

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

April 21, 2026

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

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

Also present on the dais were Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator, Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator; Damika Withers, Deputy County Administrator; Shayla D. Favor, Prosecutor, Prosecuting Attorney; Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; and Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

Using hybrid meeting technology, participants were also able to access General Session via Zoom Webinar Meeting ID: 811 9053 2115; Passcode: 1803, to attend virtually and watch the session live, [click here to register in advance](#).

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Commissioner O'Grady called the meeting to order at 9:09 A.M.

Commissioner O'Grady: Good morning, everyone. Before we begin our formal agenda, we have a very special recognition to start today's General Session.

This morning, my colleagues and I are honored to recognize Jeanine Hummer for her lifelong dedication to public service and her recent selection as a 250 Champions Honoree by the National Academy of Public Administration. Jeanine has been a valued partner and leader in Franklin County, and her work has made a lasting impact on our community and the residents we serve. We are grateful for her continued commitment and are proud to take this moment to celebrate such a well-deserved honor.

To share more about Jeanine and her many contributions, I would like to invite Prosecutor Favor to offer a few remarks.

Shayla Favor, Prosecutor, requested a point of personal privilege to recognize First Assistant and Chief Counsel, Jeanine Hummer, for receiving the national Public Service 250 Award, an honor awarded to only 250 public servants nationwide. Prosecutor Favor described Ms. Hummer as an exceptional and trusted leader whose professionalism, service, and leadership within the Civil Division are essential to the daily operations of Franklin County and recognized the broader

Prosecutor's Office team and Franklin County Municipal Court Judge Mark Hummer, while congratulating Ms. Hummer on the achievement.

Commissioner Crawley congratulated Ms. Hummer on her national recognition and praised her trusted leadership, professionalism, and counsel on behalf of the County and Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Crawley stated that Ms. Hummer consistently provides honest guidance, is highly valued and respected, and commended both Ms. Hummer and the Civil Division team for handling complex work with grace and dedication.

Commissioner Boyce complimented Ms. Hummer for the behind-the-scenes leadership and legal guidance that support the County's operations, ethics, legislative work, and decision-making, emphasizing that much of her impact is not visible to the public but is foundational to Franklin County's success. Commissioner Boyce highlighted Ms. Hummer's ability not only to provide legal counsel but also to help the County find effective and ethical paths forward and credited her leadership, professionalism, and dedication as essential to the County's strong governance and reputation.

Commissioner O'Grady praised Ms. Hummer not only for her professionalism and leadership but also for the grace and personal care she brings to her work each day, noting that while guiding the County through complex issues, she consistently reminds colleagues of the importance of family and personal connection. Commissioner O'Grady stated that Ms. Hummer's character, thoughtfulness, and ability to balance exceptional public service with genuine care for others are what make her especially valued and respected.

Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney, expressed gratitude for the surprise recognition and reflected on public service as a privilege, noting that every opportunity to serve in government has been meaningful throughout her career. Ms. Hummer shared that, as the daughter of immigrant parents who grew up with modest means, receiving such recognition was deeply personal and humbling. Ms. Hummer also credited the accomplishments of the Civil Division and Prosecutor's Office to the dedication of her staff and colleagues, describing them as trusted partners who consistently rise to meet difficult challenges and remain committed to the work of serving Franklin County.

Mark Hummer, Judge, Franklin County Municipal Court, shared the story of Ms. Hummer's early path into public service, describing how, as the daughter of immigrant parents and a janitor at Toledo Municipal Court, Ms. Hummer pursued an opportunity to become a congressional page by persistently following Congressman Thomas "Lud" Ashley to community events as a teenager until he ultimately selected her for the position. Judge Hummer noted that Ms. Hummer then spent two years in Washington as a congressional page and was later selected as one of four pages to serve as assistant to Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill, describing the experience as the beginning of her lifelong career in public service.

Amira Hummer reflected on the personal side of her mother's life that is not publicly visible, describing Ms. Hummer as both an accomplished public servant and a deeply devoted mother who remained actively involved in family life while balancing a demanding career. Ms. Amira Hummer shared examples of her mother's support and dedication to her children, emphasizing that her

ability to lead professionally while prioritizing family is what makes her especially admired and respected.

Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator, praised Ms. Hummer's leadership and partnership with County Administration, noting that the Civil Division plays a critical role in advancing policy and operational work across Franklin County. Administrator Wilson emphasized Ms. Hummer's accessibility, dedication to public service, and statewide recognition as one of only six Ohioans selected for this honor, while expressing appreciation for her continued commitment to both Franklin County and the broader community.

