

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 4, 2010**

Judge Rupert E. Ruppert swore in the newly re-elected Council Members Denny Centers, Carl Bray and Michael Aldridge.

Members of the Franklin City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 4, 2010, 6:00 p.m. at the Franklin Municipal Building, Mayor Denny Centers presiding.

Roll call showed:

Scott Lipps	present
Jason Faulkner	present
Bob Knipper	present
Denny Centers	present
Carl Bray	present
Michael Aldridge	present
Todd Hall	present

There were 13 visitors and no one from the press at tonight's meeting. Also present: Ms. Donnette Fisher, Law Director; Mr. Jonathan Westendorf, Fire Chief; Ms. Sandra Morgan, Acting Finance Director; Mr. Gordon Ellis, Police Chief; Mr. Sonny Lewis, Public Works Director; Mr. Jim Lukas, City Manager and Mrs. Jane McGee, Clerk of Council.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brent Knipper.

RESOLUTION 2010-01 APPOINTING A MEMBER OF COUNCIL AS MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2010

Mayor Centers asked for nominations for Mayor for 2010.

Mr. Hall nominated Carl Bray. Mr. Lipps seconded the nominations.

There being no further nominations, Mayor Centers closed the nominations.

The vote on the nomination of Carl Bray as Mayor:

Mr. Faulkner	yes
Mr. Knipper	yes
Mr. Centers	yes
Mr. Bray	abstain
Mr. Aldridge	yes
Mr. Hall	yes
Mr. Lipps	yes

Motion passed. Mr. Bray is appointed Mayor for 2010 and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

RESOLUTION 2010-02 APPOINTING A MEMBER OF COUNCIL AS VICE MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2010

Mayor Bray asked for nominations for Vice Mayor for 2010.

Mr. Lipps nominated Jason Faulkner. Mr. Centers seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, Mayor Bray closed the nominations.

The vote on the nomination of Jason Faulkner as Vice Mayor:

Mr. Knipper yes
Mr. Centers yes
Mr. Bray yes
Mr. Aldridge yes
Mr. Hall yes
Mr. Lipps yes
Mr. Faulkner abstain

Motion passed. Mr. Faulkner is appointed Vice Mayor for 2010.

Mr. Hall made the motion to approve the Clerk's Journal and accepting the tapes as the official minutes of the December 21, 2009 meeting; seconded by Mr. Aldridge. The vote:

Mr. Centers yes
Mr. Bray yes
Mr. Aldridge yes
Mr. Hall yes
Mr. Lipps yes
Mr. Faulkner yes
Mr. Knipper yes

Motion passed.

RECEPTION OF VISITORS

None tonight.

RESOLUTION 2010-03 APPOINTING COUNCIL MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2010

The following are appointed to Committees of Council for 2010.

FINANCE

Scott Lipps, Chairman
Jason Faulkner
Carl Bray

SAFETY

Jason Faulkner, Chairman
Michael Aldridge
Scott Lipps

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

Bob Knipper, Chairman
Michael Aldridge
Carl Bray

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS/FACILITY NEEDS

Todd Hall, Chairman
Denny Centers
Carl Bray

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Michael Aldridge, Chairman
Bob Knipper
Todd Hall

PARKS & RECREATION

Carl Bray, Chairman
Todd Hall
Jason Faulkner

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Denny Centers, Chairman
Bob Knipper
Scott Lipps

Mr. Faulkner made the motion to adopt Resolution 2010-03; seconded by Mr. Knipper. The vote:

Mr. Bray yes
Mr. Aldridge yes
Mr. Hall yes
Mr. Lipps yes
Mr. Faulkner yes
Mr. Knipper yes
Mr. Centers yes

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2010-04 APPOINTING COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MEMBERS-AT-LARGE TO CERTAIN DULY AUTHORIZED BOARDS & COMMISSIONS OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO, AND TO OTHER REGIONAL BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

The following are appointed to various Boards & Commissions of the City of Franklin.

