

Members of the City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 6, 2020, 6 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 was one member of the press and two 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.

Vice Mayor Hall 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 Mr. Aldridge.

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 two separate times during the meeting (6:04 p.m. and 6:48 p.m.), as additional participants joined the meeting in progress, after the first opportunity for Visitors was concluded. No Visitors asked to be heard.

Presentation

None

Public Hearing

None

Mr. Mathew Wilcher made the motion to adopt Resolution **2020-17**; seconded by Vice Mayor Todd Hall.

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.

**RESOLUTION 2020-18 ADOPTING COVID-19 POLICIES, FORMS AND NOTICES
2020-01 IN THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, WARREN COUNTY,
OHIO**

Law Director Lynnette Dinkler stated the policies, forms and notices bring the City into compliance with federal and state mandates related to COVID-19 declared state of emergency laws and also adopt City implemented COVID-19 policies.

Mayor Brent Centers asked about the 20 % increase language and Lynnette Dinkler confirmed the Mayor's correct understanding that this permits the City to affirmatively seek grants to offset anticipated increased expenses and that it is not a raise of current salaries or hazard pay.

Mr. Paul Ruppert made the motion to adopt **Resolution 2020-18**; seconded by Mr. Denny Centers.

The vote:

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

Motion passed.

**RESOLUTION 2020-19 REGARDING EMERGENCY HIRES FOR DIVISIONS OF
FIRE AND POLICE, CITY OF FRANKLIN, OHIO AND
ALTERNATIVELY ADOPTING CIVIL SERVICE
RESOLUTION 2020-01 SUSPENDING RULES FOR
EMERGENCY HIRES**

Law Director Lynnette Dinkler explained an emergency need to hire additional personnel within the Fire and Police Divisions exists as a result of COVID-19, that Civil Service considered the issues associated with emergency hires at an emergency meeting on April 1, 2020, and that Civil Service passed legislation stating the Civil Service Rules and Regulations do not apply to emergency hires and if they would be determined to apply, and that Civil Service alternatively recommended Council adopt legislation suspending their application to emergency hires. Mrs.

Dinkler stated emergency hires are employment-at-will hires only for the time period of the declared state of emergency.

Mr. Mathew Wilcher asked what type of employment status the emergency hires would be. Mrs. Dinkler clarified they would be temporary, intermittent, employees-at-will.

Mr. Denny Centers asked if the civil service lists would be used and what process is being used to locate new hires. Mrs. Dinkler stated no and Mr. Lewis clarified that while the list is not being used, those individuals on the list would certainly be considered for an emergency hire position if they were interested.

Mayor Brent Centers asked if this legislation applies to Public Works or if it could, should the need arise. Mr. Lewis responded that independent contractors exist to handle COVID-19 emergency needs, should they arise.

Vice Mayor Todd Hall made the motion to adopt **Resolution 2020-19**; seconded by Mr. Michael Aldridge.

The vote:

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

Motion passed.

**RESOLUTION 2020-20 DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF IMPROVING CITY
STREETS AND PUBLIC WAYS BY THE LIGHTING
THEREOF FOR THE YEAR 2021**

Acting Clerk Lynnette Dinkler stated this Necessity Resolution is the first annual step to file assessments for street lighting.

Vice Mayor Todd Hall made the motion to adopt **Resolution 2020-20**; seconded by Mr. Paul Ruppert.

The vote:

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

Motion passed.

Introduction of New Legislation

None

City Manager's Report

Mr. Lewis thanks Council for its support through the COVID-19 emergency as many decisions are having to be made in these unusual times to protect our citizens. A fund line item has been designated to account for the unexpected needs.

Mr. Lewis thanked the volunteers who serve on the Civil Service Commission because they made themselves available and were thoughtful and considerate in contemplating the emergency hire legislation.

Mr. Lewis recognized City Staff, Chief Westendorf, Chief Whitman and Mr. Inman for their leadership and initiative. He thanked all City Staff and recognized the behind the scene workers, such as the Finance Department staff, for their loyalty to the City and for diligently performing the day to day operations from their homes because it is keeping the City operational for its citizens. Mr. Lewis also recognized the phenomenal guidance and leadership, providing step by step instructions to protect and serve City Staff and citizens.

A City-wide food drive is being organized for Saturday April 18, 2020 to feed citizens in need. The event is being posted on the City's Facebook page and is being promoted by local churches.

Fourth Street Tower project is pushed back temporarily because of COVID-19 but soon workers will be entering it in scuba gear to inspect it. If residents seeing this activity express concern, you can assure them it is city contracted work.

Community Park West Grant was awarded but the contract has not been received. Multiple agencies have to sign off on the contract and Mr. Lewis reported that legal teams for respective agencies are working on those details. Because of the unknown budgetary impact of COVID-19, Mr. Lewis expressed reservations about if and when the City should move forward with this project. The City is not obligated to execute this Contract until December 31, 2021 and an extension can be obtained if necessary.

