

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 20, 2017**

Members of the Franklin City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 20, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at the Franklin City Building, Vice Mayor Carl Bray presiding.

Roll call showed:

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

There were two members of the press (Middletown Journal and Franklin Chronicle) and five visitors at tonight's meeting. Also present: Ms. Donnette Fisher, Law Director; Mrs. Karen Ervin, Finance Director; Mr. Barry Conway, City Engineer; Mr. Steve Inman, Public Works Director; Mr. Jonathan Westendorf, Fire & EMS 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 Ben Mersch.

Mr. Hall made the motion to approve the Clerk's Journal and accept the tapes as the Official Minutes of the March 6, 2017 regular meeting; seconded by Mr. Aldridge. The vote:

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

Motion passed.

RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Mr. Doug Greathouse, 41 W. Sixth Street, stated he's attended a couple of meetings about fire tax levies in Townships that have attached Cities. According to Ohio law, when you are attached you can't separate the Township Fire Levy from the City Fire Levy. The City Levy is an add-on to the Township Fire Levy. The problem is since 2002, the Auditors office has failed to assess us (City) for the Township's Fire Levy. So, there could be a big liability for property owners in the City. He's here tonight to see what we are going to do about this issue because it's a lot of money for a lot of people. Vice Mayor Bray asked when did they say they were going to catch it up or put it in place. Mr. Greathouse stated they don't know yet. This started in another Township/County, some research was done and they found out under Ohio Law, if you vote for trustees (which we do) then the only way to get out of the fire tax levy is to be detached or create a different fire district before you create a City fire district. Since that didn't happen, we may not be able to do it now. The problem is the people in the Township can vote however they want to – can put a huge tax on us that we'll have to pay and not receive any services for it as we have our own Fire Department. This has become an issue State wide because a lot of Townships are under funded by their fire levies. This seems like a really big issue that we should be taking an aggressive position on – to

find out how it will affect the City. Mr. B. Centers asked what County had the problem and if their Charter addresses it. Mr. Greathouse stated he did not know. It's in the ORC and no one has caught it until recently challenged. Mr. Ruppert asked if it can be retroactive. Mr. Greathouse stated he did not know. Mr. Bray stated we'll look into and thanked him for bringing it to our attention. Mr. Lewis asked Mr. Greathouse what meeting was he at when this was discussed. Mr. Greathouse stated he met with Beth Callahan, Township Trustee, and then with Matt Nolan, Warren County Auditor. Mr. Bray asked what meeting this was at. Mr. Greathouse stated they were private meetings. Mr. Lewis asked what Mr. Nolan's response was. Mr. Greathouse stated they don't know and the Prosecutor's office is researching it. Probably will take the City taking action as well. He wanted to get ahead of this and to see if there's something we can do. Mr. Hall asked where he heard this from. Mr. Greathouse stated he heard it from Mrs. Callahan. Mr. Bray asked where Mrs. Callahan heard it. Mr. Greathouse stated she's involved at the Township level because they're dealing with it. Also, everyone involved says it's a big deal.

Vice Mayor Bray stated we will check this out and thanked him for bringing this to our attention.

Ms. Sherry Walsh stated she lives at 5700 S. Dixie Highway and owns property at 712 S. Main Street. She was notified that her house had chipped paint and she took care it. She stated that the house across the street is a dump; the landlord is responsible and they live next door, Mary Jo Logston & her husband. She continued that trash from parties is thrown onto the property next door (Logston's) and they have garage sale stuff on the porch. We need laws for what can be put on the porch and also the property down from the Police Department (on Anderson Street) looks trashy. This is our town, the landlords don't maintain their properties and we need to do something.

Vice Mayor Bray stated we have lots of properties that are okay, need to keep positive, let us know if you see something and we will follow-up on the properties she mentioned.

ORDINANCE 2017-02 EMERGENCY PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017 (2017 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE)

Mr. Lewis thanked Mrs. Ervin for putting the budget book together. Also, if anyone has any questions, to please contact him as he has approved the numbers.

Mr. Lewis noted the following items in the 2017 Budget and that the Finance Council Committee has reviewed the budget.

- First Section – Financial Summary & Analysis
- Page 11 – The graph shows 2016 expenses –actual vs budget. We are trying to close the gap between the two. Also, there's a graph showing the City's debt. Currently, we have a debt of \$8.4 million and Mr. Lewis reviewed the projects.
- Page 13 - The graph shows City Fund Structures. Mr. Lewis noted the following: we are putting back money for projects; a cash flow projection summary is done every month; General Fund is in good shape; may be some issues with Local Government Funding; are concerned with the 1% for industrial taxes, estimated to be \$10,000 - \$12,000/month that we'll lose and we don't know the effect of the centralized tax collection, if it is approved.
- Most budgets are less this year than last year
- Capital Improvements:
 - Police Department – radios; mobile data computers; desktop computers; HVAC unit; sidewalk/entrance cement replacement; 3 cruisers; equipment for cruisers
 - Fire Department – Lucas Device and cot loader (FEMA Grants); Station remodel; LED lighting replacement; emergency repairs; ambulance replacement

Court – sound system in the Court Room (Special Project Fund); scanner system replacement; software update; computer server
 Economic Development – land acquisition
 Other – City banners; carpet replacement (Finance Department); emergency repairs; sound system in the Court Room (our share)
 Parks & Recreation – emergency equipment repair (Pool); scoreboard replacements at boys field & new dug outs at girls field; emergency repairs
 Street/Utility – Downtown Signal Phase 2; dump truck; refurbish backhoe; street resurfacing; curb replacement; mini-excavator; storm sewer lining (did not receive grant, will not be done); Hemlock water line replacement; and emergency needs

Mr. Lewis stated he’s proud of staff; feel this will be a good year and to let him know if you have any questions. This is a visible document and it will also be on the State’s website.

