

FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 7, 2016

Members of the Franklin City Council met in regular session on Monday, November 7, 2016 at 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
Debby Fouts	present
Todd Hall	present

There were two members of the press (Middletown Journal & Franklin Chronicle) and 16 visitors. Also present: Mr. Steve Inman, Public Works Director; Mr. Ross Coulton, Assistant Safety Director; Mr. Russ Whitman, Police Chief; Mr. Jonathan Westendorf, Fire & EMS Chief; Ms. Donnette Fisher, Law Director; Mrs. Karen Ervin, Finance Director; Mrs. Myra Haney, Administrative Assistant; Mr. Sonny Lewis, City Manager and Mrs. Jane McGee, Clerk of Council.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ed Richter.

Mr. Bray made the motion to approve the Clerk's Journal and accept the tapes as the Official Minutes of the October 17, 2016 regular meeting; seconded by Mr. Aldridge. The vote:

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

Motion passed.

**PRESENTATION: POLICE DIVISION EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE AWARDS**

Chief Whitman stated Exemplary Performance Awards are being presented to Officer Steve Dunham, Dispatcher Lindsay Alvarez, Officer Kyle O'Neil and Officer Amanda Myers and expressed his gratitude to them for assisting the child trying to sell a stuffed animal to get money for food. Chief Whitman explained what happened. They did their job and by doing their job they have lived the law enforcement code of ethics. Chief Whitman stated he's proud to recommend these officers to Council, that each of you be recognized for all you have done for this child, the family, our community and for the citizens who took notice of your actions throughout the U.S. and the World – Congratulations.

Mayor Centers stated that all of you have made the community proud and we received many calls saying what a good job you did. Mayor Centers and Council presented Officer Steve Dunham, Dispatcher Lindsay Alvarez, Officer Kyle O'Neil and Officer Amanda Myers with an Exemplary Performance Award Certificate and citation bar.

## RECEPTION OF VISITORS

Steve Bell, Scruffy's Hot Dog, 425 S. Main Street, stated he has asked about setting up picnic tables on the property next door and you have said that is no problem. He also has another idea – like to do a mural of a dog park on the side of the building and have a dog park on the vacant property. Mayor Centers asked if he is still going to set up picnic tables – Mr. Bell stated yes, just haven't been able to do yet. Mayor Centers stated the mural is a problem as it will be on the wrong side of the building. Mr. Bell stated it would be on Runge's Building; and Plan B is to do a mural of a drive-in movie theatre and show movies. Mr. Bray stated he doesn't know that showing movies would work (currently do Movies in the Park); would have to budget for a mural and we need to look at it.

Mayor Centers stated that we don't know what our plans are for the vacant property at this time. Mr. Bell added it shouldn't be much of an expense, except for the mural. Mayor Centers stated we are willing to work with you and will look at it.

Mr. Bob Bowman, 117 Miami Avenue, complimented the City on taking care of the murals and asked if the City has any plans to put up "City of Murals" signs, at the entrances to the City and appreciates the City taking care of the murals. Mayor Centers and Mr. Lewis noted that there are several "City of Murals" in the State. Mr. Bowman also asked if the City participated in the Great Miami Cleanup which was October 22<sup>nd</sup>. He then asked if the City can do a cleanup on Earth Day (April 22, 2017), doesn't think the City has ever done one and maybe organizations and schools can also get involved.

Mayor Centers asked if we participated in the recent river cleanup. Mr. Lewis stated we have done the river cleanup every year with the Miami Conservancy District. Mr. Steve Inman stated we do it every year and it was done in October this year.

Mr. B. Centers stated we were selected to participate in Miami University's Ohio Public Fellowship program. We will be a mentor to Diana Krokos. He then introduced Ms. Krokos, who is here tonight. Ms. Krokos stated she is in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year at Miami University, studying politics, rhetoric & ethics and will work with the City starting January 3<sup>rd</sup>. She's excited to learn about the City Manager structure of government. Mayor Centers stated we're thrilled to have her. Mr. B. Centers explained he'll meet with her on Monday (1/2/17) and give her a tour of the City. She will officially start on Tuesday (1/3/17) with Mr. Lewis. He and Mr. Lewis have talked that we'd like to give her exposure to all the departments in the City to see how local government works. Mr. B. Centers added we are excited to have her work with us.

