



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, December 16, 2024 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 5:30pm.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

D. Denny Centers

Paul Ruppert

Vice Mayor Todd Hall

Mayor Brent Centers

Michael Aldridge

Matt Wilcher

ABSENT

Debbie Fouts

Staff: Mr. Westendorf, Ms. Steed and Ms. Dunn. After executive session, Ms. Trice, Chief Colon, Chief Stitzel, Mr. Conway, and Mr. Inman joined the meeting.

Two guests and one member of the press also joined the meeting.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Centers led the pledge of allegiance.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(4).

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

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

Motion passed. Council entered into executive session at 5:32pm.

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

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

Motion passed. Council exited executive session at 6:01pm.

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

- A. December 2, 2024

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Ruppert.
Voting Yea: Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Wilcher
Voting Abstaining: D. Centers
Motion passed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION 2024-73 APPOINTING A MEMBER OF COUNCIL AS MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2025
Motion nominating Brent Centers made by Wilcher, Seconded by Vice Mayor Hall.
Voting Yea: D. Centers, Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Wilcher
Motion passed.

B. RESOLUTION 2024-74 APPOINTING A MEMBER OF COUNCIL AS VICE MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2025
Motion to nominate Todd Hall made by Ruppert, Seconded by Wilcher.
Voting Yea: D. Centers, Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Mayor Centers, Aldridge, Wilcher
Motion passed.

7. PRESENTATIONS

A. Parks (Human Nature)
Ryan Geismar from Human Nature gave an overview and update of the Franklin Gateway District planning along Sixth Street. He reviewed options for Dial Park and Community Park. Mayor Centers asked for Ms. Fouts to also receive the presentation.
Staff will bring a finalized proposal for a splash pad at Dial Park on January 6th.
Council would like a restroom at Dial Park included in the January 6 proposal.

8. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Mayor Centers opened the Reception of Visitors at 6:35pm.

Phyllis Clark of Michaels Drive asked to be heard. She owns a tax preparation business. She would like to reopen her business, but the location is included in the current development moratorium.
Mayor Centers asked Mr. Westendorf to give Council an update on the conversations he has had with Ms. Clark. Mr. Westendorf was under the impression that a counseling service had been occupying the space which would be a change in use. If the space is vacant, it has been vacant longer than the six months the code allows for zoning continuation.
The legal feedback is that exceptions cannot be made to keep the moratorium in place. Mr. Westendorf said the best we can do is to move faster. Planning Commission will have two meetings in January to speed up the zoning change process.

Mayor Centers closed the reception of visitors at 6:52pm.

9. PUBLIC HEARING

A. ORDINANCE 2024-33 APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
This Ordinance is necessary to provide for the financial operations of the City through the end of the fiscal year. This ordinance will become effective on January 1, 2025. This budget was discussed, and significant updates were reviewed by City Council's Finance Committee on Monday, December 6, 2024.

Mayor Centers open and closed the Public Hearing at 6:58pm as no members of the public were present.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed.

10. Items to Remove from Consent Agenda

As consent agendas are new for the city, Mayor Centers asked for council discussion regarding the use. 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.

Council was in favor of using a consent agenda to save time on routine legislation. There were no items requested to be moved from the consent agenda.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION 2024-75 APPROVING OR REJECTING THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS, LOCAL 3742 AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONTRACT

The negotiating committee of the City of Franklin and the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 3742, began contract negotiations for a successor collective bargaining agreement covering members of the Franklin Fire and EMS Division on September 30, 2024. A Tentative Agreement for a three-year contract was reached on November 22, 2024.

Motion to accept the tentative agreement made by D. Centers, Seconded by Vice Mayor Hall.

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

Motion passed.

B. RESOLUTION 2024-76 AUTHORIZING POSITION TITLES AND THE NUMBER OF POSITIONS FOR EACH TITLE FOR CITY OF FRANKLIN PERSONNEL FOR THE YEAR 2025

This resolution establishes the positions and number of positions that may be filled under each title for each department.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed.

