown Master Plan (25,000) demolition (125,000) Miscellaneous
 - Increase \$1,250,000 Other Capital Outlay (1,100,000)

Cohen Purchase (50,000) S. River Purchase (100,000) Misc Purchase

The Mayor opened and closed the Public Hearing at 6:33 PM as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Vice Mayor Hall.

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

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Liquor License Application:** 1111 William C Good (Lt Pacifico)

Lt. Pacifico recommends objecting to the application. The location has been cited several times for selling to underage individuals.

The Mayor asked for a motion. Mrs. Fouts made the motion to request a hearing on this liquor license application.

Motion made by Fouts, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

9. INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

- A. **ORDINANCE 2022-27** AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE A PORTION OF THE FIRST ALLEY NORTH OF PARK AVENUE FROM PINE STREET TO 250 FEET WEST PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE, SECTION 723.05 (Barry Conway)

10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

On Tuesday, October 25th at 6:00 PM, a public hearing will be held at the Franklin Area Historical Society (302 Park Ave) proposing a portion of Downtown Franklin be placed on the National Historical Registry. Forever Franklin, Incorporated has applied for the designation. This will allow property owners to obtain some tax benefits when making property improvements.

Warren County Regional Planning Commission Comprehensive Plan is coming to an end. There will be a public meeting on Tuesday, November 1 at 6:30 PM.

Mr. Westendorf sought Council's input on the Downtown Development Zoning regulations. With no changes, the proposed regulations would be presented to Planning Commission on November 16. These could be in place prior to expiration of the current development moratorium if no changes are requested by Planning Commission or Council.

Staff would be ready for part two of the next Council Work Session on November 7 or after. Mr. Westendorf estimates this meeting will take two to three hours for Economic Development strategies. Ms. Dunn will send out multiple date options to Council.

11. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Wilcher said The Great Pumpkin Roll Festival went well. He participated in the trunk or treat and enjoyed being a part of the event with his family.

Mrs. Fouts asked about the closing of SR-123 during construction of the roundabout. She wondered if JEMS will be able to get out of their building if the road is closed. Mr. Westendorf replied that JEMS may not be in that building during construction, but if they are, they will need to turn right out of their drive. They are aware of the project.

Mr. Aldridge thanked Gracepoint Church again for their work in the community. Council gets multiple complaints about property maintenance and he is thankful that they took action to improve the community. He thanked Mr. Westendorf for addressing a resident's concerns about a news article that had been published regarding his property.

Mr. D. Centers thanked Mr. Faulkner for coming down to check on this neighborhood project.

He asked if the sand pile on City owned property had to be moved. Mr. Westendorf said it did not have to be, but it has already delayed work in the area as they assess the situation.

Mr. Ruppert had no comments.

Vice Mayor Hall thanked Mr. Engler for coming to Council. The issue with his neighborhood was addressed about eight years ago and he is disappointed that it is an issue again. The park near his residence is a very nice park that Paul Hillard and others raised money for, and he wants to ensure it is kept well.

The Mayor thanked the guests for attending and thanked Gracepoint for their service. He heard The Great Pumpkin Roll was a great event.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. To consider the employment and compensation of a public employee or official pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(1).
- B. To consider confidential information related to the specific business strategy of an applicant for economic development assistance that involves public infrastructure improvements that are directly related to an economic development project pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(8).

ORC 121.22(G)(8)(b): A unanimous quorum of the public body determines, by a roll call vote, that the executive session is necessary to protect the interests of the applicant or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with the economic development project.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Fouts.

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

Motion passed. Council entered into Executive Session at 6:50 PM.

Motion to come out of Executive Session made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed. Council came out of Executive Session at 10:12 PM.

13. NEW BUSINESS

The Mayor asked for a motion to extend a conditional employment offer for the position of City Finance Director, subject to completion of a satisfactory background check, and upon such, additional terms to be negotiated and approved by the parties.

Motion made by D. Centers, Seconded by Ruppert.

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

Motion passed.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Aldridge, Seconded by Wilcher.

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

Motion passed. Council adjourned at 10:13 PM.

Brent Centers, Mayor

Khristi Dunn, Clerk of Council