

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL  
CLERK'S JOURNAL**

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**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING - VIRTUAL MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020  
6:00 PM**

**CITY COUNCIL**

**Brent Centers, Mayor  
Todd Hall, Vice Mayor  
Michael Aldridge  
Denny Centers  
Deborah Fouts  
Paul Ruppert  
Matthew Wilcher**

**CITY STAFF**

**Sonny Lewis, City Manager  
Karisa Steed, Assistant to the City Manager  
Lynnette Dinkler, Law Director  
Cindy Ryan, Finance Director  
Jonathan Westendorf, Fire and EMS Chief  
Russ Whitman, Police Chief  
Barry Conway, City Engineer  
Steve Inman, Public Works Director  
Ross Coulton, Assistant Safety Director  
Khristi Dunn, Clerk of Council**

Members of the Franklin City Council met in regular session on Monday, November 2, 2020, 6:00 PM via Virtual Meeting held in compliance with amended Substitute House Bill 197 under the declared state of emergency by the State of Ohio and City of Franklin, Warren County, Ohio with Mayor Brent Centers presiding.

**1. Roll Call.** Mayor B. Centers called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Franklin City Council on Monday, November 2, 2020 to order at 6:11 PM. Roll call showed:

MR. MATTHEW WILCHER	PRESENT
MR. DENNY CENTERS	PRESENT
MR. PAUL RUPPERT	PRESENT
VICE MAYOR TODD HALL	ABSENT
MAYOR BRENT CENTERS	PRESENT
MR. MICHAEL ALDRIDGE	PRESENT
MRS. DEBBIE FOUTS	PRESENT

The Mayor stated that Vice Mayor Hall gave notice prior to the meeting that he would be unable to attend and is excused. Captain Coulton, Ms. Dinkler, Ms. Dunn, Mr. Inman, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Ryan, Ms. Steed, Chief Westendorf, and Chief Whitman were also present. There was one guest in attendance.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.** The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor B. Centers.

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL  
CLERK'S JOURNAL**

---

**3. Approve the Clerk's Journal and Accept the Tapes as the Official Minutes of the October 19, 2020 Meeting.** The Mayor asked if there were any comments or amendments to the Clerk's Journal. Hearing none, he called for a motion. Mrs. Fouts made the motion to approve the Clerk's Journal and accept the tapes as of the Official Minutes of the October 19, 2020 general meeting; seconded by Mr. Aldridge. The vote:

MR. DENNY CENTERS	yes
MR. PAUL RUPPERT	yes
VICE MAYOR TODD HALL	absent
MAYOR BRENT CENTERS	yes
MR. MICHAEL ALDRIDGE	yes
MRS. DEBBIE FOUTS	yes
MR. MATTHEW WILCHER	yes

Motion passed.

**4. Reception of Visitors.** The Mayor opened and closed the Reception of Visitors at 6:13 PM as none asked to be heard.

**5. Presentation.** None.

**6. Public Hearing.** None.

**7. New Business.**

- A. RESOLUTION 2020-55 PRELIMINARY PARTICIPATORY LEGISLATION FOR THE RESURFACING OF SOUTH DIXIE HIGHWAY FROM THE SOUTH CORPORATION LINE TO THE RAILROAD CROSSING SOUTH OF SR 73

Mr. Lewis explained that this Resolution is the preliminary legislation required by ODOT for the resurfacing of South Dixie Highway from the South Corporation Line and the railroad crossing just south of State Route 73. This project will include the milling of existing pavement, repair of deteriorated subbase, repaving and installation of thermoplastic pavement markings.

Mr. D. Centers asked if this project would take care of the bump at the railroad crossing and Mr. Lewis said that it would not. Special permission is needed from Norfolk Southern to make the repair. In the past, Norfolk has done their portion of the work. There was discussion about the exact location of the spot Mr. D. Centers was referencing and it was determined that the spot was not included in the scope of this project.

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL  
CLERK'S JOURNAL**

---

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he called for a motion. Mr. Wilcher made the motion to adopt **RESOLUTION 2020-55** as submitted; seconded by Mr. D. Centers. The vote:

MR. PAUL RUPPERT	yes
VICE MAYOR TODD HALL	absent
MAYOR BRENT CENTERS	yes
MR. MICHAEL ALDRIDGE	yes
MRS. DEBBIE FOUTS	yes
MR. MATTHEW WILCHER	yes
MR. DENNY CENTERS	yes

Motion passed.

