

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

September 17, 2024

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, September 17, 2024.

Present were: Kevin L. Boyce, President
John O'Grady, Commissioner
Erica C. Crawley, Commissioner

Also present on the dais were Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator; Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel; Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to Board of Commissioners; and Michael E. Ruehrmund, Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

Using hybrid meeting technology, participants were also able to access General Session via Zoom conferencing by dialing (929) 436-2866, Meeting ID:978 8790 2896; Passcode:628826, or by joining at: <https://franklincountyohio.zoom.us/j/97887902896>

Commissioner Boyce called the meeting to order at 9:06 A.M.

Commissioner Boyce: Good morning, everyone; thank you for being here today. I am excited to introduce some special guests from Urban ROOTS, a remarkable program that creates career pathways for the youth of Franklin County through hands-on learning experiences. This innovative partnership brings students from the heart of Franklin County into immersive environments where they explore food, agriculture, the environment, and related technologies.

Please join me in welcoming Carmen Barnes from our Job and Family Services agency to discuss more about our guests and this program.

Instead, Curtis Brown, Community Partnerships Administrator, presented.

Mr. Brown introduced Lindsey Latscha, Franklin County Area Leader, The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, Ohio State University Extension Franklin County and Urban ROOTS program, and Solomon Garner, Extension Educators Lead Coordinator, Urban ROOTS. Ms. Latscha and Mr. Garner provided a comprehensive explanation of the benefits of the Urban ROOTS program and an update on the number of youths served. They

thanked the Franklin County Board of Commissioners before introducing two students [unnamed] to share their experiences.

Commissioner Crawley thanked the students for sharing their stories and expressed enthusiasm for the humble idea of this program coming to life, being given a name, and being led in partnership; thanking the leaders who have been influential over the past two years.

Commissioner O’Grady expressed appreciation for the Urban ROOTS program and Commissioner Crawley’s leadership.

Commissioner Boyce commented on the history of urban farming and how important it is to build skills in these emerging technologies, which is beneficial not only to the student but also to society's future. Commissioner Boyce thanked the Urban ROOTS team, Job and Family Services partners, and Commissioner Crawley for her leadership.

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Approval of the minutes for the June 27, July 18, and July 25, 2024, Briefing Sessions; and the June 4, June 11, June 18, July 2, July 9, July 23, and July 30, 2024, General Sessions. Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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Resolution No. 0708-24, authorizing an agreement for Regional Healthcare Emergency Preparedness (RHEP) Coalition between Central Ohio Trauma Systems (COTS) and the Franklin County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the Franklin County Coroner, and providing the Franklin County Administrator signatory authority (Coroner), presented by Amanda Alvarez Wright, Director of Operations, Coroner’s Office.

Ms. Alvarez Wright reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0708-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0709-24, authorizing a transfer of funds for the Stormwater Management Program. (Drainage Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer’s Office.

Mr. Foster reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0709-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0710-24, establishing, altering, and widening of Case Road, Township Road No. 1066, Sale Road, Township Road No. 1067, Minnie Avenue, Township Road No. 1068, and Dresden Street, Township Road No. 1069, Clinton Township, Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary (Engineer), presented by Brad Foster, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Foster reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0710-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0711-24, authorizing a Contract Extension and Modification with County Towing & Storage, LLC for Towing and Impound Management Services (\$100,000.00) (Sheriff), presented by Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Director of Finance, Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Smith reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0711-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0712-24, authorizing the Second Contract Modification with Motorola Solutions, Inc (\$955,870.00) (Sheriff), presented by Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Director of Finance, Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Smith reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0712-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0713-24, authorizing a transfer of appropriations for the return of prisoners (Sheriff), presented by Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Director of Finance, Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Smith reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0713-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0714-24, authorizing the County Administrator to execute an Economic Development Grant Agreement on behalf of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners with the Columbus Region Green Fund to establish and administer the Region Green Energy Loan Fund (\$2,000,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning and Zach McGuire, Executive Director, Columbus Region Green Fund.

Mr. Torres reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley asked how organizations and businesses would learn about the Green Fund, what they could apply for, and for what amount. Mr. McGuire answered that engagement with trusted community partner organizations like the Human Service Chamber of Franklin County ensures those who have not been able to seek this capital historically will have access. Mr. McGuire highlighted that the initiative focuses on community education and trust building to get the buy-in of residents who could benefit. Mr. McGuire stated that the current program is Impact Solar, and anyone interested can reach out on the website at www.crgreenfund.org and that the commercial Impact Solar program is currently capped at \$1MM. Mr. McGuire outlined that anything larger than a single-family home could qualify for the Impact Solar program and explained that they are piloting the program for single-family homes so that it may expand to them in the future.

Commissioner O'Grady asked if more funds would be available beyond this \$2MM for neighboring counties. Mr. McGuire stated that the program will seek to expand to surrounding counties due to the additional Federal funds from the Inflation Reduction Act.

Commissioner Boyce asked what the fund amount would be at conception. Mr. McGuire stated that there is an initial investment of \$7MM from the City of Columbus, and this Resolution would increase the total to \$9MM. Commissioner Boyce also asked if the solar panels have been worked into the zoning, what is being done to strategically align with other energy efficiency goals that residents might have, and if any projects sell energy back to the grid. Mr. McGuire affirmed that the over-production of energy would be sent back to the grid and would spin the meter backward. Mr. McGuire stated that they are working diligently with the City of Columbus to create best practices when it comes to zoning to create an efficient process. Mr. McGuire stated that they are working with neighborhood associations on the front end not to create any false expectations for homeowners.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0714-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0715-24, authorizing an Affordable Housing Development Agreement with Sunset Development & Investment, LLC to receive funding through the Magnet Fund Program to assist in the development of an affordable housing project (\$1,350,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

Mr. Torres reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0715-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0716-24, review of petition to annex 0.862+/- acres from Blendon Township to the City of Columbus, Case #ANX-15-24 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

Mr. Torres reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0716-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0717-24, authorizing supplemental appropriations for temporary staffing, security contracts, and social services expenditures (Job and Family Services), presented by Carmen Barnes, Assistant Director, Job and Family Services.

Ms. Barnes reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0717-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0718-24, authorizing a professional service contract agreement with VaShonda Green for peer support and case management services for justice involved residents served through the Franklin County Rapid Resource Center and SAFER Station programs (\$19,872.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Caitlin Looney, Deputy Director, Justice Services, Justice Policy and Programs.

Ms. Looney reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0718-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0719-24, authorizing the acceptance of a Year Two subgrant award from Franklin County Public Health's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Overdose Data to Action: Limiting Overdose through Collaborative Actions in Localities (OD2A:LOCAL) Grant program (\$165,000.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Caitlin Looney, Deputy Director, Justice Services, Justice Policy and Programs.

Ms. Looney reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0719-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0720-24, authorizing a first contract modification to the contract agreement with Driven Excavating LLC for the Kanawha-Rosslyn Sanitary Sewer Project, an increase in an amount not to exceed \$468,542.25 (\$8,296,731.25) (Sanitary Engineers), presented by Stephen A. Renner, Director, Sanitary Engineer's Office.

Mr. Renner reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0720-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0721-24, approving an Amendment to the Participation Agreement to extend Franklin County's participation in the County Commissioners Association of Ohio Service Corporation Natural Gas Purchasing Program (Public Facilities Management), presented by Darla Reardon, Director, Public Facilities Management.

Ms. Reardon reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0721-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0722-24, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$3,808,984.93) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing, and Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

Ms. Perry-Balonier and Ms. Withers reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0722-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0723-24, accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission for collection in calendar year 2025 and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor (Board of Commissioners), presented by Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

Mr. Talarek reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0723-24, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

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Michael E. Ruehrmund, Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, read one (1) journalization into the record:

1. Case #ANX-16-24: An Expedited Type 2 annexation petition, ANX-16-24, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on September 10, 2024. The petition is requesting to annex 3.5-acres from Madison Township to the City of Columbus. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on October 15, 2024.

Site: 5656 Bixby Road (PID No.:181-000118)

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Commissioners took a brief recess at 10:09 A.M. and returned at 10:45 A.M.

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Resolution No. 0724-24, of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners to convene into Executive Session for the purpose of considering personnel matters and to confer with the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office concerning pending or imminent litigation and details relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a public body or public office (Board of Commissioners).

Commissioner O'Grady moved to convene into Executive Session to consider personnel matters and to confer with the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office concerning pending or imminent litigation and details relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a public body or public office, seconded by Commissioner Crawley.


At 11:35 A.M. Commissioner O'Grady moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Boyce, which was approved by roll call vote. No substantive action was taken upon exiting Executive Session, and with no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 A.M.

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 A.M.

(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2024.



KEVIN L. BOYCE, PRESIDENT



JOHN O'GRADY



**ERICA C. CRAWLEY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

Submitted by:



Michael Ruehrmund,
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners