

Members of the City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 20, 2020, 6:02 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.

Roll call (called in alphabetical order) showed:

Mr. Michael Aldridge	present
Mayor Brent Centers	present
Mr. Denny Centers	present
Vice Mayor Todd Hall	present
Mrs. Debby Fouts	present
Mr. Paul Ruppert	present
Mr. Matt Wilcher	present

The pledge of allegiance was said.

There no visitors at tonight’s meeting. Also present: Sonny Lewis, City Manager; Cindy Ryan, Finance Director; Lynnette Dinkler, Law Director/Acting Clerk of Council; Jonathan Westendorf, Fire and EMS Chief; Russ Whitman, Police Chief; Ross Coulton, Assistant Safety Director; Steve Inman, Public Works Director; Barry Conway, City Engineer; Karisa Steed, Assistant to the City Manager.

Mr. Aldridge made the motion to approve the Clerk’s Journal and accept the tapes as of the Official Minutes of the March 17, 2020 general meeting; seconded by Vice Mayor Hall.

The vote:

Mr. Denny Centers	yes
Mr. Ruppert	yes
Vice Mayor Hall	yes
Mayor Brent Centers	yes
Mr. Aldridge	yes
Mrs. Fouts	yes
Mr. Wilcher	yes

Motion passed.

**Reception of Visitors**

The Mayor opened and closed Reception of Visitors at (6:05 p.m.). No Visitors were present and no other person asked to be heard.

**Presentation**

None

**Public Hearing**

None

**New Business****RESOLUTION 2020-21      PRELIMINARY PARTICIPATORY LEGISLATION FOR  
THE ODOT DISTRICT 8 GUARDRAIL TYPE A  
REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Mr. Conway, City Engineer, explained this Resolution is the preliminary legislation required by ODOT for the District wide replacement of type A anchor assembly guardrail on NHS local routes, to include a portion of SR 73 and SR 123 in the City of Franklin. This project will replace Type A anchor guardrail assemblies at five locations within the City. The five locations within the City include two assemblies on North Main Street at Kenneth Koons Boulevard, two assemblies on East Second Street west of Stadia Drive and one assembly on East Second Street east of Conover Drive. Mr. Conway shared this Project is scheduled for the fourth quarter of the State's 2021 fiscal year. The total cost for the District Wide Project is currently estimated at \$702,482.00 and is 100% funded with Safety Funds.

There were no comments or questions.

Mr. Paul Ruppert made the motion to adopt **Resolution 2020-21**; seconded by Mr. Mathew Wilcher.

The vote:

Mr. Ruppert	yes
Vice Mayor Hall	yes
Mayor Brent Centers	yes
Mr. Aldridge	yes
Mrs. Fouts	yes
Mr. Wilcher	yes
Mr. Denny Centers	yes

Motion passed.

**RESOLUTION 2020-22      APPROVING THE RETROACTIVITY WAIVER FOR ALL  
UNITS OF THE FRANKLIN LAW ENFORCEMENT  
ASSOCIATION AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY  
MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE WAIVER AGREEMENT**

Mr. Lewis, City Manager, explained the union negotiations have been suspended on account of COVID-19 declared state of emergency and will not resume until the parties can meet to resume such negotiations. The current contract expires the end of July 2020. If the negotiations are not completed by the expiration of the contract, the negotiated pay will be paid retroactively.

Vice Mayor Todd Hall made the motion to adopt Resolution **2020-22**; seconded by Mr. Michael Aldridge.

There were no comments or questions.

The vote:

Vice Mayor Hall	yes
Mayor Brent Centers	yes
Mr. Aldridge	yes
Mrs. Fouts	yes
Mr. Wilcher	yes
Mr. Denny Centers	yes
Mr. Ruppert	yes

Motion passed.

**RESOLUTION 2020-23      ORDERING TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF CHARTER, CODIFIED ORDINANCE AND RULES OF COUNCIL PROVISIONS INCONSISTENT WITH AMENDED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 197 IMPLIMENTING PROCEDURE CONSISTENT WITH COVID-19 OPEN MEETING ACT DURING DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY FROM MARCH 9, 2020 UNTIL DECEMBER 1, 2020 IF THE PERIOD OF EMERGENCY CONTINUES BEYOND THAT DATE**

Lynnette Dinkler, Law Director, explained all provisions regarding public meetings were reviewed and all policies inconsistent with Substitute House Bill 197 need to be suspended retroactively and until December 1, 2020 if the period of emergency continues beyond that date to allow the City to continue to conduct its public meetings virtually at this time.

There were no comments or questions.

Mrs. Debbie Fouts made the motion to adopt Resolution **2020-23**; seconded by Mr. Paul Ruppert.

The vote:

Mayor Brent Centers	yes
Mr. Aldridge	yes
Mrs. Fouts	yes
Mr. Wilcher	yes
Mr. Denny Centers	yes
Mr. Ruppert	yes
Vice Mayor Hall	yes

Motion passed.

