

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL  
CLERK'S JOURNAL**

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**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING - VIRTUAL MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 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  
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, August 3, 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, August 3, 2020 to order at 6:03 PM. Roll call showed:

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

Mr. Conway, 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 and one member of the press in attendance.

**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 July 20, 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 July 20, 2020 general meeting; seconded by Mr. Aldridge. 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 6:05 PM as none asked to be heard.

**5. Presentation.** None.

**6. Public Hearing.** None.

**7. New Business.**

A. RESOLUTION 2020-38 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH PIERCE MANUFACTURING, INC. REGARDING CORROSION TO THE 2006 PIERCE ENFORCER PUMPER UNIT 18332TR; VIN: 4P1CE01A76A006541

Chief Westendorf explained that the vehicle listed will be sent to Appleton, Wisconsin to be repaired at cost.

The Mayor asked if there were any additional questions. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

Mr. Ruppert made the motion to adopt **RESOLUTION 2020-38** as submitted; seconded by Mr.

D. Centers. The vote:

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

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MR. MATHEW WILCHER      yes

MR. DENNY CENTERS      yes

Motion passed.

**B. RESOLUTION 2020-39 AWARDING THE BID AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT WITH VOGELPOHL FIRE EQUIPMENT FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF AGING SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA) FOR THE JOINT GRANT PROJECT BETWEEN THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP AND THE VILLAGE OF CARLISLE**

Chief Westendorf reminded Council that this project began in 2018. The City of Franklin entered into an MOU with Carlisle and Franklin Township to manage the Assistance to Firefighters Grant award. The local share for each of the entities is 10% of the overall cost. The entire amount that was requested was not received as funding for the telemetry was not awarded. The Chief explained that the SCBA equipment remotely monitors the activity of the firefighters as well as the remaining air in the SCBA. The telemetry system also allows the firefighters to be remotely notified to exit the building. Even though this portion of the grant was not approved, it was decided that this technology keeps the firefighters safer and should be maintained. This purchase will be part of the non-grant additional items. The other non-grant additional items to be purchased by the City of Franklin are kits that attach to the SCBA masks that allow them to be used as a respirator without using the entire SCBA. These can be used in hazardous material environments and are approved for virus environments. The department placed an order for N-95 masks during the start of the pandemic and that order has yet to be fulfilled. These kits will provide reliable protection. This part of the purchase qualifies for the COVID reimbursement program. The City of Franklin is the manager for the grant and will invoice the other entities for their cost.

Mr. Aldridge thanked the Chief for his efforts and noted that the Chief's work has saved the City a lot of money over the years in the grants received. The Chief is grateful this grant was awarded as the current equipment will expire at the end of this year. The current equipment was also funded by the Assistance to Firefighters Grant that was awarded in 2002.

Mr. Wilcher asked when the equipment would be received. The Chief responded that it was expected before the end of the year.

The Mayor confirmed with the Chief that the other entities have passed their necessary legislation to move forward with the purchase.

The Mayor asked if Council had any additional questions or discussion. Hearing none, the Mayor called for a motion. Vice Mayor Hall made the motion to adopt **RESOLUTION 2020-39** 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.

**8. Introduction of New Legislation.** None.

**9. City Manager's Report.** Mr. Lewis reported that the Council Finance Committee had met that day. July held the income tax deadline and preliminary reports of income tax revenue are positive. Year to date, the City is down \$165,000 from the prior year. In June, income tax revenue was down \$565,000 from the prior year. Projects are still being put on hold to review the revenues received in August and September and spending was cut at the beginning of the State of Emergency. Because of this, the budget is still in a favorable position, despite the decrease in revenue. Mr. Lewis and Ms. Ryan are cautiously happy for how the rest of the year will unfold and hope to be able to bring projects for Council approval later in the fall. Mr. Lewis complimented the policies of Council and Staff, specially Ms. Ryan and her department.

The Mayor asked Chief Whitman for an update on the 1-Tip Program. Chief Whitman reported that since August of last year the department had received 167 tips. The dispatchers check the tip line twice per shift, once in the beginning and once towards the end. The drug tips that came in were forwarded to the Drug Task Force, the Range Task Force and to shift supervisors. These tips have led to 13 SCAR ops, which do not cost overtime for the City. The officers either flex their time or take comp time. The department works with the Special Traffic Enforcement and Impaired Driver Enforcement programs to pay some overtime which is reimbursed by the State of Ohio. The Mayor asked if there were plans to re-advertise the program. The Chief responded that he would advertise with the schools, through the Resource Officers, and through Social Media.

