



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, May 18, 2026 at 5:30 PM

1 Benjamin Franklin Way Franklin, Ohio 45005

www.FranklinOhio.org

CLERK'S JOURNAL

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Ryan Roberts

Paul Ruppert

Vice Mayor Todd Hall

Michael Aldridge

Debbie Fouts

Robert Lipps

ABSENT

Mayor Brent Centers

Staff: Mr. Westendorf, Ms. Steed, Ms. Trice, Ms. Dunn, Mr. Damian, Chief Colon, Mr. Inman and Ms. Chibis and one on-duty police officer.

There were six guests in attendance.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Damian led the pledge of allegiance.

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

A. May 4, 2026

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Voting Abstaining: Roberts, Fouts

Motion passed.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Orioles Nest 263, Franklin, Ohio (Doug Adams)

Mr. Doug Adams, together with other members representing the Fraternal Order of Orioles Nest 263, presented a \$5,000 donation in support of the America-250 celebrations scheduled for Saturday, July 4.

Funding contributions for the event currently include: City of Carlisle: \$5,000, Franklin Township: \$10,000, Fraternal Order of Orioles Nest 263: \$5,000. The City of Franklin typically contributes approximately \$20,000 toward fireworks for the annual celebration.

6. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Vice Mayor Hall opened the Reception of Visitors at 5:35pm. Seeing no one approach, he closed the Reception of Visitors at 5:36pm.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

A. ORDINANCE 2026-06 APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Ordinance makes appropriations in the General Fund, Recreation Fund, Street Fund, Fire Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Stormwater Fund, and ODOT Fund. The Finance Committee reviewed the appropriations at their May 4 meeting and recommended approval.

Vice Mayor Hall opened and closed the Public Hearing at 5:40pm as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by Aldridge, Seconded by Ruppert.

Voting Yea: Roberts, Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Aldridge, Fouts, Lipps

Motion passed.

B. RESOLUTION 2026-30 APPROVING THE APPLICATION TO ADD CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY TO THE FRANKLIN NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND TO AMEND THE PETITION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FRANKLIN NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY AS A NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY UNDER CHAPTER 349 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE

In April of 2023, City Council approved the establishment of the Franklin New Community Authority (the "NCA"), pursuant to City Ordinance 2023-10. Consistent with the City's approach to direct new development projects through the NCA, the application ("Application") attached to this Resolution as Exhibit B is being submitted by the property owner for real property located within the City on 3501 Shotwell Drive and identified by parcel identification number 0829101009. By adding the property to the NCA, the developer will benefit by being able to be reimbursed for a portion of certain costs it is committing to infrastructure improvements to such property that otherwise would have been needed to be constructed by the City. Additionally, the Application amends the Petition as previously approved by the City to include the new property and to allow the voluntary imposition of community development charges on the property.

No persons elected to speak during the public hearing as it was advertised in the notice published in accordance with Chapter 349 and included in the agenda.

Motion made by Aldridge, Seconded by Fouts.

Voting Yea: Roberts, Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Aldridge, Fouts, Lipps

Motion passed.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION 2026-31 WITHDRAWING OBJECTION TO A LIQUOR RETAIL PERMIT APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO

The City of Franklin received notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control (the “DOLC”) that the new owner of the Marathon gas station property located at 1111 William C. Good Blvd (Franklin Foodmart LLC) filed an application with the DOLC to receive a Class D liquor permit with respect to the premises. The new owner initially failed to obtain necessary City zoning approvals to operate the business on the property, and it was unclear whether the new owner was affiliated with the previous owner (Prince Petroleum Inc.—who demonstrated to the City that it was unfit to operate a liquor establishment). Franklin Foodmart LLC recently obtained conditional use approval from the City to operate the Marathon gas station business on the property, and City staff have confirmed that Franklin Foodmart is not affiliated with Prince Petroleum Inc. Based on these updates, City staff recommends that Council withdraw its objection to Franklin Foodmart’s liquor permit application.

Motion made by Roberts, Seconded by Lipps.

Voting Yea: Roberts, Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Aldridge, Fouts, Lipps

Motion passed.

B. RESOLUTION 2026-32 ACCEPTING THE ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO, PURSUANT TO AN EXPEDITED TYPE 1 ANNEXATION PETITION FILED WITH AND GRANTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WARREN COUNTY, OHIO, AS PROVIDED FOR IN OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 709.022

On February 23, 2026, a petition was filed with Warren County for the annexation of approximately 118.9524 acres in Franklin Township to the City of Franklin. On March 3, 2026 the Warren County Commissioners approved the proposed annexation. Passage of this resolution accepts the annexation.

