

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL  
JUNE 6, 2016**

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

Roll call showed:

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

There was no one from the press and 5 visitors at tonight's meeting. Also present: Mr. Ross Coulton, Assistant Safety Director; Mr. Barry Conway, City Engineer; Mr. Steve Inman, Public Works Director; Mr. Russ Whitman, Police Chief; Mrs. Karen Ervin, Finance Director; Ms. Donnette Fisher, Law Director; Mr. Jonathan Westendorf, Fire & EMS Chief; Mr. Sonny Lewis, City Manager and Mrs. Jane McGee, Clerk of Council.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Donnette Fisher.

Mr. Bray made the motion to approve the Clerk's Journal and accept the tapes as the Official Minutes of the May 16, 2016 regular meeting; seconded by Mr. Hall. The vote:

Mr. Ruppert	yes
Mr. Bray	yes
Mayor Centers	yes
Mr. Aldridge	yes
Mrs. Fouts	yes
Mr. Hall	yes
Mr. B. Centers	yes

Motion passed.

Mayor Centers added the following to the agenda:

**PRESENTATION: ORIOLES DONATION TO THE SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE**

Ladies from the Orioles Auxiliary presented a donation of \$300 to the Special Events Committee to go towards the cost of the fireworks.

Mayor Centers and Council thanked them for the donation.

**RECEPTION OF VISITORS**

There were no visitors tonight.

ORDINANCE 2016-03 AMENDING ORDINANCE 2016-01, PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Ervin stated that this is the first adjustment to the budget ordinance and includes the following:

- +\$25,000 to the General Fund for the Law Library due to increased collections of State Highway Patrol fines
- +\$10,000 to the Street Fund to cover insurance claims for the salt dome and guardrail & we will receive reimbursement
- +\$20,000 to the State Highway Fund for engineering costs. Mr. Lewis stated this is for the joint project with the Warren County Transportation Improvement District for the SR 123 Improvements from I-75 to Robinson Vail Road
- +\$133,600 to the Fire & EMS Levy Fund for refurbishing the E-18 fire truck
- +10,000 to the IDAM fund for the purchase of additional SCRAM monitors
- +\$150,000 for the Stormwater Utility Fund, for the CDBG Grant we received

Mr. Bray stated that the Finance Council Committee talked about these appropriations at tonight's meeting and were approved.

Mr. Ruppert made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-03; seconded by Mr. Bray. The vote:

Mr. Bray           yes  
Mayor Centers   yes  
Mr. Aldridge     yes  
Mrs. Fouts       yes  
Mr. Hall           yes  
Mr. B. Centers   yes  
Mr. Ruppert      yes

Motions passed.

RESOLUTION 2016-28           AWARDING THE BID AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT WITH NORMAC COMPANY, LLC FOR THE 2016 MUNICIPAL PAVING PROJECT

Mr. Lewis stated this awards the bid for the summer street paving project to Normac Company at \$325,646.77, the low bidder. We have done business with them for many years & they were formerly the Armrel Brynes Company. The engineer's estimate is \$375,000.00 and he has checked the numbers.

Bids received at the June 1, 2016 bid opening:

Normac Company LLC	\$325,646.77
Barrett Paving Materials	\$329,343.75
John R. Jurgenson Co.	\$349,581.25
J.K. Meurer Corp.	\$358,070.00

Mr. Lewis stated we recommend the bid be awarded to Normac Company and the project includes 11 streets and 1 alley.

Mr. Bray asked since the bid is about \$50,000 less than the estimate, if we can add additional streets to the project. Mr. Lewis stated he prefers not to as extra repairs may be needed.

Mr. Bray made the motion to adopt Resolution 2016-28; seconded by Mr. Hall. The vote:

Mayor Centers   yes

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

Motion passed.

## INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

Mayor Centers introduced the following:

Ordinance 2016-04 Determining to Proceed with the Improvement of City Streets and Public Ways by the Lighting Thereof for the Year 2017

Public Hearing will be held on June 20, 2016.

## WORK SESSION - DOWNTOWN

Mayor Centers stated this is a continuation of our discussion from the last meeting. Mayor Centers stated the items under Downtown to be discussed are: Downton renovations; Riverscape; murals; budget; adding decorative pieces, changing traffic flow; updating vision for downtown, and amphitheater. Mayor Centers stated he'd like to begin with talking about the possibility of an amphitheater at the new soccer fields that was brought up by Mrs. Fouts – maybe it's something we want to look at if we don't put it downtown. Mr. Bray stated maybe we can use our stage there. Mr. Lewis stated he doesn't recommend that as it is used by other organizations. Mr. Ruppert stated he has talked to several people about this – Park vs Downtown - and the only thing they said was we need to do that or something downtown to help the businesses.

Mr. Bray stated he's torn between the Park as it is a good place for it or a stage and lights on the bridge downtown. Discussion continued. Mr. Lewis stated we need to revisit the downtown plan and see if that's what you want to do. We do have a fountain on River Street, it is beautiful and the foliage has been cut so you can see across the river. Mr. Bray questioned if that should be the focal point. Mr. Lewis stated he's talked to numerous people outside the City and they say the river and the bike path should be the focus. Discussion continued on how that can be done; where to start; how do you get people downtown. Mrs. Fouts added we need to make a decision on what to do and she went through the Park tonight and it is used.