C. RESOLUTION 2024-77 ESTABLISHING THE ORGANIZATIONAL LISTINGS AND PAY RATES FOR CITY OF FRANKLIN OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE YEAR 2025

This annual resolution authorizes the hourly or salary pay rates for all city staff for 2025. Collective bargaining staff received increases based on current contracts. Non-union staff have received a 3% increase.

The Court Administrator salary was increased as requested by Judge Ruppert. The Court has agreed to pay for the increase from their special projects fund in accordance with 1901.26 of the revised code.

Motion made by Wilcher, Seconded by Ruppert.

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

Motion passed.

D. RESOLUTION 2024-82 APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2025

The following appointments to the standing committees of Council, made by the Mayor for the year 2025, are:

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Matt Wilcher, Chair
Michael Aldridge
Denny Centers

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Brent Centers, Chair
Michael Aldridge
Matt Wilcher

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Denny Centers, Chair
Matt Wilcher
Paul Ruppert

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Debbie Fouts, Chair
Denny Centers
Todd Hall

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Michael Aldridge, Chair
Todd Hall
Debbie Fouts

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Paul Ruppert, Chair
Matt Wilcher
Brent Centers

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Todd Hall, Chair
Paul Ruppert
Debbie Fouts

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Ruppert.

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

Motion passed.

E. RESOLUTION 2024-83 APPOINTING COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MEMBERS-AT-LARGE TO CERTAIN DULY AUTHORIZED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO AND TO OTHER REGIONAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

This Resolution reappoints Mr. Ruppert as member of Council to the Planning Commission, Mr. Hogan, Ms. Westendorf and Mr. Hopper to the Parks & Recreation Commission, and Mayor Centers and Mr. Westendorf to the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed.

12. 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.

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

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

Motion passed.

A. RESOLUTION 2024-78 AUTHORIZING ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT, INC. TO SERVE AS AUCTIONEER TO SELL SURPLUS CITY VEHICLES

Section 115.02(b)(3) of the City's Codified Ordinances authorizes City Council to sell by auction personal property no longer needed for a municipal purpose. City staff has identified Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc. as a qualified auctioneer to auction off surplus City vehicles. This Resolution authorizes the City to engage Enterprise to serve as the City's auctioneer for the sale of surplus City vehicles on an as-needed basis during the 2025 fiscal year.

B. RESOLUTION 2024-79 AUTHORIZING ADESA OHIO, LLC (OR A CLOSELY RELATED AFFILIATE ENTITY) TO SERVE AS AUCTIONEER TO SELL SURPLUS CITY VEHICLES

Section 115.02(b)(3) of the City's Codified Ordinances authorizes City Council to sell by auction personal property no longer needed for a municipal purpose. City staff has identified Adesa Ohio, LLC (and/or its closely related affiliate companies) as a qualified auctioneer to auction off surplus City vehicles. This Resolution authorizes the City to engage Adesa to serve as the City's auctioneer for the sale of surplus City vehicles on an as-needed basis during the 2025 fiscal year.

C. RESOLUTION 2024-80 AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS CITY PROPERTY BY INTERNET AUCTION

The Ohio Revised Code empowers the City to sell surplus personal property no longer needed by the City via internet auction. This Resolution authorizes the City to sell the City's surplus personal property via internet auction during calendar year 2025, and provides for the required notice to the public of the City's intention to use online auctioneer services for this purpose.

D. RESOLUTION 2024-81 DECLARING CITY MANAGER, THE CITY'S CONTRACTING OFFICER, TO BE EMPOWERED TO ACQUIRE TITLE TO OR INTERESTS IN REAL PROPERTY SITUATED WITHIN THE CITY OF FRANKLIN WITHIN THE SPENDING LIMIT AS ESTABLISHED IN CHARTER SECTION 5.05 EFFECTIVE FISCAL YEAR 2025)

This Resolution is a renewal of Resolution 2022-78, passed December 5, 2022, and Resolution 2023-84, passed on December 18, 2023 to empower the City Manager to purchase properties within the City of Franklin, such as foreclosure properties, in amounts allowed under the City Manager's contracting authority as Contracting Official for the City, to carry out the City's objectives.

