

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 18, 2015**

Members of the Franklin City Council met in regular session on Monday, May 18, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at the Franklin Municipal Building, Mayor Denny Centers presiding.

Roll call showed:

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Scout Nick Foreman.

Mr. Bray made the motion to approve the Clerk's Journal and accept the tapes as the official minutes of the May 4, 2015 regular meeting; seconded by Mr. Faulkner. The vote:

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

Motion passed.

RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Judith Bowman, 117 Miami Avenue, stated she is a member of the Franklin Area Historical Society, Mackinaw Community Association and the First United Methodist Church. She addressed Council about a building that was purchased by the City. She's confused how the City can't maintain services on a regular basis but can purchase property and, her understanding, is that the building is to be torn down. She asked what the vision for the downtown is. Buildings are being torn down & not replaced; just being status quo; do we have a City Engineer or inspector for building & property maintenance. She also asked why water meters aren't being read monthly, quick to turn off water if the bill isn't paid.

Mr. Lewis stated that we recently started reading water meters monthly – has been a 7 year project.

Mr. Wilcher stated she has some valid points; he also has questions about the downtown and has asked for a work session to discuss this.

Mayor Centers stated we're not stagnant. We've been tearing down some of the blighted buildings; received some grant money and have to do as money is available; talked to Mayor Church, Miamisburg, and he confirmed that this is a long process.

Ms. Fisher stated that there has been a downtown plan since 2009. Demolition of buildings have been done the last couple of years.

Mrs. Bowman asked why the building by the Tavern is being torn down; need to save at least the front of it; need to contact the owner of the Tavern; why was the Fitzgerald building torn down and why aren't we re-using these buildings.

Mr. Lewis stated that the Fitzgerald building was declared unsafe by the State Fire Marshall; the Kinney's building burnt down; tore down the old Cottage Inn (next to Scotty Pub); tore down the old free store next to Cottage Inn (was condemned); tore down the building between Turners and the Tax Service (Maholtra). These buildings were condemned and the property owners decided not to repair.

Ms. Bowman stated her vision is for the vacant property to be a gathering place, with gazebo, benches and urns; don't have an attractive downtown; and need to let the public know what you're vision is.

Mr. Faulkner stated we have a Comprehensive Plan, and we will get you a copy if you like. Mr. Faulkner asked her what she meant by spending money on buildings and not doing other things. Mrs. Bowman stated the other things she's talking about is what makes Franklin presentable. Don't have a sign any longer coming into the City from Carlisle; the entrances into the City are uninteresting. Mr. Faulkner stated that he thought she was referring to services not being provided like we should be. Ms. Bowman continued that services should include improving the downtown; 'Welcome to Franklin' signs need fixed and we need more of them and the 'Mr. Basketball' signs are nice. Mr. Bray noted that the signs did look nice in the beginning. Ms. Bowman continued that she thinks part of Public Works should be to water flowers and maintain benches downtown. She came here 10 years ago; likes where she lives; don't like what's going on downtown; and there's no incentive to go downtown.

Mr. Wilcher stated he's working on contacting other entities on how they redeveloped – also need investors, others involved to improve downtown.

Mrs. Bowman stated she's been trying to buy a property, to fix up, and can't as she is being beat out by other investors. She stated she wanted to know if there's a plan for downtown – for when a building is purchased other than to just demolish it and plant grass. Mr. Bray stated by demolishing the building, we hope that someday, someone wants to do something with the property. Mrs. Bowman added no one will want to do that because the downtown looks decrepit.

Mayor Centers stated that's why we're doing that (demo) to get investors interested in downtown; we will help anyone who wants to move downtown anyway we can.

Mrs. Bowman asked if there are any city/tax incentives for businesses. Mayor Centers stated, yes, there are tax incentives. Mr. Bray also noted that we had a program for about 10 years that gave out approximately \$174,000 that was a matching grant for downtown.

Mayor Centers stated we're always looking to make downtown better. I understand what you're saying, but it's not easy to get downtown revitalized with minimum money; have tried a lot of different things; have landscaped I-75/SR 123 interchange and working on the I-75/SR 73 interchange.

Mrs. Bowman stated she's not impressed when she comes into town (the interchanges) – moved here 10 years ago, husband from Carlisle, looking for a place to retire and thought there were possibilities here.

Mr. Wilcher stated that some of the buildings can't be saved; the empty lots could be the start of new building and business downtown. We want to do something downtown – takes time and money.

Mrs. Bowman volunteered to help with the vision; need to save the clock tower building (Runge's) and not a lot of historical buildings left downtown and will help with the visual aspect of what the town looks like.

Discussion continued.

Mr. Lewis stated you're here because Franklin is a great place to live; lot of good people here; lot of pride here; can't believe you think we would not contact Brian (Tavern owner) and Mrs. Mangroo; there are questions if the front of that building by the Tavern can be saved, we are looking at it; explained what is going on, baby steps; #1 priority is to get drugs out of downtown; and we're moving forward, not backwards, and you didn't say anything about the hanging baskets downtown. Mrs. Bowman stated the flower baskets are great, but wish they weren't twenty-five feet in the air as they can't be seen.

