



#### CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

- [Lisa Anderson — Mayor](#)
- [Chris McDonald — Vice-Mayor](#)
- [Wayne Hall — Commissioner](#)
- [Carolyn Roberts — Commissioner](#)
- [Don Bufalini — Commissioner](#)

WORK SESSION  
APRIL 2, 2026  
6:00 PM

### MINUTES

#### 1. Call To Order

Call to order by Vice Mayor McDonald at 6:06PM.

Staff present: Rachel Jones, Breanna Bailey, Patti Carroll, Officer Ray Martin, Ethan Greer, Ben Knox

Board present: Vice Mayor McDonald, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Bufalini, Commissioner Hall (6:25), Mayor Anderson (6:47)

#### 2. New Business

##### A. Consideration and discussion of a prospective candidate for the Interim City Manager position.

Introduction: Mr. Vernon Gerth introduced himself to the Commission, noting his recent retirement as Assistant City Administrator for the City of Franklin after nearly 19 years of service. In that role, he supported staff in growth management, capital projects, and development. Mr. Gerth provided an overview of his professional background, beginning as a master carpenter before transitioning into community development with the City of Kenosha, Wisconsin, where he led significant redevelopment efforts, including the transformation of a former industrial lakefront site into a mixed-use area with public amenities. He later served in Vernon Hills, Illinois, where he gained experience in municipal development, infrastructure, and managing growth in a landlocked community. In 2007, Mr. Gerth relocated to Franklin, Tennessee, where he described his tenure as highly rewarding and credited key leaders for influencing his leadership style and professional values. Following his retirement, he established a civic and development advisory service and expressed interest in assisting the City of Fairview, if selected, while completing current project commitments. Mr. Gerth also briefly shared personal background information, including his family and appreciation for the opportunity to address the Commission.

Discussion with the board: Mr. Gerth stated that, based on his recent meeting with department heads, the primary need is not identifying challenges but determining how best to support staff in meeting the Commission's expectations and serving the community. He emphasized the importance of clear communication between the Commission and staff, noting that elected officials set vision and priorities, while administration is responsible for execution and reporting. He highlighted his approach to leadership, which includes supporting staff, fostering transparency, and ensuring alignment between policy direction and operations. Mr. Gerth noted that department heads are seeking timely decisions and clear direction, particularly regarding budget priorities. He emphasized that the budget is the City's most important planning document and should reflect priorities, fiscal responsibility, and long-term goals. Regarding growth and development, Mr. Gerth identified this as his area of expertise and discussed the importance of intentional planning to balance opportunities and challenges such as infrastructure, traffic, and affordability. In response to questions about prioritizing projects, he explained that staff would present data-driven recommendations, while the Commission would ultimately determine priorities, similar to a board of directors model. Mr. Gerth also recommended implementing regular work sessions prior to Commission meetings.

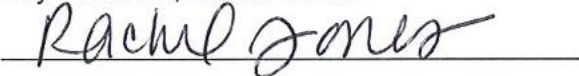
to allow for thorough discussion, improved transparency, and more efficient decision-making. He addressed his availability, stating he is initially able to serve approximately 16 hours per week but is open to increasing his time as existing commitments conclude. He expressed willingness to serve in the interim role until a permanent city manager is hired and to assist with the transition as directed by the Commission. Mr. Gerth concluded by emphasizing the importance of supporting staff during periods of transition, maintaining open communication, and ensuring the City continues to operate effectively while long-term leadership is established.

Citizens comments: Mr. Gerth stated he was contacted approximately one week prior by Franklin City Administrator Eric Stuckey regarding the interim position. He confirmed his recent retirement from the City of Franklin after nearly 19 years as Assistant City Administrator for Community and Economic Development. In response to questions about emergency management, Mr. Gerth referenced his experience during the 2010 flood in Franklin, explaining that municipalities initially rely on their own financial resources and reserves, with reimbursement processes such as FEMA occurring afterward. He emphasized the importance of strong fiscal policies, maintaining reserves, and careful documentation to recover funds. Citizens raised concerns about financial limitations, disaster recovery funding, and the need to potentially borrow funds. Mr. Gerth acknowledged these challenges and stressed the importance of budgeting, financial planning, and prioritizing resources based on available funding. When asked about entering a potentially difficult work environment following the recent resignation of the city manager, Mr. Gerth acknowledged the challenges associated with change and emphasized his commitment to professionalism, impartiality, and helping the community move forward. He noted the importance of supporting staff, addressing concerns, and fostering a respectful and collaborative environment during the transition. Mr. Gerth reiterated his experience with capital project planning and financial decision-making, noting that prioritization ultimately rests with the Commission based on staff recommendations and available resources. He also expressed willingness to assist with financial planning discussions and ongoing operational needs.

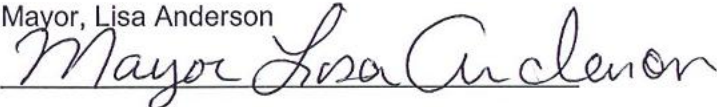
### 3. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjournment by Vice Mayor McDonald at 7:04PM.

City Recorder, Rachel Jones



Mayor, Lisa Anderson



The above minutes are intended to serve as a summary of the motions passed and matters discussed during the meeting. This document is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of all statements made.