

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING - VIRTUAL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 6, 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, July 6, 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, July 6, 2020 to order at 6:00 PM. Roll call showed:

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

Mr. Conway, Ms. Dinkler, Ms. Dunn, Mr. Inman, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Ryan, Ms. Steed, Chief Westendorf, and Chief Whitman were also present. There was one member of the press in attendance.

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

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

3. Approve the Clerk’s Journal and Accept the Tapes as the Official Minutes of the June 15, 2020 Meeting. Mr. D. Centers made the motion to approve the Clerk’s Journal and accept the tapes as of the Official Minutes of the June 15, 2020 general meeting; seconded by Vice Mayor Hall. The vote:

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

Motion passed.

4. Reception of Visitors. The Mayor opened the Reception of Visitors at 6:02 PM and closed at 6:03 PM as none asked to be heard.

5. Presentation. None.

6. Public Hearing. None.

7. New Business.

A. 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. 801(D), AND ANY APPLICABLE REGULATIONS AS IS NECESSARY PURSUANT TO H.B. 481 BEFORE RECEIVING SAID FUNDS

Ms. Dinkler explained that this Resolution was on the agenda of the previous meeting but was tabled as the Ohio legislation had yet to be signed by the Governor. The legislation has now been signed and a change was made; there was an error in the Federal Treasury Guidance that referenced 601(d) instead of 801(d).

The Mayor asked if Council had questions. Hearing none, the Mayor called for a motion. Vice Mayor Hall made the motion to adopt **RESOLUTION 2020-32** as submitted; seconded by Mr. Ruppert. The vote:

VICE MAYOR TODD HALL	yes
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**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

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

Motion passed.

- B. RESOLUTION 2020-33 AFFIRMING THE CREATION OF NEW FUND FOR RECEIPT OF FUNDS FROM THE WARREN COUNTY CORONAVIRUS RELIEF DISTRIBUTION FUND TO 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. 801(D)

Ms. Dinkler explained that this legislation is acknowledging that Ms. Ryan, in her capacity as Finance Director, has created a new fund for all COVID related expenditures. Ms. Ryan is granted this authority per City Ordinance, but it is her understanding that Warren County would like a piece of legislation to document the creation of the fund.

The Mayor stated he understands the Auditor of State intends to scrutinize the fund. He asked if City Staff was on the call when the Auditor made this statement. Ms. Dinkler explained that the Federal Treasury Guidance states that there are presumptions for some expenditures. Otherwise, the entities receiving this money are being trusted to spend the funds appropriately. She stated that the State may audit the fund and that she and Ms. Ryan have had discussions on how the audits will occur, considering other grant funds the City has obtained. Ms. Dinkler feels the City is prepared for an audit and she has discussed the guidance that has been issued with Ms. Ryan. She is also prepared to discuss new guidance that may be issued. She has noticed, as new guidance has been issued, that there are more available opportunities for the City to expend the funds and, if desired, create certain programming to expend the funds. This will be an ongoing discussion to ensure the City and the Citizens will get the most benefit out of the funds that have been assigned to the City.

With no further council discussion, the Mayor called for a motion. Mr. Wilcher made the motion to adopt **RESOLUTION 2020-33** as submitted; seconded by Mrs. Fouts. The vote:

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

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

VICE MAYOR TODD HALL yes

Motion passed.

C. RESOLUTION 2020-34 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FRANKLIN CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

a. Exhibit A - Memorandum of Understanding

Chief Whitman explained that this is the standard MOU that was signed for the previous two-year period. The only change that could occur is in January when the Union contract is settled as this could result in a pay increase for the officers. He added that Franklin City Schools and the Warren County Education Service Center are both on board for continuing the School Resource Officer program.

The Mayor asked how it was handled when school released early due to the Coronavirus. Chief answered that the Schools continued to pay their share for the duration of the school year and that the Officers are now on the City's pay for the summer quarter. The Officers have been involved in the Community Resource Outreach programs including Splash Days, which have kept them busy. Mr. Lewis added that the City offered to prorate the time that the Officers were not in school and the Schools refused the offer. The Mayor commented this is an example of the great relationship the City has with the Schools.

With no further council discussion, the Mayor called for a motion. Mr. Ruppert made the motion to adopt **RESOLUTION 2020-34** as submitted; seconded by Vice Mayor Hall. The vote:

MR. MICHAEL ALDRIDGE	absent
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 passed.

D. RESOLUTION 2020-35 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE WARREN COUNTY EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER AND THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

a. Exhibit A - Memorandum of Understanding

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

Chief Whitman explained that this is same MOU for the Warren County Education Service Center. This year the School Resource Officer will be Josh Reimer. Officer Reimer signed up for the position and is looking forward to working with the kids.

The Mayor asked for any further discussion. With no further council discussion, the Mayor called for a motion. Vice Mayor Hall made the motion to adopt **RESOLUTION 2020-35** as submitted; seconded by Mr. D. Centers. The vote:

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
MR. MICHAEL ALDRIDGE	absent

Motion passed.

8. Introduction of New Legislation.

A. ORDINANCE 2020-10 LEVYING ASSESSMENTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF CITY STREETS AND PUBLIC WAYS BY THE LIGHTING THEREOF FOR THE YEAR 2021

9. City Manager’s Report. Mr. Lewis reported that the City Building had a soft opening today after being closed for the State of Emergency. The opening was not advertised so that operations could be evaluated. There were no issues and traffic was steady. The opening has now been posted on the City’s website and Facebook. With the upcoming tax deadline, Mr. Lewis plans on using half of the Utility Department window to help process tax returns more efficiently if necessary.

