

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 6, 2015**

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

Roll call showed:

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

There was one member of the press and 10 visitors at tonight's meeting. Also present: Ms. Donnette Fisher, Law Director; Ms. Karen Ervin, Finance Director; Mr. Jonathan Westendof, Fire Chief; Mr. Russ Whitman, Police Chief; Mr. Ross Coulton, Assistant Safety Director; Mr. Sonny Lewis, City Manager and Mrs. Jane McGee, Clerk of Council.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Holly Dean.

Mr. Wilcher made the motion to approve the Clerk's Journal and accept the tapes as the official minutes of the March 16, 2015 regular meeting; seconded by Mr. Hall. The vote:

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

Motion passed.

RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Bev Wolfe, 27 Libby Court, asked about the property at 449 S. Main Street, if there are any plans for the building. Mr. Lewis stated that the intent is to revitalize it and the City owns it. Ms. Wolfe asked what's going in the building. Mr. Lewis stated that nothing has been decided; is the old Phillips Store; 2 units up and 2 units down; don't know when it will be done and that we are still working on it.

Mr. Lipps asked if she has any ideas for the building.

Ms. Wolfe stated she would like to open up a business "Miss Lilly's Antique & Gift Shop" at that location. It would also include consignment of crafts; been reading the Comprehensive Plan; explained the business is named after General Harding's wife and that she is looking for a storefront downtown.

Mayor Centers stated that she needs to talk with Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Bray stated he's okay with a retail use and doesn't want any housing.

Ms. Fisher added that the Charter says that you can't lease without bidding.

Ms. Wolfe added that she also wants to do craft classes.

PRESENTATION - FRANKLIN POLICE DIVISION 2014 END-OF-YEAR REPORT

Chief Russ Whitman reported on the following from the 2014 year-end report:

- Crime down
- Felony & misdemeanors down
- Citations & crashes down
- Canine activity up
- Detective activity down
- Internal affairs had 4 investigations
- Response to Resistance - there were 3 reports
- Officer of the Year –Jesse Shannon
- Dispatcher of the Year – Francis Shotwell
- Exemplary Service Award: Det. Jeff Stewart & Det. Steve Dunham
- Years of Service Awards: Dispatcher Lindsey Alvarez & Ptl. Jake Lacon (5 years); Ptl. Ed Diekman (10 years); Det. Scott & Brown and Ptl. Dave Hatfield (15 years); Lt. Gerry Massey & Chief Whitman (25 years)
- Safe Driving Award to numerous employees
- Court security remaining same
- Sick leave – had several officers off due to surgeries and illnesses and two dispatchers off on maternity leave
- Officers & Dispatchers overtime and sick leave hours are down compared to same time last year
- Vehicle mileage averages 250,000 miles/year – 26 vehicles total
- Money received thru the Police Department for Crime Lab Fees, Law Enforcement Fund, Drug Fund, Vehicle Fund and other fees for 2014 totaled \$48,583.03
- Reserve Program ended the year with 4 Reserve Officers and one Reserve Dispatcher; hope to hire four Reserve Officers this year

Chief Whitman stated that the Department had a lot of success last year due to the help of Captain Coulton. He has been his right-hand man while being Chief and also, has helped him throughout his career and thanked him. Also, thanked Lt. Massey for becoming a leader of the Department, along with the other Lieutenants.

Chief Whitman explained the SCAR program; preparing for the future drug of choice and the crimes related to that drug use.

Mr. Wilcher asked with overall calls, drug pattern and felonies down; is exciting report to see in light of our recent discussions; why has this been a successful year.

Chief Whitman stated he thinks because of the public being more aware, 1 Tip line and the SCAR Team.

Mr. Wilcher asked how many calls into 1Tip? Chief Whitman stated he doesn't know but will find out.

Mr. Wilcher also asked if there is any way to get hour meters on the police cruiser engines. Chief Whitman stated he didn't know, but will check into it.

Mr. Faulkner stated that this is a great report, very encouraging; at the recent round table one of things that came up was the drug issue, feel the stigma from that will take five years to get rid of; all the talk about a drug court & how bad things are, think some of them believed it; I don't think it is any worse here than anywhere else. He is very encouraged and appreciates the information.