Mr. Aldridge stated we reviewed this at the Finance Council Committee meeting and it’s a very well organized document.

Mr. Ruppert stated he’s had questions about the budget from residents. He’s told them that the entire budget is online and they’re amazed that we’ve done this.

Mr. B. Centers asked if the budget is on our website. Mrs. Ervin stated we will do that.

Mr. Hall made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-02; seconded by Mr. Aldridge. The vote:

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

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2017-17 DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO PUBLISH NOTICE OF ESTIMATED ASSESSMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR REPAIR OF SIDEWALKS, CURBS OR GUTTERS FOR THE ANNUAL SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM (PHASE 1)

Mr. Lewis stated that this is for the sidewalk replacement program – Phase 1. The City paid for the repairs that were not completed by the property owner. This states what the cost of the repairs is and requires notice of those assessments to be published in accordance with State law. The property owner has an opportunity to pay for those repairs before they are assessed to their property.

Mr. Ruppert made the motion to adopt Resolution 2017-17; seconded by Mrs. Fouts. The vote:

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

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2017-18 AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF A CITY-OWNED VEHICLE NOT NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE TO THE WARREN COUNTY CAREER CENTER

Chief Westendorf stated this is to authorize the sale of the 2000 McCoy Miller Life Squad (we received this from JEMS as part of the division of assets) to the Warren County Career Center. We are replacing this with the ambulance we bought last year. The ambulance will be sold for \$1.00 and they will use it in their training programs.

Mr. B. Centers made the motion to adopt Resolution 2017-18; seconded by Mr. Aldridge. The vote:

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lewis reported on the following:

- We had a good Planning Commission meeting last week and the following items were on the agenda: 1) Sojourner Recovery Services made a presentation, lots of discussion and it's a good project; 2) Cincy Truck Sales was approved by the Planning Commission to locate at the corner of First Street/Riley Boulevard; and 3) Camping World made a good presentation, zoning was approved & they are purchasing property off Watkins Glenn.
- The RR tracks at the south end of town - road should be re-opened this week.
- A water main on Hemlock is being replaced and we are doing this in-house.
- The Curb Replacement project is out to bid.
- Sidewalk Replacement Program, Phase 2 - the letters have been mailed and it is the Harpland area.

Mr. B. Centers asked if the letters for Resolution 2017-16, which was passed at the last meeting opposing the Governor's Budget, have been sent out. Yes, they have been sent.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Hall stated that he agrees with Mrs. Walsh, there are things that need done and we need to keep on it. Mr. Lewis stated he was aware of the one property mentioned tonight (corner of 7th Street), it's been about 10 days and he will check on it. Also, we are working on updating the Property Maintenance Code. Mr. Aldridge added we need to look at carports also.

Mrs. Fouts stated about that same property (509 Anderson) she has sent pics to Mr. Lewis; has received comments/complaints about the property and she has told them to call the City. Also, she has just received a message from someone who accidentally forgot to pay their water bill and the water was turned off. Information will be forwarded to Mr. Lewis. The work being done on Hemlock, we're doing an awesome job. She has received complaints about sand bagging the barriers/signage, the barriers/signs have blown over and damaged a couple of cars. Mr. Lewis stated they need to call the City. Ms. Fisher stated a gentleman stopped by the office last week, she talked to him, and Mr. Inman has taken care of it. Also, there are lots to be proud of in the City and noted that Luke Kennard makes us proud. The Heritage Ohio meeting was awesome, enjoyed and good to know we have people interested.

Mr. Aldridge thanked everyone for coming tonight. The Heritage Ohio meeting – he liked it’s an objective third party; anxious to see what they come back with; liked seeing the community involvement and getting different ideas. There were lots of ideas and discussion. He attended the basketball game this past weekend in Greenville, South Carolina, and was impressed with their downtown & got some good ideas. Mr. Aldridge asked if Mr. Greathouse was still here – he was not. He noted he will address this with Mr. Greathouse next time he’s here. On the record, he likes to come here and talk about how he attends more meetings than City Council, and then he was a distraction the whole meeting. It upsets him that he was playing on his phone, his phone is beeping and he talks during the meeting. We need to have a talk with him – he needs to be more respectful. Mr. Lewis stated he will do that.

Mr. B. Centers stated they had a great turn out for the Dart Inspection, Heritage Ohio meeting. We needed 10 stakeholders and 20 people showed up; needed 10 residents and 36 residents showed up. He also thanked Mr. Richter for the press coverage in the Middletown Journal, was also on Channel 9 and thanked Mrs. Haney for her help. Mr. B. Centers asked for an update on the Charter Review Committee. Ms. Fisher stated they are meeting this week, have 7-8 amendments, after their review, it will be sent to Council to decide which amendments you want to go to the voters. Mr. B. Centers asked when it comes to us, we can’t amend it and put it on the ballot – has to be as they wrote it to put on the ballot. Ms. Fisher stated yes.

Mr. Ruppert stated the problem he saw with Heritage Ohio, that they were comparing Franklin to Tiffin – they have 2 universities and university towns are much more vibrant. He thinks one of the things they will come back with is 2-way streets, etc. We talk about Miamisburg, they received money from Monsanto to help downtown and they have survived keeping their streets one-way (downtown). It makes you wonder if it makes a difference to have one-way streets or two-way streets. Also, there are some things we matched up with and some we can’t compete with. I hope we have a lot of people in town interested in this.

Mr. Bray thanked Mr. B. Centers for his work with the Heritage Ohio project. Mr. Ruppert added if we decide to do additional things, we don’t have to re-invent the wheel, as they said they have it all on somebody’s computer, somewhere in the United States.

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

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

Motion passed.

Vice Mayor Bray adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk of Council