



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 02, 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 5:37pm.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Ryan Roberts

Paul Ruppert

Vice Mayor Todd Hall

Mayor Brent Centers

Michael Aldridge

Robert Lipps

ABSENT

Debbie Fouts

Staff. Mr. Westendorf, Ms. Trice, Ms. Dunn, Chief Stitzel, Chief Colon, Mr. Inman, Mr. Miller, Mr. Damian, Ms. Chibis, and one on-duty police officer.

There were three 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. January 5, 2026

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

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

Motion passed.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Committee Reports

Vice Mayor Hall provided an update from the Safety Committee meeting held earlier that day, including discussion of a request for a Construction Inspector position, support for applying for the Safe Routes to School Grant, a proposal to install speed cushions on Fourth Street by the Intermediate / Jr. High School Campus, and the exploration of increased penalties and fines for traffic violations in schools zones,

noting that Council may consider either enhanced criminal consequences or civil fines as a policy decision.

Mr. Aldridge reported that the Volunteer Firefighter Dependent Fund Board met that night as well for their annual organizational meeting.

6. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Mayor Centers opened and closed the Reception of Visitors at 5:45pm as none asked to be heard.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

A. ORDINANCE 2026-01 APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

The Ordinance makes the following appropriations:

Water Fund

- Increase Other Apps by \$6,925,645 this is for a pass through for two of our water grants (Water Tower and AMR).

Street Fund

- Increase Other Apps by \$40,000 for road salt.

In House Monitoring Fund

- Increase Other Apps by \$15,000 for monitoring fees.

General Fund

- Increase Other Government, Other, by \$100,000 for Grant Writing Services

Mayor Centers opened the Public Hearing at 5:50pm. As no one approached, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 5:51pm.

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Vice Mayor Hall.

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

Motion passed.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Grant Writing Services (Jonathan Westendorf)

As BUILD (formerly RAISE) is no longer a viable financing option for the Riverfront Development this year, staff explored other funding options. An RFP for Grant Writing was issued. There were three responses. Staff recommends Keller Partners and Company as their experience matches the best with the City's structure and goals.

After some discussion, Mayor Centers asked for a motion to award the RFP to Keller Partners and Company.

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Vice Mayor Hall.

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

Motion passed.

B. RESOLUTION 2026-10 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

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 A is being submitted by the property owner for real property located within the City on 5000 Commerce Center Drive and identified by parcel identification number 0421400023. 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.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed.

C. RESOLUTION 2026-11 ACCEPTING THE ANNEXATION OF 36.073 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, FROM FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY AND MIAMI TOWNSHIP, MONTGOMERY COUNTY TO THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO

Camp Chautauqua, using Bricker Graydon as agent, filed an expedited type 2 annexation petition on October 8, 2025, with the Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners to annex approximately 36.073 acres into the City in order to acquire City services. 23.893 acres of the annexation territory is located in Miami Township, Montgomery County and 12.18 acres of the annexation territory is located in Franklin Township, Warren County. Per Ohio Revised Code 709.11 if annexation territory is in more than one county, the petition is filed in the county in which a majority of acreage is situated. The Montgomery County Commissioners approved the annexation on November 18, 2025. Passage of this resolution accepts the annexation. City staff recommends that Council approve this Resolution.

Jason Harmeyer of Camp Chautauqua was present and invited to speak regarding the annexation. He expressed appreciation for the City's time and investment over the past several years and shared his enthusiasm for partnering with the City of Franklin. Camp Chautauqua serves more than 22,000 students annually.

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Lipps.

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

Motion passed.

D. RESOLUTION 2026-12 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE WARREN COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WARREN COUNTY JOINT SALT PURCHASING PROGRAM (Steve Inman)

This is the ninth year we have contracted with the Warren County Engineer's Office to purchase road salt. Last year we received our salt from Cargill at a price of \$96.25 per ton. We used approximately 775 tons of salt for the 2025 season. We have to provide the County Engineer with an estimate of salt needed for the 2026 season before they go out to bid. We have estimated our purchase at 2,000 tons; although we are only required under the program to purchase what we need, which could be less than the 2,000 tons we are estimating.

Motion made by Lipps, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion approved.

E. RESOLUTION 2026-13 APPOINTING MEMBERS-AT-LARGE TO CERTAIN DULY AUTHORIZED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO (Khristi Dunn)

This resolution appoints Matt Wilcher to the Local Board of Tax Review and reappoints the following members to the NCA Board of Trustees: Tim Smallwood, Josh Meyers, Robert Stephens, Matthew Schnipke.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Ruppert.

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

Motion passed.

9. INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

A. ORDINANCE 2026-02 APPROVING THE FINAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR SHAKER MEADOWS

10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The City Manager reported that The Franklin Post newsletter would be mailed later in the week.

Dates for the City's 2026 events have been finalized, including plans to bring back Movies in the Park.

Staff is exploring a potential collaboration with the City of Carlisle and Franklin Township for the America 250 celebration.

A downtown property owner roundtable, hosted by Retail Strategies, is being planned for downtown property owners.

The City has an unused registration for the ICSC conference in Las Vegas, and Retail Strategies recommended shifting future focus to the Chicago and Indianapolis shows.

Preconstruction meetings have begun with Majors on the water main project, and Slipcast is scheduled to break ground in March.

11. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Lipps said it's great to see everyone again. He thanked Mr. Inman and the Public Works team for doing such a great job during the recent snow storm.

Mr. Aldridge commented on the Safety Committee meeting and Construction Inspector position saying that development coming is a good thing. He is proud of our staff. The change in the BUILD/RAISE grant is deflating but staff came back with better options.

Mr. Roberts complimented Mr. Inman and Mr. Miller on the snow removal efforts. He also complimented Chief Colon on getting criminals out of the city. Prayers to an officer injured over the weekend.

He added that the Constructor Inspector position is a real need and he supports using Keller Partners for the grant writing needs.

Mr. Ruppert thanked Mr. Inman and his team for the snow removal and asked how many miles of road is plowed by the City. Mr. Inman responded that they plow 110 miles.

He commented that there have been multiple water main breaks in the last week in addition to the snow removal efforts. The team does incredible work; this is not an easy job. We appreciate it and the people in this town appreciate it.

Vice Mayor Hall echoed previous comments and said there was a water main break that he saw and the team did a great job. Crews worked efficiently. We are a small staff, and everyone does a great job. He is glad we are expanding with new staff. Council has told staff that when you need people to come to us. He agrees that the Constructor Inspector is needed. We wanted to grow and we have to grow as well.

Mayor Centers complimented the Public Works team on the snow removal and water main breaks. He is glad the Construction Inspector position was brought to Council; it is very much needed. He would like to revisit Zoning Amendments previously discussed sooner rather than later. Congrats to the Wildcats on bringing home the barrel following the Grudge Match.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. 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 to discuss personnel pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(1) made by Aldridge, Seconded by Ruppert.

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

Motion passed. Council entered into executive session at 6:38pm.

Motion to exit Executive Session made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed. Council exited executive session at 7:14pm.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Lipps.

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

Motion passed. Council adjourned at 7:15pm.

Brent Centers, Mayor

Khristi Dunn, Clerk of Council