The City of Franklin obtained a contract with Battelle to obtain sanitization of PPE in twenty-four-hour cycles, which is very positive news. The best and purest form of government is local government, Mr. Lewis stated he appreciates each and every one serving the City as he is proud to serve the City. Mayor Brent Centers thanked Mr. Lewis and staff for their hard work.

Municipal Court Report

Mrs. Dinkler delivered the following report at the request of Judge Ruppert to Council. In 2019 the Court handled a total of 9659 cases (8815 traffic/criminal; 767 civil and 77 small claims). On March 13, 2020 the Court implemented temporary procedures to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the those entering the Court and those staffing the Court. On March 17, 2020 the Court issued written Temporary Orders of the Court and distributed them to City, County and State stakeholders. The Court is continuing matters as necessary by: reviewing evictions and civil cases on a case by case basis, noting that cases with victims are being heard as normal in most instances; using video hearings where practicable and the Court reports it has applied for

Ohio Supreme Court grant funds to receive proper equipment to enhance this ability; adapting probation reporting to best supervise and meet the needs of those serving probationary periods, which is challenging because certain probationers need drug treatment services which are not currently available; and by having all court staff sign the Ohio Supreme Court recommended agreement for teleworking. The Court thanked its exceptional staff and law enforcement partners for their parts in keeping the Court serving the public.

Council Comments

Mr. Wilcher thanked Staff for quickly adapting, Chief Westendorf for Fire and IT leadership and Chief Whitman for Police leadership; asked community to support local restaurants, especially on take-out Tuesdays; and assured Franklin will get through this.

Mrs. Fouts stated economy is rough, even on essential businesses and that time will be necessary for recovery and that all instructions given by take-out restaurants really need to be followed for the safety of all; and praised City staff for being phenomenal.

Mr. Aldridge thanked Mr. Lewis, Chief Westendorf, and Department Heads for leadership as it is difficult to imagine the impact these changes bring; and recognized how celebrations can still occur with social distancing to continue to focus on the positive life achievements and celebrations that, of course, continue to occur despite the state of emergency.

Mr. Denny Centers asked Mr. Lewis if the City is now in a position to take advantage of federal or state grant moneys being released as a result of COVID-19. Mr. Lewis confirmed legislation passed permits the City to apply for such funding, confirmed all COVID-19 related spending is being tracked to be prepared for FEMA, and that required finance classes are being taken by staff to be eligible; pointed out that after review of the financial report all received the impact of COVID will have a downward impact and advised that scheduled projects may have to be eliminated; thanked all City Staff and specifically praised Chief Westendorf for his exceptional abilities and above and beyond dedication as Fire Chief and with the IT needs that have been vital to the City; and encouraged everyone to reach out to one person/family in need to provide needed support because together we will get through this.

Mr. Ruppert recognized all City Staff for their hard, dedicated work under Mr. Lewis' leadership, included Mrs. Copenhaver and Mrs. Dinkler for picking up Acting Clerk Duties; stated Route 75/73 road project will be a great improvement and thanked Mr. Conway for continuing on with his continuous full plate of work to improve the City's infrastructure; and wished all well in staying healthy.

Vice Mayor Hall commented on how nice it is to be able to see the entire team; wished families of all well; thanked all from the bottom of his heart for adapting so quickly to continue to do a fantastic job; questioned how the pool grant would be handled because he does not want to lose the funding opportunity. Mr. Lewis stated the grant work would not proceed under any circumstances until after the close of the pool season; and bid all well and good health.

Mayor Brent Centers thanked everyone for their cooperation because with it the City is operating successfully, including pitching in to cover Clerk duties; emphasized importance of sharing positive stories such as Mr. Aldridge did, because staying focused on creative celebrations to bring us together while socially distancing is so important; and recognized two faithful, long-

term employees, 15 year employee Utility Clerk in the Water and Billing Department Cindy Threnhauser and 39 year employee Clerk of Council Jane McGee – both of whom are retiring but have yet to receive a proper send-off; promised both Cindy and Jane will receive proper send-off in the future and publicly recognized that Council will deeply miss Clerk of Council Jane McGee, a wealth of legal and City affairs knowledge who has tirelessly served the City.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

Mr. Aldridge made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Vice Mayor Hall. The vote:

Mr. Wilcher	yes
Mr. Ruppert	yes
Mrs. Fouts	yes

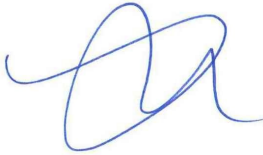
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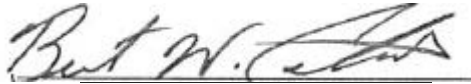
yes

Motion passed.

Mayor Brent Centers adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.



Lynnette Dinkler
Acting Clerk of Council



Brent Centers, Mayor