**B. RESOLUTION 2020-56 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE WARREN COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION 5 YEAR PLAN UPDATE.**

Chief Whitman informed Council that the Warren County 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan is required to be updated every five years and must be adopted by jurisdictions (and other applicable agencies) in order to apply for mitigation grant funding. There were several members of staff from the City of Franklin that attended the meetings to update the plan. The Mayor was also in attendance at these meetings and expressed gratitude to all those who helped developed this detailed plan.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he called for a motion. Mr. Aldridge made the motion to adopt **RESOLUTION 2020-56** as submitted; seconded by Mrs. Fouts. The vote:

VICE MAYOR TODD HALL	absent
MAYOR BRENT CENTERS	yes
MR. MICHAEL ALDRIDGE	yes
MRS. DEBBIE FOUTS	yes
MR. MATTHEW WILCHER	yes
MR. DENNY CENTERS	yes
MR. PAUL RUPPERT	yes

Motion passed.

**C. RESOLUTION 2020-57 APPROVING A TAX EXEMPTION IN COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA #3 FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 700 WATKINS GLEN DRIVE (SUNSTAR ENGINEERING AMERICAS INC.)**

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL  
CLERK'S JOURNAL**

---

Ms. Steed requested that Council approve issuing a CRA (Community Reinvestment Act) to Sunstar Engineering Americas Inc. located at 700 Watkins Glen Drive, Franklin, Ohio 45005 for the expansion to their manufacturing facility. Sunstar constructed a 40,000 square foot building next to their existing building to be used for manufacturing sealants. The total cost of the new structure was \$4,000,000.00. They are requesting a CRA exemption in Community Reinvestment Area #3 for 15 years on the 40,000 square foot addition. The number of jobs created will be 15 Full Time.

Mr. Lewis added that this was taken to the Economic Development Committee who was in favor of granting the CRA. Sunstar plans to add another 40,000 square foot addition to this existing building to relocate their headquarters to this location.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he called for a motion. Mr. Wilcher made the motion to adopt **RESOLUTION 2020-57** as submitted; seconded by Mr. Aldridge. The vote:

MAYOR BRENT CENTERS	yes
MR. MICHAEL ALDRIDGE	yes
MRS. DEBBIE FOUTS	yes
MR. MATTHEW WILCHER	yes
MR. DENNY CENTERS	yes
MR. PAUL RUPPERT	yes
VICE MAYOR TODD HALL	absent

Motion passed.

**D. RESOLUTION 2020-58 A RESOLUTION TO ENACT THE SMALL BUSINESS CARES ACT GRANT PROGRAM TO AWARD GRANT MONIES TO SMALL BUSINESSES WITHIN THE CITY OF FRANKLIN.**

Ms. Steed explained that this resolution approves the distribution of CARES Act Funds received through the passage of the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. Franklin's Small Business CARES Act Grant Program will award grants in the amount of \$2,500.00 to small businesses that have experienced challenging financial circumstances directly caused by COVID-19 restrictions related to this pandemic. The Finance and Economic Development Committees both support this resolution. Applicants will have to disclose how they intend to spend the funds and are directed to spend them on business operation expenses that are eligible to be claimed on state or federal tax returns. A Committee composed of two Councilmembers, Mr. Matthew Wilcher and Mr. Michael Aldridge, and two members of City staff, Ms. Ryan and Ms. Steed, will review all applications.

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL  
CLERK'S JOURNAL**

---

The Mayor asked if a profit and loss would be requested from applicants. Ms. Steed answered that this was discussed at the Finance Committee and that the applicants will not have to prove a loss but will have to submit their previous year's tax return and that the Committee can seek verification on how the funds were spent. The Mayor also asked if there would be a floor of previous revenue to distinguish a full-time business from a hobby business. Mr. Steed said that this has not been discussed but that she was operating under the understanding that the business would have to have a brick and mortar establishment to qualify. The Fire Department has supplied a list of businesses within the City, as they do building inspections, and this will be used to mail a letter explaining the grant. The Mayor confirmed with Ms. Steed that non-profit organizations are eligible. Mrs. Fouts asked if it will be taken into consideration if a business has received other funding and Ms. Steed said that this is asked in the application. It will be used as a consideration if more than 40 businesses apply. Mr. Aldridge thanked Ms. Steed and staff for composing this grant. As discussed in Finance, he wishes we could help every business but to remain practical, a budget has been set for the grant. These funds are not regular income for the businesses but extra funds to help during this difficult time. He hopes the businesses of the City understand the City's commitment and to them and willingness to help in these tough times. The Mayor agreed and likes that we are reinvesting this money into the business community. He thanked staff for their work on this project.

The Mayor asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he called for a motion. Mr. Aldridge made the motion to adopt **RESOLUTION 2020-58** as submitted; seconded by Mrs. Fouts. The vote:

MR. MICHAEL ALDRIDGE	yes
MRS. DEBBIE FOUTS	yes
MR. MATTHEW WILCHER	yes
MR. DENNY CENTERS	yes
MR. PAUL RUPPERT	yes
VICE MAYOR TODD HALL	absent
MAYOR BRENT CENTERS	yes

Motion passed.