Commission O'Grady: On another important note, tomorrow is Earth Day, a great reminder of the important work happening across Franklin County to protect our environment.

The Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District plays a key role in these efforts by helping residents and communities keep our soil healthy and our water clean. Joining us to share more about how to get involved in Earth Day activities throughout the county are Jennifer Fish and Kori Sedmak from Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District.

Jennifer Fish, Director, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, thanked the Board for recognizing Earth Day 2026 and emphasized that environmental protection supports not only natural resources, but also public health, safety, and climate resilience. Ms. Fish highlighted Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District's work administering nearly \$355,000 in community grants last year for clean water, urban agriculture, and conservation projects, including a collaborative invasive species removal effort involving Soil and Water, Franklin County Children Services, the Sheriff's Office, and the Engineer's Office. Ms. Fish also encouraged support for the Conservation Stewardship Fund through a local Earth Day fundraising partnership with the Original Goodie Shop in Upper Arlington, and promoted upcoming Earth Day events across Franklin County, including Clinton Township's Earth Day celebration and community volunteer efforts coordinated by Green Columbus, which organizes one of the nation's largest volunteer Earth Day initiatives.

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Resolution No. 0258-26, authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with Columbus Women's Soccer Holdings, LLC establishing the terms and conditions for the County and NWSL Group to enter into one or more agreements relating to the funding of a training facility for a National Women's Soccer Team, improvements to ScottsMiracle-Gro Field, and payments by NWSL Group or an affiliated entity to the County to benefit residents of the County by addressing food insecurity and early childhood learning initiatives (Board of Commissioners), presented by Jeanine Hummer, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chief Counsel, Prosecuting Attorney, and Emmett Kelly, Bond Counsel, FBT Gibbons.

Ms. Hummer and Mr. Kelly reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley requested clarification on the distinction between tax revenue and non-tax revenue debt and asked whether the County's annual payment obligations would remain contingent upon the ownership group fulfilling its separate \$12 million commitment toward early learning and food insecurity initiatives.

Mr. Kelly explained that the proposal involves non-tax revenue debt supported by fees and other county-generated revenues rather than property or sales taxes, meaning the obligation would not rely on taxpayers or affect the County's general obligation debt capacity. Mr. Kelly further stated that payments would require annual Board of Commissioners approval and confirmed that obligations and commitments of the ownership group would be incorporated into the development agreement.

Commissioner O'Grady requested clarification on how the County's \$25 million investment would be used.

Mr. Kelly explained that the funding would support improvements required by the National Women's Soccer League at Historic Crew Stadium, including upgrades for women's soccer operations and construction of a dedicated training facility for the women's team. Mr. Kelly noted that both the County and City contributions would go toward those facilities, while any remaining project costs beyond the public investment would be covered by the ownership group.

Brittany Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, advised that four (4) speakers' slips on the proposed resolution have been submitted. The speakers were given 3 minutes to speak.

D.J. Byrnes spoke in opposition to the proposed resolution.

Lisa Rusch spoke in favor of the proposed resolution.

Linda Logan spoke in favor of the proposed resolution.

Cassandra Dickerson-Sistrunk spoke in favor of the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley expressed support for Franklin County's proposed investment to help bring a National Women's Soccer League team to Columbus, emphasizing that the \$25 million commitment would be funded through non-tax revenue rather than sales tax or the County's general fund, while stressing that public investment must produce measurable public benefit. Commissioner Crawley highlighted the agreement's \$12 million community return dedicated to early childhood initiatives and food insecurity efforts, stating that the investment supports both economic growth and community needs without compromising core services. Commissioner Crawley also emphasized the importance of women's professional sports, equitable opportunity, and providing young girls the chance to see women compete at the highest level, while rejecting the idea that investments in sports and

investments in residents are mutually exclusive, stating that Franklin County can support both community development and quality-of-life initiatives simultaneously.

Commissioner O’Grady expressed strong support for the proposed investment in a National Women’s Soccer League team after initially opposing the project due to concerns about public funding for private ownership and uncertainty regarding the economic value to Franklin County. Commissioner O’Grady stated that support shifted after negotiations resulted in a community benefits agreement providing long-term investments in early childhood education and food insecurity initiatives, which Commissioner O’Grady described as a significant return for residents. Commissioner O’Grady also highlighted Franklin County’s longstanding history of investing in sports and tourism-related projects, noting the economic impact generated through visitors, events, hospitality, and future opportunities tied to women’s soccer, the Olympic Games, and other major sporting events, ultimately describing the agreement as a strong long-term investment for the community.

