

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES - JUNE 15, 2020**

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING - VIRTUAL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020
6:00 PM**

CITY COUNCIL

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

CITY STAFF

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

Members of the City Council met in regular session on Monday, June 15, 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, June 15, 2020 to order at 6:00 PM. Roll call showed:

MR. MICHAEL ALDRIDGE	present
MAYOR BRENT CENTERS	present
MR. DENNY CENTERS	present
MRS. DEBBIE FOUTS	present
VICE MAYOR TODD HALL	present
MR. PAUL RUPPERT	present
MR. MATHEW WILCHER	present

Mr. Conway, Ms. Copenhaver, Captain Coulton, Ms. Dinkler, Ms. Dunn, Mr. Inman, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Ryan, Ms. Steed, Chief Westendorf, and Chief Whitman were also present.

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

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3. Approve the Clerk’s Journal and Accept the Tapes as the Official Minutes of the June 1, 2020 Meeting. Vice Mayor Hall made the motion to approve the Clerk’s Journal and accept the tapes as of the Official Minutes of the June 1, 2020 general meeting; seconded by Mrs. Fouts.

The vote:

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

Motion passed.

4. Reception of Visitors. The Mayor opened and closed the Reception of Visitors at 6:02 PM as none asked to be heard.

5. Presentation. None.

6. Public Hearing.

A. ORDINANCE 2020-09 AMENDING ORDINANCE 2020-04 TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Ms. Ryan explained that the appropriations resolution is considered quarterly. There are three line items that need adjusted. The first item is the Law Enforcement Trust fund. There was large property seizure and 30% of the seizure is required to be dispersed to the county. There are two items in the general fund; the first is in the Police Division. This adjustment is related to the new phone and CAD system, as well as other unanticipated expenses. The \$30,00 in Other Government is for an increase in cybersecurity due to increased online activity from the State of Emergency. This is labeled as Other Government to consolidate the costs into one line item as this is a City-wide cost, instead of breaking out the cost by department. The cost will reduce the fund at the same rate as budgeted but will be more concise by using the Other Government line item.

The Mayor opened and closed the floor at 6:05 PM as none asked to be heard. He then opened the floor to council deliberation. There were no questions from council.

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With no further council discussion, Vice Mayor Hall made the motion to adopt **ORDINANCE 2020-09** as submitted; seconded by Mr. Aldridge. The vote:

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

Motion passed.

**B. RESOLUTION 2020-31 ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO,
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2021, AND AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE
DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT IT TO THE WARREN COUNTY AUDITOR**

Ms. Ryan explained that the City is required by the Revised Code to submit an annual tax budget to the County Auditor. Normally the budget is prepared by inputting the actuals from the prior two years, estimating for the current year and for the following year. Ms. Ryan made some changes to the Income Tax projections based on the information available for 2020. For 2021, she used the 2020 number as the estimate going forward with a modest increase of 1%. She lowered the Local Government income based on projections and the Motel Tax based on the understanding that there were approximately four months of inactivity due to the State of Emergency. Expenses were lowered slightly due to transfers that will not be done this year. Aside from these changes, the budget is standard for any year. Ms. Ryan is prepared to answer questions from the County Budget Commission that may arise about the projections.

The Mayor opened and closed the floor at 6:09 PM as none asked to be heard. He then opened the floor to council deliberation. He asked if the Finance Committee had any comments to add as this had been presented to them.

Mr. Aldridge commented that there were no questions from the Finance Committee. He learned that some Municipalities do not have to do a Tax Budget as it is county mandated.

Vice Mayor Hall acknowledged the difficulty in projecting a budget in the State of Emergency and complimented and thanked Ms. Ryan for her work.

The Mayor asked for any further discussion. With no further council discussion, the Mayor called for a motion. Mr. Ruppert made the motion to adopt **Resolution 2020-31** as submitted; seconded by Mr. Wilcher. The vote:

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

Motion passed.

7. New Business.

- A. RESOLUTION 2020-30 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION'S STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS, AS REQUIRED, FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2022 (PY 36) FOR THE STATE ROUTE 123 AT SHOTWELL/BEAL ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

Mr. Conway explained that the OPWC's Issue II process operates on a two-year cycle. Projects submitted this year are considered for funding two years from now. A pre-application is due for any projects requesting funding in Program Year 2022. City staff recommends submitting the State Route 123 at Shotwell/Beal Road Intersection Improvement Project for funding. The State Route 123 at Shotwell/Beal Road Intersection Improvement Project includes the reconstruction of the intersection to eliminate the skewed angle intersection at Beal Road with Shotwell Drive and State Route 123. The existing bridge on Beal Road will be replaced to accommodate the road alignment and widening. A traffic signal will be installed to improve traffic movement at the intersection. Mr. Conway stated that the City applied for CMAQ funding four years ago and the City was awarded that funding. The project cost is estimated at \$2,407,250 with the City's share being \$613,333. With two years before the project is due to be constructed, the City would like to apply for OPWC funds in the amount of \$363,333. If approved this would reduce the City's share to \$250,000. Mr. Conway is asking for approval to prepare and submit the applications and execute any contracts as required to participate in the program. He then asked if Council had any questions.

