

FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL  
MARCH 7, 2016

Members of the Franklin City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 7, 2016, 6:00 p.m., at the Franklin City Building, Mayor Denny Centers presiding.

Roll call showed:

Brent Centers	absent
Carl Bray	present
Paul Ruppert	present
Denny Centers	present
Michael Aldridge	present
Debbie Fouts	present
Todd Hall	present

There were one member of the press present. Staff present: Mrs. Karen Ervin, Finance Director; Ms. Donnette Fisher, Law Director; Mr. Ross Coulton, Assistant Safety Director; Mr. Russ Whitman, Police Chief; Mr. Jonathan Westendorf, Fire Chief; Mr. Steve Inman, Public Works Director and Mr. Sonny Lewis, City manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Doug Greathouse.

Mr. Hall made the motion to approve the Clerk's Journal and accept the tapes as the Official Minutes of the February 1, 2016 regular meeting; seconded by Mr. Aldridge. The vote:

Mr. Bray	yes
Mr. Ruppert	yes
Mr. D. Centers	abstain
Mr. Aldridge	yes
Mrs. Fouts	yes
Mr. Hall	yes
Mr. B. Centers	absent

Motion passed.

#### RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Mr. Andrew Sievers, from Springboro, Ohio, introduced himself to Council. He is a candidate for Warren County Common Pleas Judge and gave a brief summary of his experience.

Mayor Centers thanked him for coming.

#### PUBLIC HEARING RESOLUTION 2016-15 APPROVING JAMES A. STEWART'S, ET. AL., RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR PLACEMENT OF 54.6570 ACRES OF LAND IN AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

Ms. Fisher explained that this is a renewal filed by the Stewart families for placement of land within an agricultural district. The application is for 54.6570 acres of farmland located along Pennyroyal Road which lie within the City of Franklin. This land has been in an agricultural district since 1995 and is zoned A-1, Agricultural. Approval of the application will allow the land to continue to be taxed at its

current agricultural use valuation (CAUV) under Ohio law. Mrs. Susan Stewart is here to answer any questions and there haven't been any changes since this was last reviewed by Council.

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

Mr. Hall made the motion to adopt Resolution 2016-15; seconded by Mr. Bray. The vote:

Mr. Ruppert	yes
Mr. D. Centers	yes
Mr. Aldridge	yes
Mrs. Fouts	yes
Mr. Hall	yes
Mr. B. Centers	absent
Mr. Bray	yes

Motion passed.

#### RESOLUTION 2016-13 AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN CITY-OWNED VEHICLES BY THE POLICE DIVISION AND THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Mr. Lewis stated that the Police Division and the Public Works Department have vehicles that are no longer needed and this authorizes us to sell the vehicles. The Police Division has a Crown Victoria Cruiser (last one) and a Ford F15 truck (seizure vehicle) and the Public Works Department has a 1991 GMC dump truck to sell. We are proposing to sell these vehicles on GovDeals.com and/or take to the Auto Auction. The purchase of a new dump truck is in the 2016 budget and it will replace the 1991 dump truck.

Mr. Bray made the motion to adopt Resolution 2016-13; seconded by Mr. Ruppert. The vote:

Mr. D. Centers	yes
Mr. Aldridge	yes
Mrs. Fouts	yes
Mr. Hall	yes
Mr. B. Centers	absent
Mr. Bray	yes
Mr. Ruppert	yes

Motion passed.

#### RESOLUTION 2016-14 AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE ODOT COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM

Mr. Lewis stated that we currently participate in the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Cooperative Purchasing program to purchase vehicles and supplies. The Ohio Department of Transportation also has a cooperative purchasing program to purchase machinery, materials and supplies through ODOT purchasing contracts. This is a separate program from the DAS purchasing program. Ms. Fisher added to participate in the ODOT program, Council must authorize the City's participation and we have to do a Resolution every two years stating that we want to participate. We also have to ask permission to participate in a certain contract. Materials and supplies can also be purchased and we think it will be at better price.

Mr. Bray made the motion to adopt Resolution 2016-14; seconded by Mr. Hall. The vote:

Mr. Aldridge	yes
Mrs. Fouts	yes

Mr. Hall            yes  
Mr. B. Centers    absent  
Mr. Bray            yes  
Mr. Ruppert        yes  
Mr. D. Centers    yes

Motion passed.

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lewis reported on the following:

- Update on Sidewalk replacement Program. We have more people coming in to pull permits to replace their sidewalks; 46% of the properties are rental properties with 35-36% out of City landlords; been receiving calls, some voicing concerns on the time frame, have 2 ½ months to complete; other Cities give residents less time than that; this is phase 1 of 4; and the intent is to coordinate with the paving program in the future. Mr. Lewis added that he thinks the program will give the City better appeal and increase property values.

Mr. Bray asked the Ben (Franklin Chronicle) if he put in an article that the people who aren't in Phase 1, if you're sidewalk is in need of repair, you're going to have to replace it in the next three years.

Mayor Centers stated he has had comments about the timing of the program – maybe instead of doing it in the spring, do it late summer – to have better weather. Mr. Lewis stated that to do that, it pushes the time frames back – wouldn't be able to do with the paving program. We started marking sidewalks in October/November 2015, letters went out February 19, 2016. This was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting tonight. Discussion continued on the timeframe of the program.