Mr. Aldridge stated the river is a long term project, should focus on getting the HUD house on this block (behind the City Building on Third Street) and what are we going to do with the area. Mr. Lewis stated we are waiting to close on the property, have a house to trade with them and should be completed in the next several months. Mr. Bray asked are we going to tear down the house and have more parking and green space. Mr. Lewis stated we need to talk about it, we do need more parking and we need ideas from Council on what you would like to see done. Mrs. Fouts stated she thinks the public would like to see something they can use and not a parking lot. Mayor Centers stated he knows we need more parking but he'd also like to see it utilized as a green space. Mr. Lewis stated parking is needed and he'd also like to see some of it used as green space.

Mr. Greathouse stated if you want to promote the downtown – events need to be held downtown.

Mr. B. Centers stated we need to make decisions soon on downtown and the new Park – need to finalize plans. Mr. Lewis stated we hope to do some of it this year; the Park is an important aspect of the downtown; working on a bike path to connect the Community Park with the Springboro Park, and from the Community Park to the existing bike path on River Street; and when the bike path is completed from Franklin to Middletown, think we will see a lot of good things happen. Mr. B. Centers asked if we need to make decisions about this in the next six months. Mr. Lewis stated, no, as none of those plans are permanent; first thing we need to do is find a funding mechanism and decide how we are going to develop the new Park land. We know there are no grants available for fields but may be available for equipment, some types of shelters and walking paths.

Mr. Bray stated we need to start budgeting money for developing the new Park – maybe \$300,000 yearly for the next five years – instead of a loan. Mr. Lewis stated he thinks we (City) might be able to do some of the preliminary work (clearing out of brush, small trees, etc.); we are looking for grants; and explained some of the preliminary plans. Mayor Centers stated we need to talk with the School. Mr. Lewis stated he has talked to them and he thinks they're in agreement. Mr. Bray asked if we should wait five years before proceeding. Mrs. Ervin stated the estimated cost for developing the Park is \$2 ½ million and if you do that over a 5 year plan, that's \$500,000/year to put aside and that's a lot. Mrs. Ervin asked about the possibility of talking to local businesses for donations. Discussion continued. Mayor Centers asked Ms. Ervin what her recommendation is for financing the new Park. Mrs. Ervin recommended taking our time with phase 1; it can be financed; will save a lot of money if we take our time. Mr. Aldridge asked about a levy. Mr. Bray stated he wasn't in favor of a levy. Mr. Lewis stated if we did a levy we need a program/vision to develop the entire Park and would have to sell it and have an end date for the levy; and will need help from the school, other organizations etc. Mrs. Fouts stated she is not for a levy and that not all areas of the Park are being utilized as they are designated for soccer, etc. Mayor Centers stated we've been told we are short on recreation areas for the City. Mrs. Fouts added that the Park doesn't bring in revenues. Mr. Hall stated it would, but we can't hold tournaments to bring in revenues – don't have anything (facilities) to support them. Discussion continued. Mr. B. Centers stated maybe use the pool as a selling point to bring in others. Mr. Hall stated the pool, at this time, is at the bottom of things in our community that we pay attention to; is a great asset in the Park, doesn't make money and need to look at it. Discussion continued on what to do and financing.

Mrs. Fouts stated she doesn't want to rush into anything; don't have a plan; need to show citizens that we are doing something; don't think a parking lot (for the land being acquired at the City Building) is the best idea but maybe give the kids something to do in that area; possibility of Skate Boarding Park and we need to do something; our pool rates are higher than others around the area, is not a revenue maker and maybe we need to lower the rates so more people will use the pool. Discussion continued on pool rates, etc.

Mayor Centers stated it's a marketing and money issue, is big money and long term, need to take our time on commitment. Discussion continued on pool rates & the pool is not a money maker. Mr. Hall stated if we're looking at the Park and are going to do whatever we decide and are going to finance it, we need to start putting that money aside. Need to decide if we are going to nickel & dime the pool now knowing in the long term we are going to build another one or do we begin saving money for major repairs at the pool. The Pool is an asset and cost wise, is probably the most cost effective pool around here. Discussion on the pool continued; it's a joint venture with the Township; admission costs for residents & non-residents; and fees are different for Township residents (is incorrect); the pool is a service same as the Park is for our citizens and etc.

Mr. Bray stated about the downtown & river – do we need costs to light up the bridge & spray water from it and to put in electric downtown for the trees, etc. Mr. Lewis stated we have looked at it, be approximately \$50,000 to do lights on the bridge. Mayor Centers stated he talked recently with Chief Westendorf and thought it was more than that. Chief Westendorf stated phase 1 is \$50,000 for lowering

the under girders of the bridge (lighting underneath the bridge); phase 2) \$25,000 for the concrete bands from the top of the bridge to the bottom of the bridge and step 3) unknown cost for lighting fixtures and lighting the lions. Mayor Centers stated he thinks that is backwards. Mr. Westendorf stated it depends on what & when you want to do it. Mayor Centers stated we need to see plans for the project and need something to look at. Discussion continued.

