

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

February 11, 2025

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

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

Also present on the dais were Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator; Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator; Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; Shayla Favor, Prosecutor, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; and Brittany A. Razek, 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 Crawley called the meeting to order at 9:08 A.M.

Commissioner Crawley: Good morning and thank you all for being here today. As we continue to celebrate Black History Month, I'd like to take a moment to highlight something especially meaningful to me—Black Greek-letter organizations. As a proud Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated member, I've experienced firsthand the deep sense of sisterhood, service, and commitment these organizations inspire.

Black Greek-letter organizations (BGLOs) were founded during one of the most challenging periods in American race relations. These organizations were built on the principles of personal excellence, racial empowerment, community service, civic engagement, and strong bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood. Their formation coincided with pivotal moments in our nation's history, including the rise of Jim Crow laws, the spread of systemic racism, and widespread racial violence and discrimination. Despite these challenges, BGLOs have remained pillars of leadership, education, and social justice in our communities.

I'd now like to take a moment to acknowledge any members of The Divine Nine (D9) present in the audience today. The Divine Nine represents a group of historic Black Greek-letter organizations, each founded on the principles of scholarship, leadership, service, and community empowerment.

These esteemed organizations include:

1. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated
2. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
3. Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated
4. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated
5. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated
6. Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated
7. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated
8. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated
9. Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Incorporated

Your unwavering commitment to service, civic engagement, and uplifting our communities speaks to these organizations' powerful and enduring legacy.

Commissioner Crawley acknowledged those on the dais who were members of D9 organizations, thanked them for their commitment to sisterhood and brotherhood, and opened the floor for members to speak.

Commissioner Boyce opined that these organizations (D9) were created when blacks were not welcome in other community groups and were a way for people to positively impact society by utilizing common principles.

Shayla Favor, Prosecuting Attorney, thanked Vice President Kamala Harris for helping introduce black collegiate life to the broader American public. Prosecutor Favor noted that her organization, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, was founded in January 1913. The first act was participating in the Women's Suffrage March two months after its founding. The black women of the sorority marched at the back of the parade, knowing they were marching on behalf of all women in this country and that they would not get the right to vote, but that white women would, and eventually black women would.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator, noted that service and mentorship are repeated themes within all D9 organizations.

Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator, noted that members of D9 organizations are responsible and obligated to stand up for injustice.

Commissioner Crawley added that while many were excluded from traditional organizations at the time, these organizations (D9), have not been exclusionary. They include all walks of life, all races, colors, and creeds.

Commissioner Crawley: Additionally, before we continue with our agenda, I'd like to invite everyone to the Thrive Together Celebration on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. County Administrator Kenneth N. Wilson and I will share remarks and join county employees and residents at the Thrive Together Resource Fair at the Harmony Project (4411 Tamarack Blvd, Columbus, OH 43229). This event will feature culinary delights, cultural performances, and community storytelling in celebration of Black History Month, along with resources and networking opportunities to support local businesses. We hope to see you there!

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Resolution No. 0095-25, authorizing a first amendment to the 2025 grant agreement with the Ohio Department of Youth Services (\$497,711.30) (Domestic Relations), presented by Barb Reeves, Deputy Director, Finance, Domestic Relations, and Daijah Owens, Grants Administrator, Juvenile Community Enrichment Services.

Ms. Reeves and Ms. Owens reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0095-25, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Commissioner Crawley: We have a Public Hearing for Resolution 0096-25. Can the Clerk please read the Public Hearing?

PUBLIC HEARING: Resolution establishing, altering, and widening of the Groveport Road Shared-Use Path Improvement project, Madison Township, Franklin County, Ohio, viewed – Engineer to file plans, as necessary.

Commissioner Crawley opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak. Seeing and hearing none, Commissioner Crawley closed the Public Hearing, and the resolution was read into the record.

Resolution No. 0096-25, establishing, altering, and widening of the Groveport Road Shared-Use Path Improvement project, Madison Township, Franklin County, Ohio, viewed – Engineer to file plans, as necessary (Engineer), presented by Adam Fowler, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0096-25, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0097-25, establishing, altering, and widening of the Brice Road Railroad Crossing Improvement project, County Road No. 117, Truro Township, Village of Brice, Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary (Engineer), presented by Adam Fowler, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0097-25, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0098-25, for CDM Smith, Inc., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer by providing detailed engineering services for the Hott Ditch Drainage Improvement project, Madison Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$301,656.11) (Engineer), presented by Adam Fowler, P.E., P.S., Engineer, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0098-25, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0099-25, authorizing the County Administrator to sign contracts on behalf of the Board of Commissioners to allow other agencies to use the Franklin County Sheriff's Firing Range and Training Academy for the remainder of calendar year 2025 (Sheriff), presented by Albert J. Smith III, Assistant Director, Finance, Sheriff's Office.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0099-25, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0100-25, authorizing a grant agreement with Greater Columbus Sports Commission to support economic equity in Franklin County and encourage economic development and tourism through the attraction, promotion, and retention of sporting events (\$177,500.00) (Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion), presented by Damika Withers, Chief Economic Equity and Inclusion Officer, Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion.

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

Commissioner O'Grady thanked Linda Logan and noted that sports are a great investment for communities and help drive economic growth.

Commissioner Boyce added that sports also spur cultural growth.

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0100-25, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0101-25, authorizing the Franklin County Administrator to Execute on Behalf of the Franklin County Commissioners the Attached "Discharge of MORTGAGE" Instrument for Penelope J. Porter at 74 Cherry Street, Groveport, Ohio 43125 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Ruchelle Pride, Director, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0101-25, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0102-25, authorizing the County Administrator to accept the FY 2024 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) award to Franklin County and to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the cities of Columbus and Whitehall confirming an agreed-upon funding plan and to sign all certification and assurance documents related to the grant program (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Ruchelle Pride, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0102-25, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0103-25, authorizing a professional service contract agreement with Maurice Lee for One Door project management services through FY 2024 Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grant funding (\$126,750.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Ruchelle Pride, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner O'Grady moved to approve Resolution 0103-25, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0104-25, authorizing a Private Water Agreement with BG & CC Development Company LLC for a private water main on Greenvale Drive (Sanitary Engineers), presented by Ryan Stowe, Assistant Director, Sanitary Engineers.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0104-25, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0105-25, authorizing a service contract with CertaSite, LLC for backflow device repair services in Galloway, Ohio (\$8,400.00) (Sanitary Engineers), presented by Ryan Stowe, Assistant Director, Sanitary Engineers.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0105-25, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0106-25, authorizing Contract Modification #3 with R & S Halley and Company, Inc. DBA Darby Creek Nursery & Landscaping to provide snow removal services at designated Franklin County Facilities (\$750,000.00) (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 0106-25, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0107-25, authorizing a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Amendment #1 to the Contract with Elford, Inc. to provide Construction Manager at Risk Services, including Construction Services, for the Franklin County Critical Master Plan Implementation Project Bundle 1 (\$3,000,000.00) (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 0107-25, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0108-25, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$22,744,935.44) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing, and Andrena Austin, Economic Equity Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0108-25, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0109-25, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$240,092.20) (Purchasing), presented by Megan Perry-Balonier, Director, Purchasing, and Andrena Austin, Economic Equity Administrator, Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0109-25, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0110-25, reappointing Julie Exner to the Franklin Park Conservatory Joint Recreation District Board of Trustees (Board of Commissioners), presented by Michael Ruehrmund, Assistant Director of Community Appointments, Board of Commissioners.

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

Commissioner O’Grady moved to approve Resolution 0110-25, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

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Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, read two (2) journalizations into the record:

1. Case #ANX-03-25 - An Expedited Type 2 annexation petition, ANX-03-25, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on February 5, 2025. The petition is requesting to annex 68.129-acres from Brown Township to the City of Hilliard. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on March 18, 2025.

Sites:

7345 Hayden Run Rd. (PID No. 120-000231)

Hayden Run Rd. (PID No. 120-000233)

2. Case #ANX-04-25 - An Expedited Type 2 annexation petition, ANX-Anx-04-25, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on February 5, 2025. The petition is requesting to annex 295.86-acres from Madison Township to the City of Groveport. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on March 18, 2025.

Sites:

5910 Ebright Road (PID No. 180-000959)

Ebright Road (PID No. 180-000437)

Sims Road (PID No. 180-001486)

Sims Road (PID No. 180-000329)

Sims Road (PID No. 180-000326)

Sims Road (PID No. 180-000212)

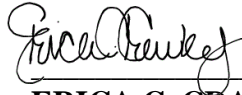
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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 A.M.

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(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session for Tuesday, February 11, 2025.



ERICA C. CRAWLEY, PRESIDENT



JOHN O'GRADY



**KEVIN L. BOYCE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

Submitted by:



**Michael E. Ruehrmund
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners**