



# CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, June 03, 2024 at 6:00 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 6:00pm.

### 2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

D. Denny Centers

Paul Ruppert

Vice Mayor Todd Hall

Mayor Brent Centers

Michael Aldridge

Debbie Fouts

Matt Wilcher

Staff: Mr. Westendorf, Ms. Steed, Ms. Trice, Ms. Dunn, Mr. Inman, Mr. Conway, Mr. Miller, Chief Colon, Chief Stitzel, Ms. Chibis.

There were two guests 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. May 20, 2024

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Ruppert.

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

Voting Abstaining: Mayor Centers

Motion passed.

### 5. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Mayor Centers opened and closed the reception of visitors at 6:01pm as none asked to be heard.

### 6. PUBLIC HEARING

A. **RESOLUTION 2024-36** ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025 AND AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT IT TO THE WARREN COUNTY AUDITOR

State law requires that City Council adopt a tax budget for the next fiscal year by July 15th of the current year and then file it with the County Auditor by July 20th. This is the first legally-required step in the annual budget process. The Warren County Budget Commission uses the tax budget to issue a Certificate of Estimated Resources for the City, which details the amount of property tax and local government funds that the City will receive in the next fiscal year. Warren County Budget Commission will use the approved tax budget to determine how much property tax and local government revenues the City will receive. The Ohio Revised Code requires that Council hold a public hearing on this Resolution.

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Public Hearing at 6:03pm 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.

**B. ORDINANCE 2024-10 LEVYING ASSESSMENTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF CITY STREETS AND PUBLIC WAYS BY THE LIGHTING THEREOF FOR THE YEAR 2025**

This is the last step Council must act upon to implement the annual street lighting assessments for 2025. \$170,000 is the total project cost for 2024. The City funds 2% of the total, or \$3,400.

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Public Hearing at 6:03pm 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.

**C. ORDINANCE 2024-11 AUTHORIZING THE ANNEXATION OF 19.665 ACRES OF LAND OWNED BY THE CITY OF FRANKLIN TO THE CITY AND AUTHORIZING THE LAW DIRECTOR TO PROSECUTE SUCH ACTION.**

The City of Franklin owns 19.665 acres of land which is contiguous to the City limits. The City can annex this land in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 709.16. This ordinance is required by Ohio Revised Code Section 709.14 to authorize the annexation and to direct the Law Director to take all steps necessary to effectuate the annexation.

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Public Hearing at 6:05pm as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by D. Centers, Seconded by Wilcher.

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

Motion passed.

**D. ORDINANCE 2024-12 APPROVING THE FRANKLIN DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PHASE 1 RECORD PLAN FOR THE COMBINATION OF CITY OWNED LOTS AND DEDICATION OF RIGHT OF WAY FOR EAST SIXTH STREET AND RILEY BOULEVARD**

This Record Plan for the Franklin Downtown Revitalization Phase 1 includes the combination of City owned lots and the Right of Way Dedication of East Sixth Street and Riley Boulevard.

After holding a public hearing on the request Planning Commission voted at its May 8, 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 6:06pm as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by Aldridge, Seconded by Fouts.

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

Motion passed.

E. **ORDINANCE 2024-13 PROHIBITING ADULT USE CANNABIS CULTIVATORS, PROCESSORS, AND RETAIL DISPENSARIES WITHIN THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

This Ordinance prohibits all adult use cannabis operators within the City of Franklin. The current moratorium was set to expire at the end of June. This emergency legislation ensures no gaps exist. Mayor Centers opened and closed the Public Hearing at 6:08pm as none asked to be heard. Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Ruppert. Voting Yea: D. Centers, Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Fouts, Wilcher Motion passed.

**7. INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION**

A. **ORDINANCE 2024-14 PROHIBITING ADULT USE CANNABIS CULTIVATORS, PROCESSORS, AND RETAIL DISPENSARIES WITHIN THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO (Jonathan Westendorf)**

**8. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Miami Conservancy District annual maintenance assessment new impacts have been put on hold. Property values significantly increased, and this put a strong burden on those individuals. The new impacts will be delayed at least a year as they decide how they want to proceed.