Mayor Centers asked if all agree to move ahead with the bridge project (to see plans) & costs – consensus of Council agreed. Mr. Lewis stated we will look to see if any grants are available.

Mr. Bray asked about lighting the trees downtown. Mr. Lewis stated we have done that before (used electric from businesses), and the issue is we don't have access to electric downtown.

Mr. Lewis stated after the last meeting he asked staff for the following: things that can be done this year; things to do in next several years and things to do in next five years. Items received: lighting bridge on list for next couple years; what we've done already with the fountain shows the potential for the area; buying buildings downtown so we control them; and upgrade buildings we own and find tenants for them. We do need to do something downtown; demolition money may be available again, if it is, we can use to tear down the building next to the tavern; building beside Mears Insurance (swap shop) is for sale, maybe we should purchase it. Mr. Bray stated he looked at that area, from Mears on down, there are 6 buildings, and maybe we should buy all, tear down and build 4 nice brick buildings. Mayor Centers stated we are just talking, no decisions have been made and we would have to talk about acquisition of property in executive session. Mr. B. Centers stated he sees the vision but then we need someone to rent/buy them. Discussion continued.

Mayor Centers stated we have talked about a lot about things tonight and asked Council how long they want to stay and continue the discussion. Mayor Centers summarized, you're working on the bridge and will bring back a concept drawing; and at the new Soccer Park the City will start clearing it out. Mr. Bray asked if we want to see if the residents/business would light up the trees downtown like was done at Christmas. Mrs. Fouts asked if we need to check with Duke Energy to see if they have any programs to do that. Mayor Centers stated we need to talk to Duke about electric for downtown. Mr. Inman stated we might be able to do solar lights on the trees downtown and that he is going to do one tree and see how it works – estimated cost to do the trees downtown is at \$6,500.00.

Mayor Centers asked about the murals repair. Mr. Lewis stated he will be here in August and it should last about 10 years. Mr. B. Centers asked what happens after 10 years and he isn't available to work on them, will there be a problem for someone else to work on his art work, and is he contracted? Mr. Lewis stated he doesn't know if they are copyrighted to him or if there is a contract with him. We will have to check to see if there are any contracts with him.

Mayor Centers asked Council if they want to continue the worksession at the next meeting – will continue with discussions on the Park & Pool.

Mayor Centers stated he likes the idea of starting to set aside monies for the pool, need to either keep the pool or get rid of it, and asked if there is room for a splash pad. Mr. Lewis stated yes, there is room and the splash pad at Kettering cost \$350,000.00.

#### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lewis stated we have received notification that Time Warner has been sold to Spectrum.

Ms. Fisher & Mrs. Ervin had no report tonight.

## COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Brent Centers stated the Memorial Day Parade was wonderful and thanks to all who worked on it; welcome back to Chief Whitman; the Rules of Council need updated and would like to have a Governmental Council Committee meeting to review them (Ms. Fisher will schedule the meeting) and thanks to the ladies from the Orioles who donated the money to Special Events.

Mr. Ruppert welcomed back Chief Whitman and thanks to Chief Westendorf and Mr. Inman for being proactive on the proposed projects.

Mr. Bray welcomed back Chief Whitman; the Memorial Day Parade was awesome, good crowd and good time; and the fountain on River Street looks nice.

Mr. Aldridge thanked everyone for coming tonight; thanks to Brent for arranging the flyover, it was awesome; the corner of Second Street/Deardoff Road looks terrible and the duplex across from Lanecrest Plaza, on Millard Drive, looks terrible. Mr. Lewis will check into both items.

Mrs. Fouts stated also about the property across the Street (on Millard Drive), need to have them power wash the outside where they painted numbers on the building; welcome back to Chief Whitman; thanks to Brent for the flyover and the Memorial Day Parade was great and she was glad to be part of it.

Mr. Hall thanked staff for all they do; the Parade was great & Mr. Mears does a great job but we need to be thinking about who will take it over for Mr. Mears when he no longer does it; and on Poplar Street, at the Shell station, the detention basin needs cleaned-up (between the station and the first house on Poplar).

Mayor Centers welcomed back Chief Whitman; have great staff & Council; the City is making progress; drove around the City and Second Street looks great, something needs done at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/Deardoff, also at River & 6<sup>th</sup> Street, the house on the corner, with the chain link fence looks bad; awesome Memorial Day Parade and the F-16 flyover was great (Mr. B. Centers worked on this for the past three years); ribbon cutting at Vandalia Rental this morning & they complimented the City.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

There was no executive session tonight.

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

Mr. Aldridge	yes
Mrs. Fouts	yes
Mr. Hall	yes
Mr. B. Centers	yes
Mr. Ruppert	yes
Mr. Bray	yes
Mayor Centers	yes

Mayor Centers adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

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Mayor

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Clerk of Council