**8. Introduction of New Legislation.**

A. None.

**9. City Manager's Report.** Mr. Lewis reported that the entire staff is excited about the CARES Act grant to help our businesses. He hopes that the businesses realize that staff and Council values their business and that this will be a help to them.

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL  
CLERK'S JOURNAL**

---

The Ohio Municipal League and our Worker's Compensation provider has notified us that we will receive additional funds in the amount of \$550,000 in additional CARES Act Funds. Income Tax was down another \$129,000 in October. For the year, we are down approximately \$415,000. The refund from Workers Compensation will help with this deficit.

Mr. Lewis has discussed the purchase of a property with both the Finance and Economic Development Committees. Earlier in the year, the Economic Development Committee had given direction to purchase property that became available in the downtown area, from Riley to River. Mr. Lewis would like to extend this to Sixth Street in preparation for the possibility of a new school being built there. The property is located at 145 East Sixth Street and has been vacant for a couple years. It is currently boarded up. The opening bid on the property being discussed is \$12,000 at Sheriff's sale. Approximately \$4,200 of that cost is owed to the City. It was the recommendation of both Committees to purchase this property.

**10. Council Comments.**

Mr. Wilcher said that in this difficult year, a way to do something good and make tomorrow better, is to vote for the School Bond Issue. The community needs these schools. He graduated from Franklin, as did his father, and the schools were not new when his father graduated. It is time that we gave our children a better and safer environment to learn in. He asks everyone to vote the following day as it is a big day for the county as well as the community.

Mrs. Fouts echoed Mr. Wilcher's comments. She said that now more than ever we all need to vote. One vote is meaningful. Our kids deserve the new schools. She feels that purchasing and tearing down the blighted building that Mr. Lewis reported on is win and a great way to kick off the revitalization of the area on Sixth Street.

Mr. Aldridge offered thoughts and prayers for Vice Mayor Hall and his family. He also wished the City staff well that had been affected by COVID-19. He asked that anyone who had not yet voted to do so. Council is consistently trying to do good things for the Community, and he cannot think of anything that would have as much impact as new schools. They are a long time coming and the 57 cents on the dollar funding cannot be passed up.

Mr. D. Centers echoed all the comments from Mr. Wilcher, Mrs. Fouts and Mr. Aldridge. He also asked staff about a retention pond that a citizen brought to his attention. This is located on East Second Street between McDonalds and the Holiday Inn. Mr. Lewis said that there was beaver

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL  
CLERK'S JOURNAL**

---

dam in this location that had been taken care of previously but that he would reach out to the citizen and see if there was a new issue that needed attention.

Mr. Ruppert commented on the construction on River Street as well as an issue with people turning left at the Lions Bridge during restricted times. Chief Whitman took note of the issue.

Vice Mayor Hall was absent.

Mayor B. Centers asked how many applications had been received for the City Manager position. Ms. Dunn answered that there were about 20 applicants so far and that she would receive applications through Friday. He acknowledged the work that goes into the Leaf Collection and asked Mr. Inman to thank his staff for all they do during this time. He is looking forward to the No Shave November from the Police Department and said that this is always a favorite on Social Media. He echoed the earlier comments and asked everyone to vote.

**11. Executive Session.** Mayor Brent Centers called for a motion to enter into executive session to consider the appointment, employment, and compensation of a public employee. Mrs. Fouts made the motion to enter into executive session; seconded by Mr. Aldridge. The vote:

MRS. DEBBIE FOUTS	yes
MR. MATTHEW WILCHER	yes
MR. DENNY CENTERS	yes
MR. PAUL RUPPERT	yes
VICE MAYOR TODD HALL	absent
MAYOR BRENT CENTERS	yes
MR. MICHAEL ALDRIDGE	yes

Motion passed.

Council entered into executive session at approximately 6:39 PM with no planned action to follow.

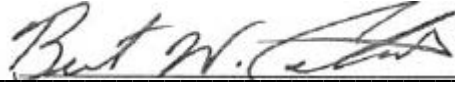
Mr. D. Centers made the motion to adjourn out of executive session; seconded by Mr. Ruppert. The Mayor called for a voice vote and by voice vote the motion was approved 6-0. Council adjourned out of executive session at approximately 7:32 PM.

**12. Adjournment.** The Mayor called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wilcher made the motion; seconded by Mr. Aldridge. The Mayor called for a voice vote and by voice vote the motion was approved 6-0.

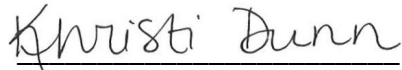
**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL  
CLERK'S JOURNAL**

---

Mayor Brent Centers adjourned the meeting at 7:33 PM.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brent W. Centers", written over a horizontal line.

Brent Centers, Mayor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Khristi Dunn", written over a horizontal line.

Khristi Dunn, Clerk of Council