Mr. Lewis informed Council that the Governor ordered flags be flown at half-staff to honor a fallen Marine Sargent in the Cleveland Area and a Toledo Police Officer who passed while on duty. Funeral services will be held the next day and at sunset the flags will go back to full staff.

Mr. Lewis has limited knowledge regarding COVID testing to be held at the Community Park this coming week. It is tentatively set for Friday, July 10 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. When he has the full details, he will have those posted on the City’s website and Facebook. Chief

FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Whitman, Chief Westendorf and Mr. Inman will work logistics with Warren County to accommodate a possible large turnout.

He concluded with sentiments of wishing everyone had a great Fourth of July Holiday.

10. Council Comments.

Mr. Wilcher had no comments.

Mrs. Fouts asked when the patches on Millard Drive would be repaired. Mr. Lewis replied that these are cold patches versus permanent patches and that he would ask Mr. Inman to check on the date for repair. She also asked about two residences on Sunnybrook Drive. One of the residences has an abundance of garbage in the driveway and on the porch, and another residence is running a car repair business in the driveway. She was displeased with the aesthetics of both residences, but also expressed a concern for safety. Mr. Lewis replied that the City had some interaction with one of the residences already this year. He said that the City will visit both residences to address the issues. Mr. Conway added that he had visited the residence with the auto-repair business that day had intent to send a letter.

The Mayor asked Mr. Inman if he had something to add to the Millard Drive comment as his audio connection cut out when he tried to comment earlier. Mr. Inman replied that the Millard Drive patches were already on the schedule to be repaired.

Mr. Denny Centers commented on a road issue on northbound Dixie Highway where State Route 73 converges by Clear Creek, coming into Franklin. He said his wife mentioned there is a severe dip in the road and he feels it is a safety hazard. He asked Mr. Inman to confirm the location. Mr. Inman asked if this was by the railroad and Mr. D. Centers confirmed. Mr. Inman stated that he has spoken to the railroad many times about this issue because it is illegal for the City to work on the road within 20 feet of the railroad. Mr. Inman confirmed that this does need fixed and he is working with railroad on the issue.

Mr. D. Centers thanked Mr. Inman for the landscaping work done on the ramps at State Route 123 and Interstate 75.

Mr. D. Centers asked Mr. Lewis and Chief Whitman if there were any complaints about personal fireworks over the holiday weekend. Chief Whitman responded that there were approximately 6 complaints. Officers responded by checking the areas and spoke to two parties who were asked to discontinue. One party discontinued and the other party had to be asked a second time before they discontinued. There were no serious issues.

FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Mr. D. Centers asked Ms. Ryan if she had the numbers for June. She responded she would have them sent out this week. She added that income tax was down approximately \$100,000 for the month of June. This has been the trend for the year and if it continues the City will be down \$1.1 million. She said she would have a more accurate projection after July.

Mr. D. Centers asked how the Coronavirus relief funds were distributed to various cities. Ms. Ryan answered that this is based on local government funding. The county released a spreadsheet with the amount each locality would receive, and Franklin is set to receive approximately \$270,000. Mr. Lewis confirmed the amount. Mr. D. Centers asked what the amount is based upon. Ms. Ryan answered she believed it was based on the local government funding from 2019.

Mr. Conway added a comment regarding the railroad track at South Dixie. The City has received funding for the STP for simple resurfacing. ODOT is going to let the project out and they will coordinate with railroad. If the railroad does not take care of the issue prior to this project, it will be completed with this project. A permit will be obtained to drive over the tracks from the Railroad.

Mr. Ruppert thanked Mr. Inman and his staff for clean up at an abandoned residence on Highland Street.

Vice Mayor Hall asked Chief Whitman and Chief Westendorf to compliment the School Resource Officers and the Fire Department on the Splash Days. He is pleased to see large a participation and feels this is great for the Community. He has heard that they are doing a great job.

Vice Mayor Hall addressed Mr. Lewis regarding a specific business placing advertising signs in the Millard Drive area. He feels these signs have become excessive. He asked if the City could address this issue. Mr. Conway commented that he and the Public Works Department have been taking these down regularly. Mr. Lewis added that a citizen from the Laynecrest area called him this morning to also complain about the excessive signs. He told the citizen that the City would reach out to the business to address the issue.

Vice Mayor Hall expressed concern regarding a residence in the area of Arlington and Bryant that has overgrown bushes that are impeding the line of sight for drivers. He believes this issue has been discussed with the resident in the past. Mr. Lewis responded that he would address the issue with the resident.

Mayor B. Centers asked to receive an update on the items from the Council work session during the next in person meeting in August. Mr. Lewis confirmed and said that this was discussed in a Finance Committee meeting in April. Due to the State of Emergency, projects have been put on

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

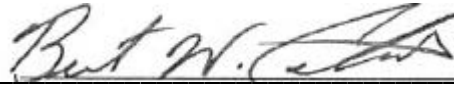
hold until he has a better idea of the City's finances, which should be in August or September. He asked Mr. D. Centers and Mr. Ruppert for input as they serve on the Finance Committee. Mr. D. Centers confirmed.

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

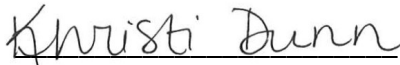
MR. MATHEW WILCHER	yes
MR. DENNY CENTERS	yes
MR. PAUL RUPPERT	yes
VICE MAYOR TODD HALL	yes
MAYOR BRENT CENTERS	yes
MR. MICHAEL ALDRIDGE	absent
MRS. DEBBIE FOUTS	yes

Motion passed.

Mayor Brent Centers adjourned the meeting at 6:30 PM.



Brent W. Centers
Brent Centers, Mayor



Khristi Dunn
Khristi Dunn, Clerk of Council