



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 06, 2026 at 5:30 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 5:36pm.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Ryan Roberts

Paul Ruppert

Vice Mayor Todd Hall

Mayor Brent Centers

Michael Aldridge

Debbie Fouts

Robert Lipps

Staff: Mr. Westendorf, Ms. Steed, Ms. Trice, Ms. Dunn, Chief Stitzel, Chief Colon, Captain Pacifico, Mr. Inman, Mr. Miller, Mr. Damian, Ms. Chibis, and several on-duty police officers.

There were over 50 guests, including members of the press.

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 16, 2026

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Medal of Valor

Chief Colon presented Officer Chris Keene with a Medal of Valor for his actions during an event in July of 2022. The Medal of Valor—one of the highest recognitions for law enforcement officers who place themselves at significant personal risk to protect or save others.

Council recessed from 5:43pm to 5:51pm.

B. Franklin City Schools

Andrew Fleming, President of Franklin City Schools Board of Education gave an update on school operations and the upcoming Income Tax levy that is on the May ballot. Dr. Sander, Superintendent, and three other members of the School Board were also present.

There was discussion regarding the possible outcomes of the upcoming levy.
Mayor Centers thanked Mr. Fleming and the other school representatives for sharing the information.

C. Committee Reports

Vice Mayor Hall gave an update from the Safety Committee meeting that was held earlier that evening. The committee discussed updates to the outdoor warning sirens, updating a fire battalion, and Axon contract options.

6. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Reception of Visitors at 6:51pm as none asked to be heard.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

A. RESOLUTION 2026-23 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 O Commerce Center Drive and identified by parcel identification number 04-26-426-034. 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.

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Public Hearing at 6:52pm as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Roberts.

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

Motion passed.

B. RESOLUTION 2026-24 APPROVING JAMES A. STEWART'S, ET AL., RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR PLACEMENT OF 55.7261 ACRES OF LAND IN AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

This Resolution approves the renewal application filed by the Stewart families with the Warren County Auditor for placement of land within an agricultural district (CAUV). The application is for 55.7261 acres of farmland owned by the Stewarts, located along Pennyroyal Road, which lie within the City of Franklin. This land has been in an agricultural district since 1995, and is currently zoned A-1, Agricultural. The land is used for agricultural purposes.

Because this land lies within the City, the Stewarts were required by law to seek Council's approval of the original placement of the land in the CAUV and the renewals must also be placed before Council for public hearing and action by legislation in order to obtain the requested renewal. Council may reject such application only upon a showing that the rejection is necessary to prevent a substantial, adverse effect on the provision of municipal services within the City, or the public health, safety or welfare. Additionally, Council may approve with modification. Staff has identified no reason for the application to be rejected or approved with modification.

Approval of this application will allow the land to continue to be taxed at its current agricultural use valuation (CAUV) under Ohio law.

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Public Hearing at 6:54pm as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed.

8. ITEMS TO REMOVE FROM CONSENT AGENDA Matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted in one motion and one vote of consent. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed and considered separately.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. RESOLUTION 2026-25 DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF IMPROVING CITY STREETS AND PUBLIC WAYS BY THE LIGHTING THEREOF FOR THE YEAR 2027 (

B. RESOLUTION 2026-26 DETERMINING THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE APPLICATION TO ADD CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY TO THE FRANKLIN NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY DISTRICT; 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; TO SET A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE APPLICATION AS REQUIRED BY LAW

Motion to approve items on the consent agenda made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed.

10. INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

A. ORDINANCE 2026-03 AMENDING CHAPTER 1313 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO UPDATE BUILDING PERMIT AND INSPECTION FEES

11. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Westendorf reported that the fees proposed for update under Ordinance 2026-03 are intended to align with Warren County's existing fee structure.

Income tax season is underway. An upcoming Finance Committee meeting will include discussion of financial services for the Great Miami Wastewater Treatment Authority. The City has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting.

The Franklin-Trenton Road Bridge will be closed for one week beginning April 20 to allow for final project completion.

Mr. Westendorf expressed concern regarding the current school funding issue. He acknowledged and appreciated the Board's solution-oriented approach, their attendance at that evening's meeting, and ongoing outreach efforts.

There is ongoing work on 6th Street, including water main improvements, Slipcast construction, and signal upgrades at the intersection of Sixth and Main Street near the railroad.

Pedestrian leading interval signals have been installed at all downtown intersections to improve pedestrian safety.

12. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Lipps hoped everyone had a blessed Easter. He is looking forward to the Congressman Landsman roundtable.

Mrs. Fouts enjoyed Mr. Fleming being the spokesperson for the schools. She hopes everyone had a good holiday. She will not be at the next meeting.

Mr. Aldridge thanked the schools for coming that night noting that they are in a difficult position. We have a great community and communication between the two entities is on the right track. He wished them well on the levy.

He congratulated Officer Keene and said it was great to see the department show up in support.

Mr. Roberts extended his hope that everyone had an enjoyable Easter.

He congratulated Officer Keene and said that we have great leadership in our Safety Department.

Mr. Ruppert echoed previous comments and said that it is great to see due recognition in the Division of Police. It is great to see everything in bloom throughout the City.

Vice Mayor Hall said school funding has been an issue for 20 years in this state and no one has tried to fix it. People must decide their children's education is important. The only thing that will help school funding is if the state legislature does their job and fixes it. He appreciates the school officials coming to the meeting.

Mayor Centers commended Officer Keene for his exemplary service, noting that his actions reflect the highest standards of the Division of Police. He expressed pride in Officer Keene's service to the Franklin community and appreciation for being part of the award presentation.

He thanked the School Board and Dr. Sander for attending the meeting and acknowledged the positive and ongoing communication between the entities.

Mayor Centers highlighted that the Downtown Murals received the Best Public Art award in the Best of Warren County Awards.

He noted a significant decrease in complaints related to income tax season, which had historically been a frequent concern.

Mayor Centers shared that the City will be hosting Congressman Landsman for an upcoming roundtable discussion the following day at the Division of Fire & EMS. Area leaders were invited at the Congressman's request.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed. Council adjourned at 7:15pm.

Brent Centers, Mayor

Khristi Dunn, Clerk of Council