City of Franklin Planning Commission - one (1) year term, January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010:

Denny Centers

Volunteer Firefighters' Dependent Fund - one (1) year term, January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010:

Carl Bray

Bob Knipper

City of Franklin-Franklin Township Joint Recreation Board (Pool Board) - one (1) year term, January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010:

Todd Hall, Council Member Scott Wallace
Michael Aldridge, Council Member Susie Mears
Bob Knipper, Council Member

Warren County Regional Planning Commission - one (1) year term, April 1, 2010 to March 1, 2011:

Carl Bray, Council Member Michael Aldridge, Alternate
Denny Centers, Council Member Ellis Ball, Alternate
Jim Lukas, City Manager Don Woods, Alternate

Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission - one (1) year term, January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010:

Bob Knipper, Council member Jim Lukas, Alternate

Joint Emergency Medical Services District Board of Trustees - two (2) year term, January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011.

Jason Faulkner

Warren County Board of Health - one (1) year term, January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010:

Adam McClanahan

Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission Technical Advisory Committee - one (1) year term, January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2010:

Jim Lukas, City Manager Sonny Lewis, Alternate

Franklin Planning Commission - four (4) year term, January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2013:

Jim Mears
Shane Centers

Franklin Board of Zoning, Building and Housing Appeals - four (4) year term, January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2013:

Don Cherry Michael Earach

Franklin Civil Service Commission - six (6) year term, January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2015:

James Odenweller

Franklin Parks and Recreation Commission - four (4) year term, January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2013:

Steve Gorsuch
Jerry Quillen
Jeff Johnson

Mr. Hall made the motion to adopt Resolution 2010-04; seconded by Mr. Faulkner. The vote:

Mr. Aldridge yes
Mr. Hall yes
Mr. Lipps yes
Mr. Faulkner yes
Mr. Knipper yes
Mr. Centers abstain
Mr. Bray yes

Motion passed.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

Mayor Centers introduced Ordinance 2010-01 Accepting the Donation of Property from the Franklin Lions Club, Inc. to the City of Franklin, Ohio.
Public Hearing to be held February 1, 2010.

Mayor Bray stated that in regards to Ordinance 2010-02, Providing for an Income Tax Increase, Council needs to decide on which option to proceed with: .25 % or .50% increase.

Ms. Fisher added that the first thing Council has to consider is which ballot to place the ordinance – the May or November ballot. If you decide to put this on the May ballot, the ordinance has to be introduced tonight. If you decide to go with the November ballot, no action is needed tonight, but will have to act on legislation in June.

Mr. Knipper explained that City revenues are down; talked about this at the last meeting; if the levy doesn't pass, services will have to be cut. We are continuing to look at cutting expenses and will continue to do so if the levy passes. Feedback received is that people don't care as they work out of town.

Mayor Bray stated council needs to decide – May or November ballot. The school will have a renewal levy on the May ballot and might also have a levy on the November ballot.

Mr. Lukas stated that staff recommends the November ballot in order to provide the public with information.

Mr. Centers asked the effective date of the ordinances. Ms. Fisher stated July 1 to begin collecting the new rate.

Mr. Centers stated that revenues are down about \$600,000. Ms. Morgan added that amount is in addition to a reduction already made. Mr. Centers continued that he has talked with residents; past council's have done well in managing the City's budget; surrounding communities have a higher income tax; and that he likes the .25% and to do now.

Mr. Hall stated like other cities, we have been cutting expenses; understand the school's issues; we need to move forward; like the .25% increase in May.

Mr. Aldridge questioned what the .25% will generate; last increase in 1975, leaning towards the .50% increase in November; don't want a band aid fix; and will be difficult to pass.

Mr. Lipps stated he's not comfortable with an increase in taxes; we are at below 2007 revenues; have been doing with less; need to cut deeper, have fewer services as people can't afford an increase; if have to do, prefer .25% and doesn't matter when.

Mr. Faulkner stated we have to run the City despite what the schools do; have done a lot of one time revenues for this year; if want to maintain services, need levy, if levy fails, need to cut services; revenues are down and question if .25% increase is enough; like the .50% increase in May.

