



# CITY COUNCIL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, November 04, 2024 at 5:00 PM

1 Benjamin Franklin Way Franklin, Ohio 45005

[www.FranklinOhio.org](http://www.FranklinOhio.org)

## CLERK'S JOURNAL

---

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Centers called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

### 2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chair Brent Centers

Michael Aldridge

Matt Wilcher

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

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

A. March 4, 2024

Motion made by Wilcher, Seconded by Aldridge.

Voting Yea: Chair Centers, Aldridge, Wilcher

Motion passed.

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Division of Fire & EMS

Mr. Westendorf said a fire levy is necessary. That evening was meant to be a discussion to start the process so that an informed conversation can be had and staff can act accordingly moving forward.

In 2002, the first Fire levy was passed. There was a \$375,000 annual budget from the General Fund. From this levy, staffing increased from one full-time and one part-time firefighter per day to five full-time and four part-time per day. A new station was constructed with a goal of EMS services. New gear and equipment were also purchased.

This was a 2.9 mill permanent levy.

In 2012 another levy was passed. This levy created Fire based EMS services, increased staffing, added EMS billing and grant eligibility. This was a 3.5 mil permanent levy. Voters were assured this levy would last 10 years before additional funds were sought. Due to COVID and School Levies, the City has put off placing another levy on the ballot.

Fire & EMS has changed dramatically in the past few years. Staffing challenges due to retention and pay rates, specifically paramedic pay rates, have increased.

Mr. Westendorf reviewed, by year, the number of runs made, revenue breakdown, and expenses.

Chief Stitzel summarized current accomplishments of the Division including staffing, vehicle updates, inspection and plan review program, Community risk reduction program, increased mutual aid relationships, building updates and repairs, and several grants obtained.

There was discussion regarding mutual aid agreements with Carlisle & Franklin Township.

The Chief reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan for Apparatus Replacement and Building plans review.

Staff reviewed levy millage in dollars. 1 mill equates to \$35 for every \$100,000 of home value. 1 mill would generate \$350,000.

There was discussion about capital or operational, permanent or renewable, and timing of the levy.

There will be further discussion including timing and upcoming elections at subsequent meetings.

## 5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Aldridge, Seconded by Wilcher.

Voting Yea: Chair Centers, Aldridge, Wilcher

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm

---

Mayor Brent Centers, Chair