## RESOLUTION 2016-52                      APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 539 AND 543 S. MAIN STREET AND AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS TO ACQUIRE SAID PROPERTY

Chief Westendorf stated there was a fire several years ago at this property and the building had to be demolished as it was unstable. We put a tax lien on the property to recover our costs. The property has gone through tax foreclosure and was forfeited to the State. The Warren County Auditor's Office offered the property for sale at its forfeited land sale. We, Ms. Fisher & myself, attended the sale by Warren County and we can purchase the property for \$2,500, plus deed and recording costs, if Council approves.

Mr. Hall made the motion to adopt Resolution 2016-52; seconded by Mr. B. Centers. The vote:

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

Mr. B. Centers yes

Mr. Ruppert yes

Motion passed.

Mr. Bray asked if we have a plan for the property. Mr. Lewis stated we are getting a commercial realtor to market the property which includes 3 lots. Ms. Fisher explained the lot sizes. Mayor Centers asked if we are going to have those lots joined. Ms. Fisher stated she thinks they will be on one deed. Mayor Centers stated that we should do that. Ms. Fisher added she will let the Prosecutor know that we prefer to have them on one deed.

RESOLUTION 2016-53 AMENDING THE POSITION DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE POSITIONS OF CHIEF, ASSISTANT CHIEF, CAPTAIN, LIEUTENANT, FIREFIGHTER, SECOND LIEUTENANT VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER, STANDBY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AND CALL VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER IN THE FIRE & EMS DIVISION AND ADOPTING A POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR SECRETARY TO THE FIRE & EMS DIVISION

Chief Westendorf stated that this updates our job descriptions to include EMS duties.

Mayor Centers asked Chief Westendorf if he has reviewed these and are happy with them. Chief Westendorf stated yes.

Mayor Centers questioned the new position (Secretary). Chief Westendorf stated we have had a part-time paramedic doing this for the past two years and our goal is to make it full-time. We have talked with the Finance Council Committee about this last year and they agreed to pursue this. This is part of the process and our main focus now is getting the full-time positions in place and the next step is the full-time Secretary position. She has been helping me administratively and with special projects. This job description covers what she is currently doing. Mayor Centers asked if she will be the full-time Secretary. Chief Westendorf stated yes, when we get to that part of the process. Ms. Fisher noted that the job description is written so that it can be either a part-time or full-time position.

Mr. B. Centers asked about the Fire & EMS Chief job description requiring at least 3 years successful experience as a Fire Command Officer or Deputy Chief - how many years does it take to become a Fire Command Officer or Deputy Chief. Chief Westendorf stated it depends if you're promoting from within or hiring from outside the City. If you bring someone in from outside it will be 5-10 years. Mr. B. Centers asked on this qualification your looking at between 8-15 years? Chief Westendorf explained in our promotions, there is a stair-step system of experience before you can promote within the department. Chief Westendorf stated that Council has to authorize by Resolution to hire outside the City, otherwise it goes through Civil Service.

Mayor Centers asked what the increase of cost will be for the Secretary. Chief Westendorf stated we haven't set it yet, it will have to go the Finance Council Committee and Safety Council Committee to get that approved. Mayor Centers stated his concern is, and we're not at that point yet, that we utilize all the Secretary's that we have available for the position. Chief Westendorf stated the difference in the Secretary position is, that it is in the job description that the person has to be a paramedic so they can assist if needed.

Mr. Hall asked if that would help with coding information into the system. Chief Westendorf stated we don't do that as we have a billing company, but the person, being a paramedic, can assist on calls if needed and answer EMS billing, fire inspections and code questions. Ms. Fisher added that we currently have someone doing this and we wanted a job description to match what she is doing. Chief Westendorf added if it becomes a full-time position, we have to test for it.

Mr. Hall made the motion to adopt Resolution 2016-53; seconded by Mrs. Fouts. 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 legislation:

Ordinance 2016-15 Amending Certain Sections and Enacting Sections 311.19 And 375.051  
Of The City Of Franklin Traffic Code to Be Concurrent With State Law through January 1, 2017

Ms. Fisher stated that this is routine legislation that we do twice a year.

Ordinance 2016-16 Amending Certain Sections and Enacting New Sections and Chapters  
Of The City Of Franklin Codified Ordinances, Part One - Legislative, Administrative and Judicial Codes

Public hearings will be held Monday, November 21, 2016.

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lewis stated that last week there was an accident outside the City limits on Beal Road, the bridge is closed and don't know for how long.