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Aldridge.

Voting Yea: Roberts, Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Aldridge, Fouts, Lipps

Motion passed.

C. RESOLUTION 2026-33 AMENDING POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR SEASONAL LABORER IN PUBLIC WORKS

The Seasonal Laborer position is being updated to clarify the role’s responsibilities, emphasizing seasonal park maintenance, landscaping, facility upkeep, and support for community events.

Motion made by Aldridge, Seconded by Roberts.

Voting Yea: Roberts, Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Aldridge, Fouts, Lipps

Motion passed.

D. RESOLUTION 2026-34 ADOPTING A POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR THE PART TIME PUBLIC WORKS LABORER

This Resolution adopts a position description for the Part-Time Public Works Laborer. This helps distinguish between part-time and seasonal employees.

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Lipps.

Voting Yea: Roberts, Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Aldridge, Fouts, Lipps

Motion passed.

E. RESOLUTION 2026-35 AMENDING RESOLUTION 2026-15 AND AUTHORIZING POSITION TITLES AND THE NUMBER OF POSITIONS FOR EACH TITLE FOR CITY OF FRANKLIN PERSONNEL FOR THE YEAR 2026

Resolution 2026-15 is being amended to add the Zoning Official and Part-Time Public Works positions.

Motion made by Aldridge, Seconded by Ruppert.

Voting Yea: Roberts, Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Aldridge, Fouts, Lipps

Motion passed.

F. RESOLUTION 2026-36 AMENDING RESOLUTION 2026-16 AND ESTABLISHING THE ORGANIZATIONAL LISTINGS AND PAY RATES FOR CITY OF FRANKLIN OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE YEAR 2026

Resolution 2026-16 is being amended to set the rates of pay for 2026.

The salary rate for the Zoning Official has a range of \$60,000 - \$73,792.

The hourly rate for the Part-Time Public Works Labor is \$17.13 – \$18.17

Clerical errors are being corrected on the Clerk of Council position and wording was added to clarify how the city handles salary staff during 27 pay period years.

Motion to approve with amendment that Zoning Official pay is yearly salary, not hourly.

Motion made by Fouts, Seconded by Aldridge.

Voting Yea: Roberts, Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Aldridge, Fouts, Lipps

Motion passed.

G. RESOLUTION 2026-37 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A) FY 2026 SUPPLEMENTAL PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

This Resolution authorizes the City Manager to apply for a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) FY 2026 Supplemental Planning Grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation. The proposed grant application builds upon the City's previously adopted Roadway Safety Action Plan and seeks funding to complete additional roadway safety planning activities focused on reducing fatalities and serious injuries throughout the community.

The City is proposing a comprehensive corridor study along the State Route 123 corridor from Tama Lane to the State Route 123 and Robinson Vail Road intersection, as well as a targeted Road Safety Audit (RSA) at the Riley Boulevard, Main Street, and Dixie Highway intersection.

The corridor study will evaluate traffic operations, crash patterns, multimodal access, roadway capacity, corridor connectivity, Complete Streets opportunities, access management, and other operational and safety considerations along one of the City's busiest and most critical transportation corridors. The RSA will provide a focused safety review of the Riley Boulevard, Main Street, and Dixie Highway intersection, which includes challenging geometric conditions, railroad crossings, bridge crossings over Clear Creek, heavy turning movements, and high traffic volumes.

The proposed planning effort will result in prioritized recommendations for operational and physical safety improvements, including pedestrian and bicycle accommodations, visibility enhancements, speed management strategies, intersection modifications, corridor redesign concepts, and other transportation safety countermeasures.

The total estimated project cost is currently \$1,056,000. The City intends to request approximately \$844,800 in federal SS4A funding, representing 80% of the total project cost. The required 20% local match would be approximately \$211,200.

If awarded, the SS4A Grant Program is a reimbursement-based program. The City would submit periodic reimbursement requests throughout the duration of the project for eligible expenses incurred under the program. The required local match and any non-reimbursable project costs would be funded through future Capital Improvement Program appropriations. The City may also evaluate the use of available County Motor Vehicle License Tax (CVT) funds toward eligible portions of the required local share.

Motion made by Roberts, Seconded by Aldridge.

Voting Yea: Roberts, Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Aldridge, Fouts, Lipps

Motion passed.

9. INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

A. ORDINANCE 2026-07 LEVYING ASSESSMENTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF CITY STREETS AND PUBLIC WAYS BY THE LIGHTING THEREOF FOR THE YEAR 2027 (Jenna Trice)

10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Westendorf reported that during the last Finance Committee meeting, discussion occurred regarding the Great Miami Wastewater Authority contracting with the City of Franklin for financial services. Since that meeting, staff presented a proposed agreement to the Authority Board for \$125,000 in contracted services, which was agreed upon. Staff is currently awaiting contract language and will present the agreement to Council for approval.

Mast arms and new traffic signals have been installed at Sixth Street and River Street. The intersection improvements include streetscape-standard signage and associated infrastructure. An issue with the base at Main Street and Sixth Street was identified and will be addressed, resulting in an estimated six-to eight-week delay.

Final finishing touches are being completed at the Spray Park, including the addition of designated handicap parking spaces. The Grand Opening is scheduled for May 22 at 2pm. At the Grand Opening, Council and Staff will recognize the following team members whose expertise, commitment to public service, and hard work made the Dial Park Spray Park possible:

- Steve Inman
- Nick Miller
- Luke Wolfenbarger
- Mac Hymer
- Kenny Gordon
- Sam Chamberlain
- Dylan Robinson

The second downtown car show, held the previous week, had approximately 120 cars in attendance. Mr. Westendorf also highlighted several upcoming community events, including the Spray Park Grand Opening, Fourth Friday, the Farmers Market, and the Jim Mears Memorial Day Parade.

In recognition of National Public Works Week, a thank-you video was shared on social media. He expressed appreciation for the Public Works staff and specifically recognized their efforts and contributions to the Spray Park project.

Mr. Westendorf provided an update regarding the railroad and water main project. The City has received unofficial notice that the rail line may cease operations effective June 1. Staff has initiated discussions with Keller Partners, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), GoRail Ohio, and Warren County officials to better understand the next steps related to the rail corridor, including potential abandonment, preservation, reactivation, or public acquisition options.

The City was awarded \$1,000,000 through the Ohio Brownfield Remediation Grant Program. The City previously received \$350,000 during the first phase for study and assessment work. The additional funding represents a significant step toward achieving Voluntary Action Program (VAP) designation for future development and land ownership opportunities.

11. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Lipps stated that it was great to hear about the Brownfield Remediation Grant award and noted that the press coverage regarding the grant had been very positive. He commented that the response on social media appeared to be largely supportive and that the City of Franklin continues to receive strong public exposure. Mr. Lipps also inquired about the condition of the bike path near Clear Creek and asked about plans for a more permanent solution to the area that had washed out. Staff responded that work is ongoing to develop a solution.

Mrs. Fouts stated that it was good to be back and that she was ready to get back into the routine of Council activities. She also expressed excitement regarding the Brownfield Remediation Grant award.

Mr. Roberts commented that he drives past the Spray Park twice daily and expressed admiration for the work completed by Steve and his crew in transforming the entire area. He stated that the community and City staff continue to pour their heart and soul into the City and that residents are beginning to recognize those efforts. Mr. Roberts thanked staff for their hard work, thanked the Franklin Orioles for their support, and congratulated the graduates of the Class of 2026.

Mr. Ruppert stated that he had the opportunity to present Top 10% awards at Franklin High School and noted that the event went very smoothly with a strong turnout. He commended the students for their academic achievements and stated that it was encouraging to see them recognized for their accomplishments. Mr. Ruppert also commented that the City looks great, expressed appreciation for the Brownfield Remediation Grant award, and noted progress on the brewery project, including the start of structural steel.

Mr. Aldridge echoed the earlier comments made by Council members and stated that he planned to attend the Friday opening event in order to thank the Public Works Department for their efforts and hard work.

Vice Mayor Hall thanked the Franklin Orioles, Franklin Township, and the City of Carlisle for their partnership and support. He also thanked the Public Works Department and all City staff, stating that employees throughout the organization work extremely hard on behalf of the community. Vice Mayor Hall encouraged residents to look beyond negative social media commentary and recognize the dedication of City administration, staff, Public Works, Police, and Fire personnel. He stated that the City's projects and accomplishments have continued to grow during his time on Council and that he is continually impressed by the progress being made. Vice Mayor Hall remarked that City employees clearly view their work as more than just a job and expressed appreciation for their commitment to improving the community for future generations. He also recognized New Vine Church for hosting "Love Week" and providing lunch to City staff.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Fouts, Seconded by Aldridge.

Voting Yea: Roberts, Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Aldridge, Fouts, Lipps

Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.

Brent Centers, Mayor

Khristi Dunn, Clerk of Council