**10. Council Comments.**

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Mr. Wilcher thanked the guest for attending the meeting. He reiterated Mr. Lewis' comments about the Finance Committee meeting and is happy that the City is in a favorable position despite the State of Emergency.

He reported that the cul-de-sac in the new Angel View subdivision is complete and that the streetlight at the end of Lakeview is out. He wondered if this was due to the work being done. Mr. Conway answered that this light should not be out, and Mr. Lewis said that City staff would report it tomorrow. Mr. Wilcher asked when the builder wanted to begin building in the subdivision. Mr. Lewis replied that he would like to begin as soon as possible. Mr. Conway added that he expects to see building plans soon.

Mrs. Fouts thanked Staff for their attention to the residences on Sunnybrook Drive as they are looking better and safer. She also thanked Captain Coulton for his assistance earlier that day.

Mr. Aldridge said it was nice seeing everyone and hopes to be able to meet in person soon. He strongly encouraged businesses in the community to enforce the mask mandate.

Mr. D. Centers reiterated Mr. Lewis' comments on the job well done by Ms. Ryan. He said that she makes recommendations for improvement and he appreciates the ownership she is taking in the position. He also acknowledged Ms. Dinkler and Ms. Dunn and said that these new team members are a help to Council.

Mr. D. Centers also requested re-advertising of the 1-Tip Program.

Mr. D. Centers asked Mr. Lewis for an update on the Cohen property. Mr. Lewis said that he has not received new information since his last update that Cohen has a six-month extension from the state to sale as-is or finish clean-up. He reported that most interested buyers want the first 2-3 acres, but not the full 9 acres available. The City did send a notice about cleaning up the fence and exterior of the property. NIC will enforce this request if it is not taken care of. Mr. D. Centers asked what happens after the six-month extension expires. Mr. Lewis replied that Cohen could be granted one more six-month extension before the City could request clean up due to a nuisance. His hope is that after the State of Emergency, the property will be sold to one of the interested retail buyers, who have been affected by the economy. There was a strong interest prior to the lockdown, but things have been put on hold. The Mayor asked when the six-month extension expires and Mr. Lewis replied that this first one is set to expire in December, the second would expire in June if it was needed. The City will continue to monitor the appearance of the perimeter of the property during the extension periods. Mr. Lewis said that Cohen is a great company and he has confidence that they will deliver on what has been communicated to Council.

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Mr. Ruppert was also interested in the status of the Cohen property as he is asked about this weekly. He thanked Mr. Lewis for the reminder of the six-month extension. He also receives questions about an abandoned filling station in town. Mr. Lewis replied that this is under a court order and asked Chief Westendorf for additional information. The Chief explained that this property is part of a large case with the Ohio Attorney General. The City has requested that the permits for underground storage at this property not be renewed.

Mr. Ruppert informed Council of the news story that 7-Eleven had purchased Speedway and Marathon and speculated that it could cause a change to the face of some of the area businesses.

Vice Mayor Hall stopped by the pool to see the work that is being done while the pool is closed. He said that Mr. Inman and the Public Works department have done a fantastic job, it is a big upgrade for the facility and will provide cost savings for the City when the pool re-opens.

Mayor B. Centers complimented the Staff on the Employee Spotlight Campaign on Social Media. Mr. Lewis thanked him and told him to look for an upcoming Business Spotlight highlighting the industrial companies in Franklin. He also mentioned the City-Wide Garage Sale and the Virtual Garage Sale Option that Ms. Steed and Ms. Dunn added to the City's Facebook page.

The Mayor informed the group that Franklin Township is giving out free masks to anyone who needs them on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at their building located at 418 Fairview Drive in Carlisle.

He said it was nice to see photos on Social Media from the Splash Day event hosted by the Fire Department at the Warren County Learning Center.

He thanked Chief Whitman for the 1-Tip update.

The Mayor gave Ms. Dunn permission to use his digital signature for the approved resolutions and minutes from the meeting.

**11. Adjournment.** The Mayor called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. D. Centers made the motion; 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

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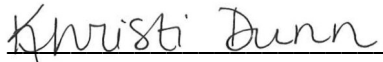
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VICE MAYOR TODD HALL      yes  
Motion passed.

Mayor Brent Centers adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM.



Brent Centers, Mayor



Khristi Dunn, Clerk of Council