This Resolution will be effective immediately upon passage until December 31, 2025. This Resolution, absent other direction from Council, will be updated and placed on the agenda for action in December 2025 for fiscal year 2026.

As this Resolution does not involve bidding, a majority of members present concurring is required for its passage

13. INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

- A. **ORDINANCE 2024-34** AMENDING SECTIONS 1103 AND 1111.08 OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE
- B. **ORDINANCE 2024-35** AMENDING SECTION 1105.09 OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE
- C. **ORDINANCE 2024-36** ENACTING SECTION 532.14 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO, CAPTIONED "USE OF TEMPORARY GENERATORS"

14. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Westendorf reviewed projects and updates made over the past year. He reviewed the new Main Street Streetscape and thanked staff for all the work that went into the streetscape project.

There will be community Townhalls in January to discuss the Fire Levy. Legislative action will be needed on January 22 and February 3. The election is on May 6.

He thanked Council for their support, trust and for doing something incredible.

15. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Wilcher said thank you on behalf of the Wilcher family for the downtown. He has received overwhelming positive comments. We have the right team to take us forward. Council does not know all the details but work by staff doesn't go unnoticed. You are awesome.

The tree lighting ceremony was great, food vendors were great. The event was very nice, and it's great to see everything lit up. The downtown has a very safe and community feeling.

Mr. Aldridge hopes staff knows how proud Council is of them. They try to thank staff frequently, and we don't take the work for granted. It's been such a pleasure. He is proud to show the changes happening in the community. It's just the beginning and we can't thank staff enough. The beauty of a small town is the sense of community, family, and it's special to be a part of it. You have to be courageous to do something this big.

Mr. D. Centers said even the naysayers are making positive comments about the downtown. He has received lots of great comments about the positive change. He appreciates staff and said "We don't know how much extra work has been put in, but we appreciate it and it and the work has not gone unnoticed." He said the tree lighting was awesome. Mr. Hogan's drone work was awesome as well. Mr. Westendorf brought this vision to us. He is a true visionary. It's unbelievable.

Mr. D. Centers asked about the water and sewer service line plans and what plumbers were included in the plan. Mr. Inman said that if a local plumber would like to be added to the list, they can call SLWA to be added to the list.

Mr. Centers also asked about handicap parking on Main Street. Mr. Westendorf responded that there are two spots on 3rd Steet with solid surface onto the pavers. There was not dedicated handicap on Main Street prior and new spots were not added. Handicap parking is available in public parking lots.

Mr. Ruppert said that he drove through neighboring communities and wouldn't trade their Main Streets for anything Franklin has right now. Everyone really appreciates what has been done. He has walked these streets since he was three. He's more proud now than he has ever been. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Hall said we gave you a job because you said you wanted it. We know how hard you work. Four years ago there wasn't a lot going on around here and now there is so much going on. That is because of staff. Council approves, but staff brings them ideas and takes care of the day to day. We have done more work than this place has ever seen. We appreciate it. His family appreciates it. He has two daughters that work downtown and they love it. We wanted something for our kids, and they think it's fantastic. He can't wait for next year. Thank you all. He thanked Council for voting him as Vice Mayor again.

Mayor Centers recalled a discussion about the transformation that occurred when the downtown was redone after the flood in 1913. This project was as transformative as that. Staff did it. Thank you. He thanked Mr. Conway for his work on the Clean Ohio Trails grant.

The Mayor echoed previous comments about the tree lighting event. It was wonderful.

The Vice Mayor of Mason reached out and the Mayor and his wife will be hosting them for dinner in the downtown. The Mason Mayor found out and will be joining them. He looks forward to showing off downtown and said other communities are noticing the good things happening.

He thanked Council for the Mayor vote. He appreciates it. He loves the work and is proud to represent Council. Thank you for the trust.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Vice Mayor Hall, Seconded by Aldridge.

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

Motion passed. Council adjourned at 7:37pm.

Brent Centers, Mayor

Khristi Dunn, Clerk of Council