Mr. Knipper stated he likes the .50% increase in November; school doing renewal levy in May; question if we can educate the people by May; need to look at everything.

Mr. Hall stated we should go with the November ballot for a .50% increase; need to be ready to make cuts, i.e. salting, parks, etc.

Mayor Bray stated we are about \$600,000 short this year; not broke yet; want to be prepared; voters need to decide if they want services to continue; hope to pass levy & continue with services; times are tough for all and understand that; leaning towards .25% increase in May, flexible on this; no problem with providing information to residents by May or can go with November.

Mr. Faulkner stated that according to feedback, the residents trust us to make the right decision.

Mayor Bray stated the problem now is revenues are being cut at the federal & state level that the City receives - putting a burden on local governments - they are taking away the money and we have to pass a levy to replace those funds.

Mr. Centers stated that Senator Jones has let us know that we are losing the local government funds and that will be gone shortly; considering everything, if we wait until November, we will be playing catch-up, need to go with May and consider .50% increase.

Mr. Lukas stated that the \$600,000 shortfall was revised - total shortfall is \$750,000 for the year.

Mr. Aldridge stated he agrees with everything said tonight - we just discussed this at the last meeting, need to agree on what to do.

Discussion continued on: there is a balance budget for 2010, will be budget problems in 2013; huge cuts have been made the past 2 years; general fund is less this year than last year; staff good at finding cuts; need to keep up with street paving (never can catch up); doing an income tax increase instead of property tax as it only affects those working - not the senior citizens; and still looking at different options.

Mayor Bray then polled Council on how they want to proceed:

Mr. Hall - .50% in November

Mr. Aldridge - .50% in November

Mr. Centers - .50% in May

Mr. Lipps - .25% in May
Mr. Faulkner - .50% in May or November
Mr. Knipper - .50% in November

Mayor Bray stated consensus of Council is to proceed with a .50% income tax increase to be placed on the November ballot.

Ms. Fisher added legislation should not be introduced tonight. It will be brought back to Council in June.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lukas stated the proposed CDBG project is on the podium for Council's review. Applications are due by the end of the month; so if you want to proceed with, we will submit the application and have council vote on it at the February 1 meeting. Project is sewer relining at Forest/South Avenue; \$150,000 city share of project cost; continuation of this year's project; project will be scaled down if we don't receive the funds requested.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Fisher reported on the following:

- At the last meeting, indigent burial policy was given to you for review. She asked for direction on how to proceed – take to a Council Committee or prepare an ordinance for introduction. Mayor Bray stated to put legislation on the next Council agenda.
- An applicant for the Planning Commission Board will be at the next meeting and also have a vacancy on the Civil Service Commission – will be advertising for.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Comments tonight include: Congratulations to Mr. Bray & Mr. Faulkner on their appointments tonight; thanks for attending tonight; JEMS update – money becoming a problem, staffing a problem, having mechanical problems with vehicles, a lieutenant resigned, leadership problems; congrats to Shane Centers on appointment to Planning Commission; problem with vandalism at park, more lighting is needed; congrats to Ohio State fans; car parked on Arlington Avenue, 2nd house, has been there a week or so, needs moved; hope 2010 better year; FHS boys basketball team along with Lebanon's basketball team did a food drive for the Food Pantry, collected estimated 10,000 lbs.; lion update (first cast done, hope to be done by March); and Mayor Bray thanked everyone for coming this evening; thanks to Mr. Centers for his work this past year as Mayor; congrats to Mr. Faulkner and the support of Council; thanks to staff for work done the last few months on the budget; thanks to Brent Knipper for coming tonight; and also thanks to my wife, daughter and granddaughter for attending tonight.

Mr. Hall made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Centers. The vote:

Mr. Hall	yes
Mr. Lipps	yes
Mr. Faulkner	yes
Mr. Knipper	yes
Mr. Centers	yes

Mr. Bray yes
Mr. Aldridge yes
Motion passed.

Mayor Bray adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk of Council