Mrs. Ervin, Finance Director, stated she had no comments except that the temporary budget went to the Finance Council Committee at tonight's meeting. If you have any questions to let Mr. Lewis or her know and it will go to Council at the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Ms. Fisher stated that Mr. Hall & Mr. Bray are appointed to the Volunteer Firefighter's Dependents Fund Board and we need to make the appointments before the second Monday in December. Also, if you agree, we'll appoint you to the new Volunteer Peace Officers Dependents Fund Board that has been created. Mr. Hall and Mr. Bray agreed to be appointed. Ms. Fisher stated this will be on the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting and both Boards will meet December 5, 2016 before the Council meeting.

## COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Hall stated that the Community Pool Study Committee has met and will meet again Thursday to go over costs/repairs and the Committee has also toured the pool. FallFest was awesome and great job.

Mrs. Fouts stated thanks for the efforts on Millard Drive and to remember to vote tomorrow.

Mr. Aldridge thanked everyone for coming tonight and congrats to the Police Officers on being recognized tonight. Also, condolences to Dispatcher Dye whose husband passed away and congrats to the Franklin Wildcat Football team on winning.

Mr. B. Centers asked when the Charter Review Committee will be meeting. Ms. Fisher stated they will meet sometime in February and that she's asking the committees for any recommendations and also need a list of issues from Council before that meeting. Also, glad Ms. Krokos will be here from Miami, think it will be a good experience for the City and think we will work well together. Mr. B. Centers thanked Steve & Bob for bringing up the dog park and the river cleanup; and to Chief Whitman and Captain Coulton, proud of your department and 'Go Cats'.

Mr. Ruppert thanked both Chiefs' for what they do. Also, he questioned the salary increase for Council, would like to see it reviewed by a committee that does not include Council members and it might not be a good time to do it now.

Mr. Aldridge stated he agrees with Mr. Ruppert – won't vote for a raise for himself unless someone else recommends it.

Mr. B. Centers stated that the Council Government Affairs Committee reviewed it and with PERS changing the minimum requirement to \$12,000, we felt an increase was needed to meet minimum requirements for PERS. We pay into it and don't benefit from it. The last time it was increased was in 1998 and it went from \$5,000.00 to \$8,000.00 and this proposal is from \$8,000.00 to \$12,000.00. Mr. Bray stated he has had mixed feelings, don't think we are here for the money, but the State changed the amount to be vested in PERS to \$12,000.00 and 1998 was the last increase (from \$5,000 to \$8,000); we don't get the increase until after the next election, which would be January 1, 2018 and we had a lot of discussion about it.

Mr. Ruppert asked what do Cities our size receive. Mr. B. Centers stated we talked about it but don't know the numbers for other Cities.

Mr. Hall stated it was \$8,000.00 when he started and doesn't matter to him, but he understands what you're saying.

Discussion continued on the proposed increase.

Mrs. Fouts stated benefits are a concern – salary is small compared to the public sector and something needs done after 24 years and concerns were voiced about doing this but it doesn't go into effect until after the next election. Mr. B. Centers stated we had a lot of discussion and no one is comfortable with this. Mayor Centers stated he understands, but we do give our employees increases and it has been over 20 years for Council.

Mr. Ruppert added that he thinks the Charter Review Committee needs to look at increasing the Mayor's salary.

Mayor Centers stated if all agree to leave as is – it will be on the next agenda.

Mr. Bray thanked Chief Westendorf and the Special Events Committee on FallFest – great event, kids loved the pumpkin roll and good turn-out. Also, lots of positives for the City – FallFest, Police Department, murals, football team winning – all positive things going on. The Finance Committee met tonight - Ohio Checkbook is online now and we are 1 of 2 cities in Warren County to do it and income taxes are up – all going in the right direction.

Mrs. Fouts stated on Facebook, it says "Discount Liquidators" are now located in the Marsh Building, started Monday and are open 9-4. Mr. Lewis stated he will check it out.

Mayor Centers thanked the Police Department and to remember Dispatcher Dye who lost her husband. Also, he won't be at the next meeting.

Mayor Centers recognized Mr. Jerry Myers in the audience. Mr. Jerry Myers stated that the property on Thomas Drive, right hand side, something needs done with it. Mr. Lewis will check on it.

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

Mr. Aldridge    yes

Mrs. Fouts      yes

Mr. Hall        yes

Mr. B. Centers  yes

Mr. Ruppert    yes

Mr. Bray        yes

Mayor Centers  yes

Motion passed.

Mayor Centers adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

---

Vice Mayor

---

Clerk of Council