

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 16, 2015**

Members of the Franklin City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 16, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at the Franklin City Building, Mayor Denny Centers presiding.

Roll call showed:

Scott Lipps	absent
Matt Wilcher	present
Jason Faulkner	present
Denny Centers	present
Carl Bray	present
Michael Aldridge	absent
Todd Hall	present

There was one member of the press and 6 visitors at tonight's meeting. Also present: Mr. Jonathan Westendorf, Fire Chief; Mr. Russ Whitman, Police Chief; Mr. Ross Coulton, Assistant Safety Director; Ms. Sandra Morgan, Finance Director; Ms. Donnette Fisher, Law Director; Mr. Sonny Lewis, City Manager and Mrs. Jane McGee, Clerk of Council.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Doug Greathouse.

Mr. Wilcher made the motion to approve the Clerk's Journal and accept the tapes with noted correction as the official minutes of the March 2, 2015 regular meeting; seconded by Mr. Hall. The vote:

Mr. Wilcher	yes
Mr. Faulkner	yes
Mr. Centers	yes
Mr. Bray	abstain
Mr. Aldridge	absent
Mr. Hall	yes
Mr. Lipps	absent

Motion passed.

RECEPTION OF VISITORS

There were no visitor remarks.

PRESENTATION: SHERIFF LARRY SIMS - 2014 REPORT

Sheriff Larry Sims presented a brief summary of his 2014 Report. He noted the following:

- 71,000+ calls for service in 2014, a little less than in 2013
- C&C permits, 3,100 in 2014 (includes renewals)
- Added a part-time person
- 214 registered sex offenders & 22 registered juveniles
- Heroin is a situation that impacts everyone; in the County, average 1-2 overdoses a week & 1-2 overdose deaths monthly
- Jail occupancy impacted by drug use and is going up; female occupancy doubled over last couple of years
- Vivitrol treatment program started about a year ago; is expensive; 27 people on it now; appears can be successful; is an 18 month program
- Reviewed the canine report

- Drug Task Force made 164 arrests in 2014 & of those, 72 were involved in a heroin distribution ring out of Wilmington; the Task Force has had some success in breaking up these rings
- Reported on a large scale organized ring, out of Dayton hitting Verizon stores in the County & statewide, couple of the cases has seen five people indicted and the ring has significantly slowed down
- Remain dedicated to training and working

Mr. Bray asked if he knew if Clinton County's police dog had been found. Sheriff Sims stated yes, and he will be back to work.

Mayor Centers thanked Sheriff Sims for coming tonight.

ORDINANCE 2015-02 EMERGENCY PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015

Mr. Lewis stated that this is to adopt the 2015 budget. It has been to the Finance Committee and they recommend approval.

General Fund highlights are:

- Includes 3% raises for all City employees, 27 pays this year so there's an additional payroll for 2015
- 2 new police cruisers (\$89,000)
- Tennis courts (\$50,000)
- Transfer to Property Acquisition Fund (\$300,000)
- Street Fund, \$400,000 for contractual paving and \$120,000 for an additional salt dome
- TIFF Fund, \$287,000 for completion of new turn lane
- Water Fund, \$150,000 for Virginia Waterline Extension; \$20,000 for mini backhoe; \$25,000 for equipment at the Water Treatment Plant

Mr. Lewis stated these are the same as explained when the temporary budget was passed.

Mr. Wilcher asked if we'll be able to get any salt. Mr. Lewis stated that there is plenty of salt, but the issue is getting it here. Discussion continued on the salt issue and that the demand is greater than what can be supplied. Mayor Centers asked what the capacity of the salt dome being proposed is. Mr. Lewis stated the current salt dome holds 2,500 tons and the new one 1,700 tons and that we are trying to be proactive.

Mr. Faulkner thanked Ms. Morgan and staff for their work on the budget document.

Mr. Bray made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2015-02; seconded by Mr. Hall. The vote:

Mr. Faulkner	yes
Mr. Centers	yes
Mr. Bray	yes
Mr. Aldridge	absent
Mr. Hall	yes
Mr. Lipps	absent
Mr. Wilcher	yes

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2015-10 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO ODOT FOR SRTS PROJECT FUNDS FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS - PHASE I PROJECT

Mr. Lewis stated public hearings were held to study safe routes and we've formalized what we want to do with the \$400,000 grant money. This will install flashing beacons, ladder crosswalks, ADA compliant curb ramps, countdown pedestrian signal heads and improve school signage. We are asking for \$384,636 (including right-of-way documents, survey & engineering and environmental costs). The improvements proposed are at intersections at Anthony Wayne, Franklin Jr. High, Gerke and Schenck schools.