Mr. D. Centers asked if a traffic study had been done for this project. Mr. Conway answered that it had.

The Mayor asked for clarification if the bridge on Beal Road was separate from this project. Mr. Conway answered that this project included the bridge.

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The Mayor asked for any further discussion. With no further council discussion, the Mayor called for a motion. Mr. D. Centers made the motion to adopt **RESOLUTION 2020-30** as submitted; seconded by Mr. Aldridge. The vote:

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

Motion passed.

B. **RESOLUTION 2020-32 AFFIRMING THAT FUNDS FROM THE WARREN COUNTY CORONAVIRUS RELIEF DISTRIBUTION FUND WILL BE EXPENDED ONLY TO COVER COSTS OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 5001 OF THE CARES ACT AS DESCRIBED IN 42 U.S.C. 601(D), AND ANY APPLICABLE REGULATIONS AS IS NECESSARY PURSUANT TO H.B. 481 BEFORE RECEIVING SAID FUNDS**

The Mayor explained that as of 5:30 PM Governor DeWine had not signed the CARES Act. He requested **RESOLUTION 2020-32** be tabled until the next meeting per the counsel of Ms. Dinkler. He asked if Ms. Dinkler had any further updates, she did not.

With no further council discussion, the Mayor called for a motion. Mr. Aldridge made the motion to table **RESOLUTION 2020-32**; seconded by Vice Mayor Hall. The vote:

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

Motion tabled.

8. Introduction of New Legislation.

A. None.

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9. City Manager's Report. Mr. Lewis commented that it was good to see the parks being used again this past weekend. The Mayor agreed and added that the parks looked great as well.

10. Council Comments.

Mr. Wilcher commented that the banners downtown look nice and complimented the staff on their work. The banners are a small improvement, but they look great and he would like to do more downtown improvements when possible. He stated that Farmers Market looks like it is doing very well. Mr. Wilcher seconded Mr. Lewis' comment about parks being used, stating it was uplifting to see the parks being used again.

Mrs. Fouts echoed Mr. Wilcher's comments and noted that she was glad the caution tape had been removed from the parks. She stated that it is nice to see the school sports beginning again. She offered kudos to everyone involved with the Farmers market as she has seen excitement from many people regarding the market. Mrs. Fouts said the City looks good right now, business is good and Main Street looks alive again.

Mr. Aldridge thanked Mr. Inman and the Public Works Department for work on Harpwood Drive. The residents appreciate the nice job that was done. He informed Council that Larry Dalton had passed this week. Larry was an avid Franklin Wildcat fan. He and Big James were often seen together cheering on the athletes. He sends his condolences to Larry's family and said that Larry will be greatly missed.

Mr. D. Centers had no comments.

Mr. Ruppert reiterated comments that the City looks great, looks alive again, and that the park looks good and it is nice to see it being used again. He heard that the drop box that was installed for taxes has been well received. He mentioned a comment from Facebook where someone wished that a neighboring city had a similar drop box and complimented Mr. Inman. Vice Mayor Hall said that the banners downtown look awesome. He also noted that the roads in Franklin Woods look fantastic and he complimented Ms. Dinkler's microphone.

Mayor B. Centers agreed with Councils' comments. He missed Jane McGee's retirement party and stated that once Council resumes meeting in person, he would like to ask her to a meeting to recognize her service. He informed Council that the first meeting in July will be virtual. He asked Council to discuss how meetings will be conducted thereafter. The Mayor told Council that he has military training during the following meeting in July. He could attend a virtual

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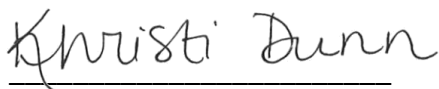
meeting or if Council would like to meet in person, Vice Mayor Hall could preside. The Mayor asked for Councils' opinion. Mrs. Fouts stated that she did not have a preference and that meeting virtually is fine with her. Vice Mayor Hall, Mr. Ruppert, Mr. Wilcher and Mr. D. Centers agreed. The Mayor confirmed with Mr. Aldridge and he commented that he was good to meet virtually and confirmed with City staff. Mr. Lewis confirmed that August 1 would be ideal to meet in person. The Mayor thanked everyone.

11. Adjournment. The Mayor called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Mayor Hall made the motion; seconded by Mr. Aldridge. The vote:

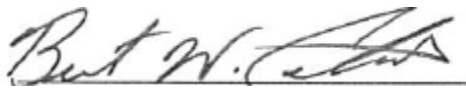
MR. MATHEW WILCHER	yes
MR. PAUL RUPPERT	yes
VICE MAYOR TODD HALL	yes
MRS. DEBBIE FOUTS	yes
MR. DENNY CENTERS	yes
MAYOR BRENT CENTERS	yes
MR. MICHAEL ALDRIGE	yes

Motion passed.

Mayor Brent Centers adjourned the meeting at 6:23 PM.



Khristi Dunn, Clerk of Council



Brent Centers, Mayor