**Introduction of New Legislation**

**ORDINANCE 2020-05      CONSIDERING THE RECOMMENDATION OF  
PLANNING COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO AN  
APPLICATION TO REZONE APPROXIMATELY 8.489  
ACRES, LOCATED AT THE END OF LAKEVIEW DRIVE,  
FROM R-1B, SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO R-  
1A, ESTATE RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT**

**ORDINANCE 2020-06      APPROVING THE MAJOR SUBDIVISION FINAL PLAT  
FOR THE ANGEL'S VIEW SUBDIVISION LOCATED AT  
THE EAST END OF LAKEVIEW DRIVE**

**City Manager's Report**

Mr. Lewis presented an update from the Fire & EMS Department. No known COVID-19 confirmed case is known but flu like symptom cases are treated as such. The runs being made are generally more severe in nature as people are waiting until symptoms are severe before calling for help. Substance abuse runs are more severe in comparison to pre-COVID-19 presentation of substance abuse calls.

Police Department calls are down 30% compared to last year, as is overtime. Sufficient PPE exists at this time, but additional PPE is always being sought out. Battelle is sanitizing PPE as a free service for all first responders, which is a great service for which the City is very thankful. The sanitization turnaround time is twenty-four hours.

A paving project will be underway in town, by a local company who will manufacturer asphalt for project.

Public Works Department had two watermain breaks and other typical repairs, such as patching potholes that have developed over the winter. Equipment is being maintained and mowing is underway.

The April 18, 2020 City-wide food drive was a huge success. Too many volunteers showed up to collect food which was wonderful and so many people gave, noting those who had so little gave so much to help others, which is what makes the City of Franklin so great. This activity may be repeated monthly to continue to support those in need. Checks can be submitted as well because the food bank can buy five times as much food compared to what people can buy in stores.

April 27, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. a Special Planning Commission Meeting will be conducted because a local business has requested a temporary conditional use for six months to allow them to store cars next door off their property because currently, it is overstocked as a result of the COVID-19 declared state of emergency. Staff will recommend the temporary request for approval to the Planning Commission to help out the local business. It is acknowledged that Council may not approve of such activity if it were a permanent use, which it is not, and the City Manager wanted to be certain Council was aware of the request as Council does not have final authority over granted temporary conditional use requests.

**Council Comments**

Mr. Wilcher recognized how proud he is to be from Franklin because citizens pull together to support the food bank and those in need.

Mrs. Fouts stated Franklin truly does a fantastic job of supporting its local businesses. She and another small business owner feel they have been hit a little less than surrounding communities because of the strong local support, for which she is very thankful. Mrs. Fouts also expressed thankfulness for the leadership of our Country because while anyone can Monday morning quarterback, it is very difficult to know how to respond to such a situation. Lastly, she is thankful for people continuing to follow the social distancing guidelines. In response to Mayor Brent Centers' comment regarding a list of businesses/restaurants still serving, Mrs. Fouts shared the Chamber of Commerce is very good about keeping an updated list for the public.

Mr. Aldridge stated it was good to see all, encouraged all to stay safe, and had no further comments.

Mr. Denny Centers expressed feeling great about everyone doing their part to support the food pantry and had no further comments.

Mr. Ruppert asked the City Manager for an update for the Clerk of Council status. Mr. Lewis stated an update email would be provided regarding interviews to be conducted. Otherwise, Mr. Ruppert thanked all City Staff for keeping the City operations going.

Vice Mayor Hall stated he was glad to hear the food drive would be continuing to help the community. Mr. Hall asked if any business has stated it would not recover from the COVID-19 declared state of emergency. Mr. Lewis said he has not been made aware that any City business would not recover from this emergency. Mr. Lewis reported staff continues even during this time to pursue economic development projects. Mr. Lewis did obtain information that one City company received Payroll Protection funds. Otherwise, Mr. Hall thanked all employees for their efforts, as he recognized working from home, which he would be doing for the remainder of the school year, was now his reality as of that day's announcements impacting Ohio public school operations.

Mayor Brent Centers thanked everyone for their efforts with the food drive which was a great success. The Ohio Municipal League, Mayor announced, issued a call to action as a result of the economic impact of COVID-19 for local funding to be immediately directed to the local governments, especially for emergencies services, and encouraged all to contact their local representatives. Mayor Brent Centers provided approval for his digital signature to be applied to passed legislation and approved council meeting minutes. In closing Mayor thanked all staff for keeping the City moving, especially for those who are working from home.

**Executive Session**

None

**Adjournment**

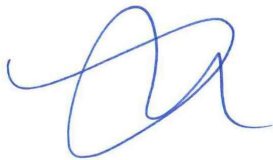
Vice Mayor Todd Hall made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Denny Centers.

The vote:

Mr. Wilcher	yes
Mr. Ruppert	yes
Mrs. Fouts	yes
Vice Mayor Hall	yes
Mr. Denny Centers	yes
Mayor Brent Centers	yes
Mr. Aldridge	yes

Motion passed.

Mayor Brent Centers adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.



Lynnette Dinkler  
Acting Clerk of Council



Brent Centers, Mayor