



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 04, 2024 at 6:00 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 6:03pm.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

D. Denny Centers

Paul Ruppert

Mayor Brent Centers

Michael Aldridge

Debbie Fouts

Matt Wilcher

ABSENT

Vice Mayor Todd Hall

Staff: Mr. Westendorf, Ms. Steed, Ms. Trice. Ms. Dunn, Chief Stitzel, Captain Pacifico, Mr. Conway, Ms. Chibis

There were approximately 20 guests in attendance.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Girl Scout Troop 3179 led the pledge of allegiance.

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

A. October 21, 2024

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation for Triple A Pro Services

Mayor Centers presented a proclamation to Triple A Pro Services in celebration of their 70th year in business.

B. Committee Reports

Mayor Centers gave an update from the Safety Committee held earlier that evening. The committee discussed the need for a fire levy. They will continue to meet in the coming months and will provide updates as those meetings occur. This was just the beginning stages of the discussion.

6. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Mayor Centers opened the reception of visitors at 6:12pm.

Dennis West of 211 Pine Street asked to be heard. He applauded Chief Colon for his response to a complaint made by Mr. West. The Chief responded in a timely manner, resolved the issue, and went above and beyond. He wanted to share this praise with Council and thank the Chief for his efforts.

Mayor Centers closed the Reception of Visitors at 6:17pm.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

A. ORDINANCE 2024-28 ENACTING SECTION 541.19 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO, CAPTIONED "CAMPING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY" (Jonathan Westendorf)

This Ordinance renders it illegal to camp on any public property where camping activities are not expressly authorized by the City of Franklin.

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Public Hearing at 6:20pm as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Fouts.

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

Motion passed.

B. ORDINANCE 2024-29 AMENDING VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN TRAFFIC CODE, SET FORTH IN PART THREE OF THE CITY'S CODIFIED ORDINANCES

This Ordinance amends several provisions of the City's Traffic Code to: (i) modify the definition of "junk motor vehicle," as used in the Code; (ii) make the timeframe for determining when a vehicle has been "abandoned" consistent throughout the Code; (iii) prohibit the parking of junk motor vehicles in the public right-of-way; and (iv) prohibit the parking of an unlawfully covered/tarped vehicle in the public right-of-way.

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Public Hearing at 6:23pm as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by Aldridge, Seconded by Wilcher.

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

Motion passed.

C. ORDINANCE 2024-30 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO TO PROVIDE AMENDMENTS TO TRAFFIC FRANKLIN CITY CODE SECTIONS 303.01, 303.11, 331.32, 331.38, 333.03, 333.07, 333.08, 335.23, 337.15, 337.26, 339.11, 339.12, 339.13, 339.16, 339.32, 341.061, 341.08, 341.09, 351.10, 351.11, 351.12, 352.03, 335.23, 353.05, 353.08, 373.14, ; TO PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES; TO PROVIDE FOR CODIFICATION; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

MuniCode has provided a legal review of the City's Traffic Code. This Ordinance would amend the following sections of Part Three – Traffic Code: Sections 303.01, 303.11, 331.32, 331.38, 333.03, 333.07, 333.08, 335.23, 337.15, 337.26, 339.11, 339.12, 339.13, 339.16, 339.32, 341.061, 341.08, 341.09, 351.10, 351.11, 351.12, 352.03, 335.23, 353.05, 353.08 and 373.14.

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Public Hearing at 6:24pm as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by D. Centers, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed.

- D. ORDINANCE 2024-31** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO TO PROVIDE AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL OFFENSES FRANKLIN CITY CODE SECTIONS 501.01, 501.99, 513.01, 513.03, 531.01, 533.03, 533.04, 537.02, 537.03, 537.16, 549.03; TO PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES; TO PROVIDE FOR CODIFICATION; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

MuniCode has provided a legal review of the City's General Offenses Code. This Ordinance would amend the following sections of Part Five – General Offenses Code: Sections 01.01, 501.99, 513.01, 513.03, 531.01, 533.03, 533.04, 537.02, 537.03, 537.16, and 549.03

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Public Hearing at 6:25pm as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by Aldridge, Seconded by Ruppert.

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

Motion passed.

- E. ORDINANCE 2024-32** 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 AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING RELATED MATTERS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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.