Mr. Lipps stated the Canine Dog Program is very respected; getting recognized in the County and have two teams now, asked if there is a third person being trained.

Chief Whitman stated, no, we have two dogs – one a drug dog and one dog that will track, chase and bite.

Mr. Lipps asked if we are budgeting for replacements for either the dogs or the trainers. Chief Whitman stated no, as they are new dogs and new handlers.

Mr. Lipps asked when the police employees in a union are. Chief Whitman stated that they all are in a union – the Franklin Law Enforcement Association representing the Lieutenants, Sergeants, Patrol Officers and Dispatchers (4 separate unions).

Mayor Centers asked how many dogs are there in Warren County. Chief Whitman stated 7-9 dogs.

Mayor Centers added we are proud of the department, the employees and keep up the good work.

PRESENTATION - WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER LEVY

Ms. Maggie Hess, Superintendent of Warren County Career Center, spoke about the replacement levy that is on the May 5, 2015 ballot to replace the levy that was originally passed 35 years ago. This was on the November ballot and didn't pass. The money is still needed. Ms. Hess noted the following:

- Enrollment has doubled in the past ten years
- Aging infrastructure – 40 year old building
- Safety & security an issue
- Technology updates needed
- Asking for Council's support

This is a 3.5 mill replacement levy that will restore the 1979 levy to its original value. Ms. Hess noted that a 1 mil levy was passed in 1990. Ms. Hess added that the Career Center offers programs in 24 career fields, such as healthcare, industrial and automotive technologies, skilled trades and public safety. Also has earned all A's on the report card the past two years. Ms. Hess introduced Ms. Holly Dean, who lives in the City and also is a graduate of the Career Center. Ms. Hess added that Mr. Lipps and Ms. Darlene Hicks are on the committee. Also, 200 Franklin High school students attend the Career Center. Ms. Hess handed out information to Council and asked them to remember the Special Election on May 5th.

Mr. Faulkner stated he hopes it passes.

Mayor Centers stated that you receive skilled training to get into the work force – is a wonderful opportunity for kids to get a trade.

Council is unanimous in supporting the Warren County Career Center levy.

Mr. Lipps noted that the students designed and built the Observatory at Camp Joy.

PUBLIC HEARING 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

Ms. Fisher stated this property at 133 S. River Street is the old annex building. The building is on two lots. Wade Gates owns the property; has a person who is leasing the building and wants to open a kayak and bicycle shop. The zoning is different for the two lots and this will classify the building and the parking lot as C-3 zoning. Planning Commission recommends approval.

Mayor Centers stated that Kevin Sillaman, who is leasing the building, has talked to MCD and they are working with him.

Mayor Centers opened the Public Hearing and asked for any public comments. There being none, he closed the Public Hearing and asked for any Council comments. There were none.

Mr. Faulkner made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2015-03; seconded by Mr. Bray. The vote:

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

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2015-16 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 21 E. SIXTH STREET, INCLUDING LOTS 596 AND 598, AND AT 534 S. MAIN STREET FROM JOHN PAUL RIESER, CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY TRUSTEE

Mr. Lewis stated that we put a bid on these properties over a year ago, has been through Bankruptcy Court and we are now able to purchase the properties. It includes the old laundromat on 6th Street and three other lots at \$42,367.48.

Mr. Bray asked if he has been inside the laundromat building. Mr. Lewis stated no, not yet.

Mr. Lipps made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-16; seconded by Mr. Hall. The vote:

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

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2015-17 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW GMC TRUCK FOR THE FIRE & EMS DIVISION FROM BOB ROSS AUTO GROUP THROUGH THE STATE PURCHASING PROGRAM

Chief Westendorf stated that this will replace the 1999 Ford truck and trailer that was damaged in a vehicle crash. We are purchasing a 2015 GMC 3500 4-wheel drive pickup with utility body and snowplow through the State Purchasing Program. Total cost is \$39,785.00; offset by insurance payment of \$3,500 for the pick-up truck and \$20,204.92 for the trailer; for our cost of \$16,080.08.

