

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 11, 2012**

Members of the Franklin City Council met in special session on Saturday, February 11, 2012, 9:00 a.m., at the Franklin Fire Department, Mayor Scott Lipps presiding.

Roll call showed:

Denny Centers	present
Matt Wilcher	present
Jason Faulkner	present
Scott Lipps	present
Carl Bray	present
Michael Aldridge	present
Todd Hall	present

There was one member of the press and 11 visitors at tonight's meeting. Also present: Mr. Jonathan Westendorf, Fire Chief; Mr. Russ Whitman, Police Chief; Ms. Sandra Morgan Finance Director; Mr. Don Woods, Zoning Official; Ms. Donnette Fisher, Law Director; Mr. Sonny Lewis, City Manager and Mrs. Jane McGee, Clerk of Council.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Tony Abston.

Mayor Lipps welcomed everyone and stated the format was going to be different for this year's retreat – Mr. Don Vermillion would not be conducting the retreat. We will do in-house with Mr. Lewis. Mayor Lipps then presented a video on promoting teamwork.

Mr. Lewis began the discussions on the first topic - Economic Development. Mr. Lewis reported on what happened in the City last year. Bad News - Franklin Boxboard closed and don't know the full impact yet. Also, we lost Hardy Diagnostics, who had purchased land but decided not to build as they purchased a building elsewhere. The Good News – citizens passed a ½% income tax levy; NC Works started with 17 employees and hope to hire 50 people this year; VRI moved in last year, started with 90 jobs, up to 140 and planning on 150 more employees; PH Crane Industrial, expansion with 10+ employees; Crane 1 (Conover Drive) rezoned to light industrial to match their use, 8-10 jobs; Wise Plumbing, Industrial Park, opened with 3-5 jobs; changed the zoning for signs along the highway; and Franklin Yards, the building is full, but not built out yet, and we continue to work with them.

Mayor Lipps stated we need to continue to work on economic development for this year to promote the City.

Mr. Lewis asked for Council's priority items on Economic Development, Downtown Redevelopment, Parks and EMS that they want to address. After discussion, the following was developed.

### Economic Development

Future of Franklin Boxboard  
Pre-build Infrastructure/Fiber Optics (Shovel Ready Sites)  
Nurture Business Relationships  
Work with Developers on Spec Building  
Future Work Session on Annexation  
Economic Development Consultant

### Downtown Redevelopment

Redevelopment Plan  
Mural Guide/Map – Business Sponsors  
Property Acquisition Fund  
Main Street – 2-Way traffic

### Parks

Expansion/Relocation/New Park  
Dog Park

Mayor Lipps reported on the following:

- The “Good Neighbor Award” is being initiated again and that a “Historic District Traffic Committee is being formed. They will have quarterly meetings and the committee will be Tom Burns, Mary Nenninger, Michele Dickens, Matt Wilcher, Russ Whitman, Sonny Lewis and myself
- Reaching out to the School Board – it is better if we work together. He asked Council to start attending School Board meetings and passed around a sign-up sheet
- Also, asked for Council to attend Township meetings – at least one meeting this year (majority agreed)

Mayor Lipps then called for a recess at 11:17 a.m. He reconvened the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

### EMS

Mr. Lewis handed out a revised information sheet on EMS that has adjusted figures. (attached)  
The levy for Fire based EMS has been adjusted to 3.5 Mil per the Auditor. He has received a lot of calls and conversations on this subject the past week.

Mr. Faulkner stated based on the previous information he thought the numbers were low. Mr. Lewis stated that his numbers were used in the original report.

Chief Riddiough, JEMS, noted that a levy is needed because JEMS relies on the EMS billing that we hope to receive; have \$2 million in billing with \$750,000 estimated return; the user fee listed is accurate. He cautioned Council that planning on the user fees should be limited – demographics come into play which impacts the fee received – don’t rely on the user fees to be the biggest part of the budget.

Discussion continued on how Chief Riddiough calculated his numbers; and on levy amounts, if they can be lowered & can the current JEMS levy be renewed. Chief Riddiough stated he was directed to show where JEMS is at now and where to go.

Mayor Lipps thanked Mr. Weaver on how he handled this issue in the Middletown Journal articles. He also noted that Mr. Bray has been researching this issue.

Mr. Bray stated he has concerns with the JEMS numbers – why the budget needs to be doubled; residents love JEMS (from past surveys); have talked with several people; questioned the levy amount needed; are all items proposed needed; and upset with the Board for doubling the budget and need to provide the best service for the residents.

Mr. Faulkner stated Chief Riddiough was told to let us know what he needed – this is what is needed to do it right.

Discussion continued on this issue.

Mayor Lipps stated that the citizens are going to see a levy – we need to decide how to proceed and then the residents will decide. This issued is referred to the Finance Committee for review and recommendation.

Mayor Lipps continued that quality of service is our job; thanked Council for participating, City staff for attending and the guests and the Middletown Journal; thanked Council for signing up to attend the School Board meetings.

Mr. Lewis stated we will develop a plan and get back to you on the things talked about today.

Mayor Lipps stated that income tax revenues are up for January over last year.

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

Matt Wilcher	yes
Jason Faulkner	yes
Scott Lipps	yes
Carl Bray	yes
Michael Aldridge	yes
Todd Hall	yes
Denny Centers	yes

Motion passed.

Mayor Lipps adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

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Mayor

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Clerk of Council

**FRANKLIN CITY COUNCIL RETREAT  
FEBRUARY 11, 2012**

Council developed the following priorities at their February 11, 2012 retreat.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Future of Franklin Boxboard
- Pre-Build Infrastructure/Fiber Optics (Shovel Ready Sites)
- Nurture Business Relationships
- Work With Developers on Spec Building
- Future Work Session on Annexation
- Economic Development Consultant

**DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT**

- Redevelopment Plan
- Mural Guide/Map – Business Sponsors
- Property Acquisition Fund
- Main Street – 2-Way Traffic

**PARKS**

- Expansion/Relocation/New Park
- Dog Park

**EMS**

- Finance Committee to Review & Make a Recommendation