- April 26, 27 & 28, 2016 he will be in Washington D.C. with the Chamber Alliance
- Asked if they still want the Council retreat on April 30<sup>th</sup>; also to let him know if you want any specific information. Mayor Centers explained the format to the new members. Mr. Bray stated he will be out of town on April 30<sup>th</sup>. After some discussion, the retreat is tentatively scheduled for April 23, 2016.

## LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Fisher stated she has handouts on the podium on the sidewalk program – the Ohio Revised Code outlining sidewalk assessments and the proposed timeline. Also, new business cards are here for the new Council members and they are in their mailbox.

## FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Ervin stated that the Finance Committee has some changes in the budget and she has the replacement pages for Council's Budget binder. Mayor Centers stated to put the replacement pages in our mail boxes.

## COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Ruppert had no comments tonight.

Mr. Bray stated that the Finance Committee met tonight and reviewed the budget, will be on the next Council agenda & discussed at the Retreat, and the Car Show request of \$3,000.00. Mayor Centers stated to put the Car Show request on the March 21, 2016 agenda. Mayor Centers stated he talked to Randy and

the Bike Show won't be downtown this year, will be at his facility and hopes to have it downtown next year.

Mr. Aldridge stated thanks for coming tonight; that there is a new restaurant downtown, Scruffy's, it is very good and he is also interested in using the lot (city owns) beside him for picnic tables, etc. Mr. Lewis & Mayor Centers have talked to him about this; raffled off the Harley motorcycle at JD Legends, good event, gentleman from Waynesville won it; and congratulations to the FHS Cheerleaders as they won State again.

Mrs. Fouts stated being at A&G Pizza, she receives complaints on everything. Mr. Centers asked if she gets any positive comments. Mrs. Fouts stated not yet. I tell them to come to our meetings to address Council and Mr. Lewis is also willing to talk to them. Mr. Bray asked what they are complaining about. Ms. Fouts stated you name it - kidding aside, have had positive feedback. Mayor Centers added that he also has gotten complaints and a lot of times they don't have all the information. Most of the time, after giving them the rest of the story, they are okay.

Mr. Hall stated that he's glad the owner of the Marsh building is finally starting to put a façade on it and he has heard from numerous people on what it is going to be.

Mayor Centers stated he, along with several other Council members, has been contacted about the City providing a Resource Officer for the Schools and thinks the School Board is going to talk about it at their next meeting. I think we all agree having a Resource Officer in the schools is a good thing. It is money issue and a safety issue. If something did happen in our school, I think we all would be saying that we should have done it. In talking with Mr. Hall, he brought up a good point, you can't put one in every school, can't afford to do that. I'm sure this will be coming back to us to consider putting a Resource Officer back and want to know how Council feels about it.

Mr. Bray stated the incident at Madison was at the Junior High School. Mr. Hall added that Madison's High School & Junior High School are at the same location. Ours is at two different locations. He added he works at Middletown High School and they have a Resource Officer – been there at least last 20 years. They are very beneficial, you have to understand they are a Police Officer and not an employee of the school. They have different abilities to handle certain things – is a good thing to have. I think we need to look at our options and work with the School to come up with a solution. It's a very different world than what we all grew up in.

Mr. Bray stated he recently was at the High School to speak to three Government classes and had to go through the one door, as all the other doors are locked. He had a couple breaks and was walking around the halls looking at everything. He saw 3 people come through the side doors – aren't they supposed to be secured? He talked to Bob Knipper about it and he said no that must have been a one-time situation – our schools are locked – you can't get in unless you come to the front door. Mr. Bray stated the building is not secure.

Mr. Hall stated his personal opinion is they don't have the technology that should be in that school to keep that from happening. The issue is, when a student brings in a gun and other kids know about it and don't say anything. That's what happened at Madison.

Mayor Centers stated there's another side to this, when he talked to Officer Smith he said he uncovered many things that were family related and things that need to be brought to the surface where he could counsel the kids. He's looking at it that way – they find out a lot of other stuff and it's not just about guns being brought to school.

Mr. Hall added it's a good resource as kids will talk to a police officer about things they won't talk to an administrator about.

Mayor Centers stated you can't cover every bad situation, but as far as bringing weapons to school, the probably is pretty high it will happen at the high school.

Mr. Lewis noted that the last two mass shootings have been at grade schools.

Discussion continued.

Mrs. Fouts stated she believes preventative medicine is better than reactive medicine.

Mayor Centers stated he's sure we'll hear from the school and can talk about it in depth then.

Mayor Centers asked about Franklin Boxboard – there is an email from Chris Logan, that he said he was going to demo the building – have we heard anything else from him. Mr. Lewis stated he still says he's going to take it down.

Mayor Centers stated we have a lot to talk about at our planning meeting and if we've heard anything else about Adesa's plans. Mr. Lewis stated it's being worked on now and can't talk about it.

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

Mrs. Fouts	yes
Mr. Hall	yes
Mr. B. Centers	absent
Mr. Bray	yes
Mr. Ruppert	yes
Mr. D. Centers	yes
Mr. Aldridge	yes

Motion passed.

Mayor Centers adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

---

Mayor

---

Clerk of Council