The City has expended over \$2 million in property acquisition in the last 18 - 24 months. The purchase of the Boxboard property was \$1.2 million. The City has not been seeking to purchase properties, but when approached by a property owner, has purchased those properties as part of the downtown master plan. This strategy will give the general fund a cash infusion of approximately \$2.15 million.

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Public Hearing at 6:30pm as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by D. Centers.

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

Motion passed.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. RESOLUTION 2024-68** APPOINTING MEMBERS OF COUNCIL TO THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' DEPENDENTS FUND BOARD FOR THE YEAR 2025

The ORC requires that two members of the Volunteer Firefighters' Dependent Fund board be elected by the legislative authority of the political subdivision.

Mr. Aldridge and Mr. Wilcher have agreed to continue their service on this board for 2025.

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by D. Centers.

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

Motion passed.

9. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Main Street Update: Crews would begin installing light poles for cantenary lighting along Fourth Street the following day. On Wednesday, Fourth Street would close on both sides while Main Street remains open as crews start stringing the cantenary lighting system between poles. The west side to be done first due to holiday events. The east side of Fourth Street will take a bit longer. Crews will work on

Saturday and should be done by the next Wednesday. In mid-November, Fourth and Main will close to install middle lighting structure. Still waiting on components to be delivered so timeline not set on that portion. Wire was pulled and installed into server room at city building. The cross walk at Fourth and Main will have Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons due to busyness at that crosswalk. Those devices were not yet purchased and will have to be bought at a future date. Crews are getting very close to completion of the project.

Caleb, the Landscape Beautification Division Head, and volunteers from Pzifer have started installing holiday lights on the trees on Main Street.

The RAISE grant Notice of Funding was released. January 30th is the application deadline. There are additional grant opportunities on the horizon. Staff has a kickoff meeting later that week to discuss, including potential funding from the governor's office on water systems. The team will put together a strategy to get the most points possible on the RAISE grant application.

Ms. Steed received notice of award for a demolition grant for downtown properties. The purchase of the properties will go towards the local share.

The Fury 5K was to be held on Saturday, November 9. Franklin in Lights was scheduled for Saturday, December 7.

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Wilcher thanked Mr. West for coming out to relay nice words about the Chief and Division of Police. The Chief is community driven and has built a great team. Remember how important it is to go vote. Every vote counts. He recognized Triple A and the important work they do.

Mrs. Fouts echoed comments about voting and said it was great to have the Girl Scouts here that evening. She and Ms. Steed met with them before the meeting and enjoyed their conversation. Go vote!

Mr. Aldridge thanked Mr. West for being involved and attending meetings. He appreciates hearing the positive news. Congrats and thanks for being great neighbors to Triple A. Go vote.

Mr. D. Centers appreciated Mr. West and thanked him for the nice comments. Council thinks a lot of staff, adding "We have a great staff".

Mr. Ruppert agreed with Mr. D. Centers saying that we have a great crew and thank goodness we do. He will send the address of an abandoned vehicle now that Ordinance 2024-29 has passed. He has received many good remarks about downtown. He hasn't heard any bad remarks about the renovations. There is so much infrastructure upgrades under the blacktop. The area looks beautiful at night.

Mayor Centers appreciates the feedback from Mr. West. He always appreciates comments from the community, but receiving positive feedback was very nice. The Girl Scout troop was wonderful.

The Mayor complimented Planning Commission and said the amount of work that has been put in has been incredible. They are currently reviewing the sign code, which is lots of work. Everyone is prepared, asks thoughtful questions, and they are moving the community forward.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. To consider the appointment, employment, and compensation of a public employee or official pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(1).

- B. To consider confidential information related to the trade secrets of an applicant for economic development assistance pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(8).
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 to enter executive session made by Ruppert, Seconded by Aldridge.
Voting Yea: D. Centers, Ruppert, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Fouts, Wilcher
Motion passed. Council entered into executive session at 6:49pm.

Motion to exit executive session made by Fouts, Seconded by Aldridge.
Voting Yea: D. Centers, Ruppert, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Fouts, Wilcher
Motion passed. Council exited executive session at 7:42pm.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by D. Centers, Seconded by Wilcher.
Voting Yea: D. Centers, Ruppert, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Fouts, Wilcher
Motion passed. Council adjourned at 7:42pm.

Brent Centers, Mayor

Khristi Dunn, Clerk of Council