



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, July 15, 2024 at 6:00 PM

1 Benjamin Franklin Way Franklin, Ohio 45005

www.FranklinOhio.org

CLERK'S JOURNAL

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Hall called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Paul Ruppert

Vice Mayor Todd Hall

Michael Aldridge

Debbie Fouts

Matt Wilcher

ABSENT

Denny Centers

Mayor Brent Centers

The Mayor and Mr. Centers were excused for a family matter.

Mr. Westendorf, Ms. Steed, Ms. Trice, Ms. Dunn, Chief Stitzel, Chief Colon, Mr. Inman, Ms. Chibis, and Mr. Conway were present.

There were approximately 30 guests and one member of the press in attendance.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Hall and his daughter led the pledge of allegiance.

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

A. July 1, 2024

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Fouts.

Voting Yea: Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Fouts, Wilcher

Voting Abstaining: Aldridge

Motion passed.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Act of Valor Awards

Chief Stitzel presented Act of Valor awards to lifeguards Olivia DeHart and Jordan Milligan for their efforts on June 19. The two responded after a 6-year-old girl suffered a seizure while in the junior pool.

B. Committee Reports

Mr. Wilcher gave an update from the July 1, 2024 Finance Committee meeting.

Ms. Trice updated the committee on fund balances. She is considering a vendor change within utility billing that offers more service options for residents.

Staff reviewed upcoming paving projects, an IGA with Montgomery County, landscaping options in the Downtown, and redevelopment of the 500 Block of Main Street & Sixth Street near the Slipcast brewery site.

6. RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Vice Mayor Hall opened and closed the Reception of Visitors at 6:13pm as none asked to be heard.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

A. ORDINANCE 2024-16 APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This ordinance will adjust appropriations to the following funds:

General Fund

- Increase the General Fund Transfers to the economic Development Fund by \$160,000.

Economic Development Fund

- Increase of \$160,000 to the Other account line for Property Acquisition.

Street Fund

- Increase of \$5,000.00 In Personnel.

Recreation Fund

- Increase of \$14,000.00 in Personnel.

Water Fund

- Increase of \$235,000 to the Water Fund Other for the Meter Reading Project.

Vice Mayor Hall opened and closed the Public Hearing at 6:15pm as none asked to be heard.

Motion made by Wilcher, Seconded by Aldridge.

Voting Yea: Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Aldridge, Fouts, Wilcher

Motion passed.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION 2024-44 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS FOR THE CITY OF FRANKLIN’S PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS WARREN COUNTY AUDITOR’S PARCEL ID NUMBER 0431137002

This resolution allows the City Manager to execute a purchase and sale agreement for the City’s purchase of 32 W. Fifth Street for \$80,000.

Motion made by Aldridge, Seconded by Ruppert.

Voting Yea: Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Aldridge, Fouts, Wilcher

Motion passed.

9. INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

A. ORDINANCE 2024-17 AN ORDINANCE TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST FROM FORESTAR REAL ESTATE GROUP TO REZONE A 109.5 ACRE PARCEL OF LAND ON SHAKER ROAD AND MANCHESTER ROAD FROM I-2 GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO R-2 METROPOLITAN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

B. ORDINANCE 2024-18 AN ORDINANCE TO CONSIDER A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR SHAKER FARMS FROM FORESTAR REAL ESTATE GROUP FOR A 109.5 ACRE PARCEL OF LAND ON SHAKER ROAD AND MANCHESTER ROAD

10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Westendorf provided an update on the Main Street Streetscape project. Crews are preparing to pave from Second to Fourth Street. The intersection of Third and Main was closed and will be until next week. The intersection of Fourth and Main would be closed the following day to remove the temporary water main. That intersection should be reopened by early afternoon. The intersection of Main and Second should be open no later than August 7. Fourth Street will be the last major section with work beginning in August.

Downtown and overnight parking on City-owned lots will be discussed on July 29th.

There was some slight storm damage on Sunday at Franklin Community Park. Everything was up and running. The bike trail fence was damaged. The pool is open. Mr. Westendorf thanked Mr. Inman, Mr. Miller, and the teams at Duke and Lake Erie Electric for their work. Daily testing at the pool is being done to ensure there are no future problems. Upgrades were made to equipment.

There is a need for a Parks and Recreation Committee meeting regarding the operation of the pool for the following year.

The water main project continues within Community Park. Staff is trying to keep the front gate open as often as possible. Staff is working on wayfinding signs to help with attendance issues. The roundabout construction will necessitate closure next year as well.

National Night Out will be held on August 6th.

Tennis court paving begins next week.

Chief Stitzel and the Middletown Fire Department are working on an interstate response agreement. The goal is to increase response time to interstate calls. An MOU will be forthcoming.

There are vacancies on the Board of Zoning Appeals and New Community Authority Board of Trustees.

The Shaker Farms Development PUD and rezoning request was read into the record that evening and will be voted on at the next meeting. Sanitary sewer is still an issue that will be discussed further.

On July 22, the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City staff will meet with the Franklin City School Board President, Vice President and other administrative staff to talk about Economic Development tools.

The August 5 Council meeting has been moved up to July 29. AltaFiber will be presenting. National Night Out will occur on August 6 and Mr. Westendorf will be on vacation from August 6 -12.

Mr. Westendorf shared an email from Lt. Walker with Mason Police Department regarding Officer Shelby Davis. Officer Davis has been working with the Warren County Tactical Response Unit as negotiator. He praised her work and successful negotiations. Chief Colon added that she is a great officer who is very humble with a great work ethic. She cares about the community.

11. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Wilcher had no comments.

Mrs. Fouts said that recent world events have been tough and emotional. She is thankful for what we have here, we can work through things. She is proud to have local representative, JD Vance, represent the state of Ohio as the Vice-Presidential candidate for the Republican party.

Mr. Aldridge apologized for missing the last meeting. From what he was told, it sounds like a good conversation was had. Another meeting scheduled with the school board is good news. Communication is key. Both entities want what is best for the community and therefore share a lot of common goals. Good job to everyone.

He asked if there is an opportunity to widen the road on Bryant with the upcoming paving. He recalled a resident attending Council over a “No Parking” zone in front of their residence. Mr. Westendorf reported that staff tried to work with the resident and that he did not want to give up any of his front yard to increase the turning radius.

Mr. Ruppert complimented new interstate signs for West Chester. He would like a cost estimate for something similar in Franklin. Mr. Westendorf will look into this.

Vice Mayor Hall said we hit a stumbling block with the RAISE Grant and he doesn’t want staff to feel a loss in anything that has happened up to this point. We are moving forward and it just takes a little more time. We will reapply and move forward again with the feedback to be received from the Department of Transportation. He appreciates everything that staff does. He thanked Mr. Inman and his team. Keep it positive and move it forward.

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 made by Aldridge, Seconded by Fouts.

Voting Yea: Ruppert, Aldridge, Fouts, Wilcher

Voting Nay: Vice Mayor Hall

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

Motion to exit executive session made by Wilcher, Seconded by Aldridge.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Hall, Ruppert, Aldridge, Fouts, Wilcher

Motion passed. Council exited executive session at 7:05pm.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Aldridge.

Voting Yea: Ruppert, Vice Mayor Hall, Aldridge, Fouts, Wilcher

Motion passed. Council adjourned at 7:06pm

Brent Centers, Mayor

Khristi Dunn, Clerk of Council