Commissioner Crawley thanked County Administration, the Prosecutor’s Office, First Assistant Hummer, and Mr. Kelly for the extensive work and negotiations that helped shape the proposal into an agreement with both economic return and direct community benefit. Commissioner Crawley stated appreciation for the collaboration and effort invested in bringing forward a proposal that supports long-term investment in sports while also delivering targeted benefits for Franklin County residents.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0258-26, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

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Resolution No. 0240-26, awarding contract and approving contract bond to Decker Construction Company for the 2023 CDBG Chambers Road and Westbrook Subdivision Improvements project and authorizing the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Franklin County Engineer’s Office and the Economic Development and Planning Department (\$1,307,824.95) (Engineer), presented by Nick A. Soulas, Jr., Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer’s Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution No. 0240-26, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0241-26, awarding contract and approving contract bond to The Shelly Company for the 2026 Franklin County Resurfacing Program (\$5,580,720.28) (Engineer), presented by Nick A. Soulas, Jr., Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer’s Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution No. 0241-26, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0242-26, plans approved for the 2026 General Bridge Maintenance program for various bridges in Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Nick A. Soulas, Jr., Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution No. 0242-26, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0243-26, report (1st) of the Franklin County Engineer, establishing sums of compensation for a portion of the owners of property abutting the Brobst Park Drainage Outlet improvement, Madison Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$13,380.00) (Engineer), presented by Nick A. Soulas, Jr., Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution No. 0243-26, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0244-26, preliminary allocation and final encumbrance of County Motor Vehicle License Fee (\$5) Funds for the City of New Albany (\$750,000.00) (Engineer), presented by Nick A. Soulas, Jr., Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution No. 0244-26, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0245-26, authorizing participation in the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) contract for road salt, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Nick A. Soulas, Jr., Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution No. 0245-26, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0247-26, authorizing an agreement with TikFlow PTE LTD for the procurement of the Automa.Site Browser Extension (Franklin County Data Center), presented by Renea Ruple, Financial Services Manager, Franklin County Data Center.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution No. 0247-26, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0248-26, authorizing a non-general fund supplemental appropriation for additional service coordinators to implement the State's Waiver Modernization Project (Developmental Disabilities), presented by Dot Yeager, Superintendent/CEO, Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution No. 0248-26, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0249-26, authorizing the County Administrator to execute an agreement with Stantec Consulting Services Inc. for floodplain review services (\$15,000.00) (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Raimere Fitzpatrick, Planning Administrator, Economic Development and Planning.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution No. 0249-26, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0250-26, authorizing a grant agreement with Columbus Fashion Alliance to support the Ready to Werk 2026 workforce development program (\$1,400,000.00) (Economic Engagement and Community Development), presented by Andrena Austin, Director, Economic

Engagement and Community Development, and Yohannan Terrell, CEO, Columbus Fashion Alliance.

Ms. Austin and Mr. Terrell reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Blake, a participant in CFA's programs, spoke briefly about his experience and education in the fashion industry.

Commissioner Crawley requested outcome data and participation numbers for the Ready to Work and Launch Lab workforce development programs, including placement rates, applicant volume, cohort capacity, and overall economic impact, as well as information on additional partnerships supporting the initiative.

Mr. Terrell reported that 48 participants completed the Ready to Work program with an 80 percent placement rate, while 30 participants completed the Launch Lab program, which has since launched a third cohort. Mr. Terrell stated that each Launch Lab cohort generates an estimated \$500,000 in economic impact and that Ready to Work participants generate an estimated \$2.7 million annually. Mr. Terrell noted that each cohort receives more than 100 applications, despite being able to accept only 12 to 20 participants at a time, and shared plans to double participation this year to 60 individuals. Mr. Terrell also highlighted partnerships with organizations, including Goodwill and Victoria's Secret, to support garment repair, upcycling, externships, and workforce certification opportunities tied to the region's logistics infrastructure.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution No. 0250-26, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0251-26, authorizing a grant agreement with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. - Great Lakes Region for the 95th Great Lakes Regional Conference to support workforce development, economic opportunity, and community engagement initiatives in Franklin County (\$265,000.00) (Economic Engagement and Community Development), presented by Andrena Austin, Director, Economic Engagement and Community Development, and Shannon Teague, Chairman, Great Lakes Regional Conference.