There was some discussion on the replacement vehicle and that the trailer is not being replaced at this time.

Mr. Hall made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-17; seconded by Mr. Faulkner. The vote:

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

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2015-18 FINAL LEGISLATION FOR THE ODOT STATE ROUTE 123 FY 2015 URBAN PAVING PROJECT

Mr. Lewis stated that this is the final legislation for the State Route 123 Urban Paving Project, 6th Street from Main Street to the City limits, excluding under I-75. The estimated project cost has been revised to \$308,617.63, will be bid in May and to be completed by the end of the year.

There was discussion on what is included in the project, the start date and how long it will take.

Mayor Centers asked if there are any plans to pave any alleys. Mr. Lewis stated that most of the alleys have been done.

Mr. Bray stated that a turn lane is needed in front of McDonalds/Waffle House on Sixth Street. Mr. Lewis stated that project is being done this summer. Discussion continued on improving the turn radius coming out of the truck stop, etc.

Mr. Wilcher made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-18; seconded by Mr. Aldridge. The vote:

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

Motion passed.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

Mayor Centers introduced: Ordinance 2015-04 Accepting the Dedication from Kettering Adventist Healthcare of a New Public Street, to be known as "Kettering Way".

Public Hearing will be held on April 20, 2015.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lewis stated our intent was to purchase a speed sign, like the one we borrow from the Township, through the SAFE Routes to School Program Grant. As it wasn't included in the grant, we went ahead and purchased it, paid out of the Capital Improvement Fund and we received it today.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Fisher reported that the Farmers Market starts in two months, have openings, adding craft vendors, food vendors and will have the re-useable bags again paid by corporate sponsors.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Lipps thanked everyone for attending tonight; thanks for the vision to put a store downtown; good report Chief Whitman; welcomed the Scouts to tonight's meeting; and thanks to Ms. Hess and Ms. Dean for what you're doing and we will help you pass the levy by bringing it up at every meeting until the levy vote.

Mr. Wilcher thanked Chief Whitman for the report, very encouraging; thanked Julie and Bev for coming tonight; he'd like to see something done with the buildings downtown; and thanks to Ms. Hess and Ms. Dean for coming tonight.

Mr. Faulkner thanked everyone for coming tonight; good luck with the levy; good job Chief Whitman; and thanked the Mayor for the opportunity to present the Proclamation to the cheerleaders (State Champs).

Mr. Hall asked when the building behind the Fire Department was painted (last year); thanks for coming out tonight, is appreciated; good luck with the levy; thanks to Bev for wanting to come downtown, wish you the best; thanked Chief Whitman for his report, we are well respected in the County as is our Fire Department.

Mr. Aldridge thanked everyone for coming tonight; congratulated and welcomed Ms. Ervin; good report Chief Whitman; basketball season is over and he has residents calling and asking what we're going to do for the team and Luke, has been outstanding ride for the City, he was on the McDonalds All-American team, won the 3-point contest; and Luke and his family (Kennard's) represent the City well.

Mr. Bray dittoed everything that has been said and thanked everyone for attending tonight.

Mayor Centers thanked Chief Whitman for his report; thanks to Ms. Hess and Ms. Dean for coming and we do support the levy; attended the Easter Egg Hunt and it was well attended, lots of kids; and asked for an update on the injured firefighter. Chief Westendorf stated that his condition changes daily, will be in the hospital as least 2 more weeks, miraculous recovery so far and they will be working on his elbow next.

Mayor Centers asked if there is any information on the house by the City Building parking lot. Mr. Lewis stated it will be a long process, have received the appraisal from the County and looking for a comparable house.

Mr. Lipps asked if we've heard anything from Cazadores since the work has started in front of their business on Second Street (only comment from the business is about the equipment being parked in their parking lot).

Mayor Centers asked about having a Council Economic Development meeting. Mr. Lewis stated we'll see if we can get it scheduled before the next Council meeting.

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

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

Motion passed.

Mayor Centers adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk of Council