Two Way traffic on Main Street, from the South Point to Fourth Street, has transitioned with no issues. Everything aligns nicely and works even better than anticipated. The traffic signals at Farm Avenue will be removed in the near future. Overall, the change is going well. Mr. Westendorf had spoken with lots of residents on Main Street who are very pleased. Everyone has noticed a significant decrease in speed. All desired impacts are being met.

The intersection of Second and Main closed that morning and will stay closed for at least six weeks. All other intersections are open and passable. Contractors may extend the closure, if possible, to prevent another closure in the future. Timing changes are being implemented on traffic signals along Riley Blvd. Everything is moving smoothly. The Streetscape project is proceeding nicely. Two additional challenges related to vaults under sidewalk were recently discovered and staff is working on a solution.

Water main works begins on Millard Field, located within Community Park, on June. 23. The cost to repave Tennis Courts increased to approximately \$30,000. That project is scheduled to start mid-July. The basketball courts may not be done this year due to increased cost. Mr. Inman reached out to the athletic director of Franklin City Schools and reported that Mr. Berry is not open to cost sharing for these needed repairs and maintenance.

Staff is working on the Shaker Farms Development. There is a sanitary sewer issue for that parcel that will be addressed.

The next edition of the quarterly newsletter should be finalized soon and mailed out in the month of June.

**9. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Wilcher had no comments

Mrs. Fouts had no comments.

Mr. Aldridge said that regardless of construction, the community comes out to support their veterans. The Memorial Day Parade was well attended. Holly Daniels and Carl Bray stepped up to help organize the event. Jr. High Students helped with ceremony and did an excellent job. Due to construction, the backdrop of the ceremony was flipped from its normal position and the setting was beautiful. Hats off all those involved.

Mr. D. Centers asked about additional no parking striping on Main Street in relation to a specific business. Staff will follow up and make adjustments as needed to the striping. He shared a concern about semi-trucks getting downtown and a decreased turn radius. He suggested additional signage to reroute these trucks and said that delivery drivers will need directions for a new route. Staff will follow up on this issue. He also asked when the new traffic lights be started at Beal Rd and SR-123. This should be soon but Mr. Conway will follow up for a specific date.

Mr. Ruppert had no comments.

Vice Mayor Hall reported that on David Blvd, at intersection of Thomas, there is a tree in the creek bed that has fallen down over the road and needs trimmed. Mr. Inman said he would take a look and trim it back. He also reported that a curb basin along Hemlock needs repaired. Mr. Inman will also follow up on this issue.

Vice Mayor Hall and Mayor Centers had an invitation to meet with staff on proactive communication efforts. Staff is working on a plan to share educational information on what the City is doing and why. Mayor Centers said the meeting with staff was great. The next newsletter will focus on infrastructure. The following issue may focus on economic development and how incentives work. Videos will be mixed in to help with education efforts.

Mayor Centers reported that he and Mr. Westendorf attended the ICSC Conference in May. It was a very busy event. The Dillin group helped prepare them with a plan on targeted meetings. They had multiple meetings that were very productive and even resulted in follow-up meetings. There are key developers that are interested in this location and our revitalization project. The City was well represented at this event. He asked for the timing on having a parking meter discussion. Staff is gathering legislation to bring to a committee.

## 10. 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 the purchase of property for public purposes pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(2).
- C. 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 D. Centers, Seconded by Ruppert.

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

Motion passed. Council entered into executive session at 6:36pm.

Motion to exit executive session made by Ruppert, Seconded by Aldridge  
Voting Yea: D. Centers, Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Fouts, Wilcher  
Motion passed. Council exited executive session at 8:53pm.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Wilcher.  
Voting Yea: D. Centers, Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Fouts, Wilcher  
Motion passed. Council adjourned at 8:53pm.

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Brent Centers, Mayor

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Khristi Dunn, Clerk of Council