Ms. Austin and Ms. Teague reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce thanked Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, for its longstanding commitment to economic empowerment and community investment, noting the organization's strong financial and philanthropic presence through initiatives such as its credit union and foundation work. Commissioner Boyce highlighted economic empowerment as a core part of the organization's mission, commended the impact and leadership of AKA members locally and nationally, including Vice President Kamala

Harris, and expressed appreciation for the organization hosting the empowerment summit in the region.

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution No. 0251-26, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0252-26, authorizing the execution of the Pre-Award Conditions and acceptance of the Franklin County FY 2025 Services-Training-Officers-Prosecutors (S.T.O.P.) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Administrative Grant Award and granting authority to the County Administrator to sign all acceptance documents and waivers related to the Grant Program (\$25,807.48) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Ernest Stockton, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution No. 0252-26, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0253-26, authorizing the execution of the Pre-Award Conditions and acceptance of the Franklin County FY 2025 Services-Training-Officers-Prosecutors (S.T.O.P.) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Block Grant Award and granting authority to the County Administrator to sign all acceptance documents and waivers related to the Grant Program (\$749,995.99) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Ernest Stockton, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution No. 0253-26, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0254-26, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$6,253,597.32) (Purchasing), presented by Sharon Sabree, Fiscal Support Analyst, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution No. 0254-26, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0255-26, approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (\$63,768.50) (Purchasing), presented by Sharon Sabree, Fiscal Support Analyst, Purchasing.

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

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0255-26, seconded by Commissioner O’Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0256-26, authorizing the County Administrator to execute the Local Workforce Area 11 Memorandum of Understanding for the Workforce Development System (Board of Commissioners), presented by Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution No. 0256-26, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0257-26, reappointing Agata Brenneman to the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund Central Ohio Regional Prevention Council (Board of Commissioners), presented by Michael Ruehrmund, Assistant Director, Community Appointments.

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

Commissioner Boyce moved to approve Resolution No. 0257-26, seconded by Commissioner Crawley. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

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Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, read four (4) journalizations into the record:

1. Case #ANX-09-26 - An expedited Type 2 annexation petition, ANX-09-26, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on April 8, 2026. The petition is requesting to annex 0.28-acres from Sharon Township to the City of Columbus. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on May 19, 2026.

Site: 6733 Maple Canyon Avenue (PID No.: 252-000152)
Maple Canyon Avenue (PID No.: 252-000151)

Maple Canyon Avenue (PID NO.: 252-000153)
Maple Canyon Avenue (PID No.: 252-000154)

2. Case #ANX-10-26 - An expedited Type 2 annexation petition, ANX-10-26, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on April 8, 2026. The petition is requesting to annex 167.2-acres from Madison Township to the City of Columbus. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on May 19, 2026.

Site: 5680 Winchester Pike (PID No.: 181-000161)
4131 Brice Road (PID No.: 181-000127)

3. Case #ANX-11-26 - An expedited Type 2 annexation petition, ANX-11-26, was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on April 15, 2026. The petition is requesting to annex 1.681-acres from Jackson Township to the City of Columbus. The petition will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on May 26, 2026.

Site: 2641 Gantz Road (PID No.: 160-001816)

4. Case #ANX-07-26 – An Expedited Type 2 annexation petition was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on March 17, 2026. This was a petition to annex 4.79 acres from Prairie Township to the City of Columbus, involving two (2) parcels and 0.316 acres of Galloway Road right-of-way with the adjoining right-of-way. This action was journalized at the Franklin County Board of Commissioners General Session on March 31, 2026.

The Franklin County Economic Development Planning Department received a withdrawal request for Case #ANX-07-26 from the petitioner on April 14, 2026. This withdrawal is being journalized to reflect this action.

Sites: 225 & 267 Galloway Road (PID # 240-005028 & 240-005027)

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 A.M.

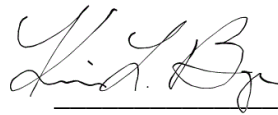
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(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session for Tuesday, April 21, 2026.



JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT



KEVIN L. BOYCE

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

Submitted by:



Michael E. Ruehrmund
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners