



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 01, 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 6:02pm.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

D. Denny Centers

Paul Ruppert

Vice Mayor Todd Hall

Mayor Brent Centers

Matt Wilcher

ABSENT

Michael Aldridge

Debbie Fouts

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

Guests: Two guests and one member of the press were also 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. March 18, 2024

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Wilcher.

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

Motion passed.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Division of Police Update

Chief Colon gave an update on the operations of the Division of Police. He reviewed statistics from 2023 and highlighted several cases on interest and the results of those investigations. He also reviewed several improvements in the Detectives bureau including technology updates and training courses that were attended.

Updates for 2024 include a drone program, various equipment updates, and the transition to twelve-hour shifts.

B. Introduce K9s Aslan & Maggie

Officer Butler introduced K9 Asland. Officer Butler's partner, Fury, was tragically lost in the line of duty in 2023. Asland is currently in his third week of training.

SRO Lacon introduced K9 Maggie. Maggie will be trained in bomb detection and will serve with SRO Lacon at Franklin City Schools.

C. Council Work Session - Independence Day Celebrations

It was previously decided to suspend the 4th of July celebrations for 2024. Due to public push back, Council asked to discuss the possibility again and exhaust all options.

Mr. Westendorf presented several parade route options. Council opted for a route that goes down River, instead of Main, and ends at the north point where Main and River converge. There were concerns about safety along River and in the area where downtown construction will be occurring. Staff will evaluate the route and provide updates.

6. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Mayor Centers opened the Reception of Visitors at 6:53PM.

Charles Richard of 3884 Beal Road asked to be heard. He also owns the property located at 165-185 E 6th Street.

Mr. Richard says that damage occurred to his property and equipment as a result of a City contractor and Duke energy using his property as a staging area for their work site.

Mr. Conway recounted the conversations he's had with Mr. Richard. There were three projects happening in the area. Mr. Conway confirmed that contractors were not given permission to be on his property. He provided contact information for all three companies. Mayor Centers would like Bricker to provide a legal opinion on options for City contractors damaging business owner property. Mr. Conway clarified that Duke is a not a city contractor, they were doing work on their equipment. Mr. Westendorf asked for a meeting with Mr. Richard to be brought up to date on the situation.

The Mayor closed the Reception of Visitors at 7:05pm

7. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. **ORDINANCE 2024-03** AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE A PORTION OF SOUTH AVENUE FROM CEDAR STREET TO THE NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILROAD PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE (ORC), SECTION 723.04 AND MAINTAINING A PERMANENT PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENT THROUGH SAID VACATED RIGHT-OF-WAY PURSUANT TO ORC 723.041

Atlas Roofing Corporation has requested the vacation of a portion of the northern half of South Avenue (a paper street). Atlas owns the property that abuts both sides of the paper street. Certain City and other public utilities exist within this right-of-way. The City has no objection to vacating this portion of South Avenue, but a permanent public utility easement must be retained to ensure the continued maintenance and operation of utilities in the right-of-way.

Mayor Centers opened and closed the public hearing at 7:07pm as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by D. Centers, Seconded by Ruppert.

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

Motion passed.

- B. **ORDINANCE 2024-04** AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE A FIFTEEN (15) FOOT ALLEY PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE (ORC), SECTION 723.04

Franklin City Schools has requested the vacation of a fifteen (15) foot alley located between Pine Street and 250 feet west. The School District owns the property that abuts both sides of the involved alley. The City has no objection to vacating the alley and transferring the right-of-way to the School District.

Mayor Centers opened and closed the public hearing at 7:09pm 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, Wilcher

Motion passed.

C. ORDINANCE 2024-05 APPROVING THE RECORD PLAN FOR K.O. STORAGE THAT INCLUDES THE RIGHT OF WAY DEDICATION OF NORTH DIXIE HIGHWAY/NORTH MAIN STREET

This Record Plan for K.O. Storage includes the Right of Way Dedication of North Dixie Highway/North Main Street. After holding a public hearing on the request Planning Commission voted at its March 13, 2024 meeting, unanimously (6-0) to make a recommendation to City Council to approve this Record Plan.

Mayor Centers opened and closed the public hearing at 7:10pm as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by Wilcher, Seconded by Vice Mayor Hall.

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

Motion passed.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION 2024-24 APPROVING THE COUNTYWIDE 9-1-1 FINAL PLAN

On February 27th, the Warren County 911 Program Review Committee met and approved the 911 Final Plan. This meeting and plan update was promoted by changes in Ohio Law that went into effect on October 3, 2023. One of the changes, (ORC 128.08 A) requires all Municipalities and Townships to approve or disapprove the new 911 plan.

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Vice Mayor Hall.

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

Motion passed.

B. RESOLUTION 2024-25 AMENDING THE POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR THE WATER OPERATOR

After negotiations and approval of the Teamsters Collective Bargaining Agreement the Water Operator Position was not included in the agreement. The Fieldwork functions of the position are being updated to reflect the duties of the position more accurately.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by D. Centers.

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

Motion passed.

9. INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

A. ORDINANCE 2024-06 DECLARING THE IMPROVEMENT OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, WARREN COUNTY, OHIO TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE; DECLARING SUCH PROPERTY TO BE EXEMPT FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXATION; DESIGNATING SPECIFIC PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS THAT, ONCE MADE, WILL DIRECTLY BENEFIT THE PARCELS FOR WHICH IMPROVEMENT IS DECLARED TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE; REQUIRING ANNUAL SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES; ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC

IMPROVEMENT TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT FUND; AUTHORIZING PAYMENTS TO THE FRANKLIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A TAX INCREMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT; AND PROVIDING RELATED AUTHORIZATIONS PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTIONS 5709.40(B), 5709.42, 5709.43, 5709.832 AND 5709.85.

10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Westendorf gave a brief overview of the total solar eclipse that would be happening on April 8th. There was an event planned at the community park for residents to gather and view. Safety Department staff have met and are prepared for the event.

A First Responder Recruitment campaign was scheduled to launch that week.

Mr. Westendorf provided an update on the Streetscape project. Weather will affect the timing. Sixth Street should be open the following week. Main between Fourth and Third will then close. The intersection at Third and Main will need to close for several days. The project is on target to open Main from Sixth to Fourth in early June. Fourth Street will not be complete until the end of the project. We are still on target for a November 22 completion date. Roads will be striped to convert Main Street to two-way traffic past Sixth Street.

A resident attended a Council meeting recently regarding the Sheetz development. Mr. Westendorf met with her and she is happy with the progression of the project. She has asked for evergreen cover at the top of the hill and is no longer requesting the fence in question be moved.

Mr. Westendorf shared his excitement about the way the community is reacting to improvements. He's noticed lots of spring cleaning occurring. Several homes along Main Street have been renovated.

The Slipcast announcement is creating Economic Development discussions.

Grace Café was scheduled to open the following day.

He is appreciative and excited about what is happening in the City.

11. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Wilcher had no comments.

Mr. D Centers had no comments.

Mr. Ruppert had no comments.

Vice Mayor Hall said that we need to talk to whoever caused damage at Mr. Richard's property. He had not heard of this happening before and it's not right. Mr. Richard shouldn't have to deal with it and the issues needs to be fixed.

Mayor Centers congratulated Nic Lamb on his promotion to Water Plant Superintendent and asked for an update on the process. Mr. Inman said that Mr. Lamb has been with the City for eight years, working at the plant for four years under Mr. Howard. Mr. Inman complimented Mr. Lamb and said he and thinks he is very qualified for the job.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. To consider the purchase of property for public purposes pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(2).
- B. To consider the appointment, employment, and compensation of a public employee or official pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(1).

Motion to enter executive session made by Ruppert, Seconded by D. Centers.

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

Voting Nay: Vice Mayor Hall

Motion passed. Council entered executive session at 7:40pm.

Motion to exit executive session made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Wilcher.

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

Motion passed. Council exited executive session at 8:56pm.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Ruppert.

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

Motion passed. Council adjourned at 8:56pm.

Brent Centers, Mayor

Khristi Dunn, Clerk of Council