Discussion continued on the flowers downtown.

Mrs. Bowman asked to be kept updated; also will volunteer to help with signage or any visual effects; need City entrance signs; and she has grown to love Franklin.

Ms. Fisher stated we haven't spent any City tax money on demolition to date.

Discussion continued.

Mayor Centers stated we appreciate her comments.

RESOLUTION 2015-26 AWARDING THE BID AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT WITH BARRETT PAVING FOR THE STATE ROUTE 123 LEFT TURN LANE EXTENSION PROJECT

Mr. Lewis stated that this awards the bid for the SR 123 left turn lane project, going east bound on SR 123 turning into Pilot, to Barrett Paving. They were the low bidder at \$69,998.25.

Bids also received from:

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|------------|-------------|
| JK Meurer | \$71,598.00 |
| W.G. Stang | \$72,507.00 |

Mr. Bray made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-26; seconded by Mr. Wilcher. The vote:

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

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2015-27 AWARDING THE BID AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT WITH BARRETT PAVING FOR THE 2015 MUNICIPAL PAVING PROJECT

Mr. Lewis stated that this awards the bid for the summer street paving program to Barrett Paving, low bidder at \$344,214.50. Streets to be paved include Conover Drive, Virginia Avenue and South River Street.

Bid also received from:

Jurgensen \$358,414.00

Mr. Hall made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-27; seconded by Mr. Bray. 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 2015-28 AUTHORIZING REIMBURSEMENT OF UP TO \$3,000 TO WARREN COUNTY KUSTOMS FOR THE 2015 FRANKLIN DOWNTOWN SATURDAY NIGHT CAR SHOW

Mr. Lewis stated that we've had this event the last ten years and is one of the largest car shows in the tri-state. It showcases the downtown, draws big crowds and also provides entertainment that night.

Mr. Bray stated that this has been to Finance Committee and they approved.

The car show is in August.

Mr. Hall made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-28; seconded by Mr. Faulkner. 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 2015-29 AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN CITY-OWNED VEHICLES BY THE POLICE DIVISION AND THE FIRE & EMS DIVISION

Mr. Lewis stated that these vehicles are being replaced and will be sold on govdeals.com. The Police Department is selling three vehicles, one Ford Crown Victoria and two Dodge Chargers. The Fire & EMS Department is selling a Ford Crown Victoria and Ford pickup Truck.

Mr. Faulkner made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-29; 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.

RESOLUTION 2015-30 DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF IMPROVING CITY STREETS AND PUBLIC WAYS BY THE LIGHTING THEREOF FOR THE YEAR 2016

Mr. Lewis stated that we do this every year. This is the first step in the street light assessment process. The total cost is \$152,005.00 - 2% is the City share with \$148,965.00 being the property owner's share assessed to their property taxes.

Mr. Hall made the motion to adopt Resolution 2015-30; seconded by Mr. Faulkner. The vote:

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

Motion passed.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

Mayor Centers introduced the following legislation:

Ordinance 2015-07 Amending Sections 923.01 to 923.04, 923.06, 923.07, 923.09 and 923.10, and enacting Sections 923.05, 923.08, 923.11, 923.12 and 923.99 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Franklin, Ohio

Ordinance 2015-08 Amending Certain Sections (333.11, 335.01, 335.02, 335.031, 335.13, 335.14, 335.23, 337.16, 339.10, 339.12, 339.13, 339.14, 339.31, 341.01, 341.05, 351.12, Chapter 353 and 373.08) and Enacting Section 341.051 of the City of Franklin Traffic Code to be Concurrent With State Law through July 1, 2015

Public Hearings on June 1, 2015.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

No report tonight.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report tonight.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Hall stated that on the upper end of David Boulevard, there is an empty house that as stuff on the porch that has been there a couple of weeks.

Mr. Bray thanked everyone for the comments given to Mr. Lewis at the last meeting and that Mr. Lewis has acted on them. Also, that he appreciates the residents bringing the items to our attention so they can be taken care of and also for being patient.

Mr. Wilcher thanked Mr. & Mrs. Bowman for their comments and thanked everyone for coming tonight.

Mr. Faulkner thanked everyone for coming tonight; asked about the status of the grass cutting (we are cutting grass and is hard to keep up with at this time). Mr. Bray noted the high grass on the lot on SR 123 by Adesa (belongs to the motel). Mr. Lewis stated we end up cutting that every year and assessing to the property.

Mayor Centers asked if we've heard anything about the Marsh Building (Mr. Lewis stated he's talked to a realtor and also working with a company about locating there); thanks to Mrs. Bowman for her comments; proud of staff, do a good job and we do the very best we can; and also appreciate what the Bowman's have done for the City.

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

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

Motion passed.

Mayor Centers adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk of Council