Mr. Lewis stated that we want to encourage more kids to walk and ride their bikes to school and that they can do it in a safe manner.

Mr. Bray stated that he asked if this can be used for sidewalks and was told no, it can't be used for sidewalks. Mr. Faulkner added that the intersection at Sunnybrook/6th Street is bad.

Mr. Hall made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-10; seconded by Mr. Faulkner. The vote:

Mr. Centers	yes
Mr. Bray	yes
Mr. Aldridge	absent
Mr. Hall	yes
Mr. Lipps	absent
Mr. Wilcher	yes
Mr. Faulkner	yes

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2015-11 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO ODOT FOR SRTS PROJECT FUNDS FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL NON-INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS - PHASE I PROJECT

Mr. Lewis stated that this is for a \$10,000 grant, 100% funded by ODOT, for programs to educate kids about vehicle, bicycle and fire safety; startup of bike rodeo; attend ODOT's walking school bus training & adult crossing guard training; and create an adult crossing guard program.

Mr. Faulkner made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-11; seconded by Mr. Wilcher. The vote:

Mr. Bray	yes
Mr. Aldridge	absent
Mr. Hall	yes
Mr. Lipps	absent
Mr. Wilcher	yes
Mr. Faulkner	yes
Mr. Centers	yes

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2015-12 APPOINTING KAREN ERVIN AS THE FINANCE DIRECTOR FOR THE CITY OF FRANKLIN

Mr. Lewis introduced Ms. Karen Ervin to Council, who is here tonight, and recommend her appointment as the Finance Director.

Mayor Centers stated that Ms. Morgan has done an outstanding job, wish her much success in her retirement, appreciate her for all she's done and that she's offered to help Karen in any way she can, and that's a great employee that's willing to stay and do that.

Mr. Faulkner thanked Ms. Morgan for her service.

Mayor Centers stated we look forward to working with Ms. Ervin and that we were thrilled with her interview.

Mr. Faulkner made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-12; seconded by Mr. Bray. The vote:

Mr. Aldridge	absent
Mr. Hall	yes
Mr. Lipps	absent
Mr. Wilcher	yes
Mr. Faulkner	yes
Mr. Centers	yes
Mr. Bray	yes

Motion passed.

Mayor Centers welcomed Ms. Ervin to the City.

RESOLUTION 2015-13 AMENDING RESOLUTION 2015-09, ESTABLISHING ORGANIZATIONAL LISTINGS AND PAY RATES FOR CITY OF FRANKLIN OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE YEAR 2015

Mr. Lewis stated that this establishes the salary for the Finance Director.

Mr. Hall made the motion to adopt Resolution 2014-13; seconded by Mr. Faulkner. The vote:

Mr. Hall	yes
Mr. Lipps	absent
Mr. Wilcher	yes
Mr. Faulkner	yes
Mr. Centers	yes
Mr. Bray	yes
Mr. Aldridge	absent

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2015-14 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO BENEFITS COOPERATIVE TO PROVIDE MEDICAL, DENTAL AND LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS TO CITY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

Mr. Lewis stated that this was passed last year when we went with the Ohio Benefits Cooperative. We need to do again so the City Manager has authority to sign contracts and documents of the OBC as the by-laws have been changed. In September, the OBC will become self-funded because of a fee that has to be paid per the Affordable Health Care Act under the current policy. He and Tina Thompson attends the meetings and it's good for the City to be part of.

Mr. Bray made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-014; seconded by Mr. Wilcher. The vote:

Mr. Lipps	absent
Mr. Wilcher	yes
Mr. Faulkner	yes
Mr. Centers	yes
Mr. Bray	yes
Mr. Aldridge	absent
Mr. Hall	yes

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2015-15 AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF PETITION FOR FORFEITURE OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 534 S. RIVER STREET AND AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS TO ACQUIRE SAID PROPERTY

Ms. Fisher stated that we have received notice that this property is in tax foreclosure as it has remained unsold after two attempts to sell. We've been notified by the County Prosecutor's office that because the property did not sell, the Court will offer to forfeit the property to the City. We will have to pay the outstanding tax bill of \$8,228.23, court costs of \$1,435.16 and the recording costs of \$36.50, for a total of \$9,699.89. We demolished the property last year as part of the Moving Ohio Forward Program. The City currently has an outstanding lien for demolition and unpaid utility bills in the amount of \$19,218.85. It's unlikely to recoup this money if the land is forfeited to the State of Ohio, which will happen if we do not petition for forfeiture to the City. If we don't obtain the property, the City will have to maintain this property and invoice for grass/weeding cutting. The property is located on River Street, between 5th Street and 6th Street.

Mayor Centers asked what we will do with it. Mr. Lewis stated that the Comprehensive Plan has a recommendation for that area.

Mayor Centers asked if there is any progress on the house, by the City Building. Mr. Lewis stated yes, have an appraisal and it's been sent to Cleveland. We are looking for a house of equal value to trade and the process takes 9-12 months.

There was some discussion on the amount of money owed on the property and that we need to take it and re-develop that area.

Mr. Faulkner made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-15; seconded by Mr. Wilcher. The vote:

Mr. Wilcher	yes
Mr. Faulkner	yes
Mr. Centers	yes
Mr. Bray	yes
Mr. Aldridge	absent
Mr. Bray	yes
Mr. Lipps	absent

Motion passed.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

Mayor Centers introduced: Ordinance 2015-03 Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Franklin, Ohio, to Rezone the Property Located at 133 S. River Street from R-4, Multi-Family Residential District, to C-3, Central Commercial District

Public Hearing will be held April 6, 2015.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lewis stated that he learned last Friday, that the MVRPC approved the Downtown Phase I traffic signal project and the bike path project, Baxter Drive to Middletown City limits.

Mayor Centers asked where Middletown is on this. Mr. Lewis stated they have to go through OKI for funding and then the projects will be coordinated and that he doesn't know OKI deadlines. Mayor Centers stated that he and Mr. Lewis met with Middletown's City Manager and Mayor and they're going to work with us on this to coordinate the projects.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Fisher had no report.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Wilcher thanked everyone for coming tonight; thanked Nancy Coppock for coming tonight and that he would like to speak with her after the meeting.

Mr. Faulkner thanked all for attending tonight and welcomed Ms. Ervin to the City. Also, stated that it was good working with Sandy, fantastic job, perfect audits last 2 years, will miss her and wished her good luck in her retirement.

Mr. Bray stated Ms. Morgan has been with the City 36 years, been an asset to the City, we will miss you and wish you the best; welcomed Ms. Ervin; awesome to see the articles on Luke Kennard; FHS cheerleaders won State and asked if we are going to recognize them (Mr. Lewis stated we did proclamations when they previously won State and he'd like to contact local civic organizations to work with the City on a sign that will list accomplishments of students); and asked about the Christmas paintings still being on the windows downtown. Mr. Lewis stated he's working on this, one of the buildings is going to be torn down and spring/summer paintings will be done.

Mayor Centers stated maybe an Economic Development Council meeting needs to be held. Mr. Aldridge is Chairman and will get with him.

Mr. Hall asked if there is any information on what Swifty's is doing (Mr. Lewis stated it's in the process of being purchased by another gas station); there is a car parked at the Swifty's station, need to check on it; any conversation with Pacey about his fence (Mr. Lewis stated not lately); wished Ms. Morgan the best, thanks for everything you've done, and you'll always be part of our family; and to Ms. Ervin, you have big shoes to fill.

Mayor Centers stated we will miss Ms. Morgan; welcome to Ms. Ervin; heard anything about Boxboard (Mr. Lewis stated he's hard to get hold) and we need to stay involved with him.

Mr. Faulkner stated a stop sign is missing at the street going into the back of the Jr. High, off Anderson.

Mr. Coulton asked Mr. Lewis, as he missed the beginning of the meeting, if he updated Council about the events at the Park this week. Mr. Lewis stated that the Spring Blast Soccer tournament is at the Park this weekend and the Easter Egg Hunt is March 28th, 11:30 a.m. at the Park.

Mr. Faulkner made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Wilcher. The vote:

Mr. Faulkner	yes
Mr. Centers	yes
Mr. Bray	yes
Mr. Aldridge	absent
Mr. Hall	yes
Mr. Lipps	absent
Mr. Wilcher	yes

Motion passed.

Mayor Centers adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk of Council