



# FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING AND  
PUBLIC HEARING  
AUGUST 24, 2021

The Minutes of the Board of Commissioners proceedings are not verbatim. Access to an electronic audio recording of meetings are available on the Franklin County website or upon request.

9:00 a.m.

### **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Commission Chairman Clint Didier called the Franklin County Commissioners' Regular Board Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., in the Commissioners' Meeting Room in the Franklin County Courthouse located at 1016 North Fourth Avenue, Pasco, Washington.

**Commissioners Present:** Commission Chair Clint Didier, Chair Pro Tem Rocky Mullen and Member Brad Peck

9:01 a.m. **Approval of Minutes**

❖ *August 10, 2021 Commissioners Meeting Minutes approved as presented*

9:02 a.m. Point of Order by Commissioner Peck on the mask mandate.

- Prosecuting Attorney Shawn Sant explained the Oath of Office, Constitution and reviewed the order given by the Governor. He deemed the meeting illegal and contrary to the law, as persons were in the meeting room unmasked.
- Sheriff Raymond responded that wearing a mask is not a law, however, there is an RCW which states if you don't wear a mask because the Governor mandates it, you could be charged with a gross misdemeanor. He asked for those in the audience to address their grievances in an orderly and respectful manner.
- Commissioner Didier asked the Commissioners if they wanted to continue to conduct the meeting and allow the constituents to voice their concerns.
- Commissioner Mullen expressed his disapproval on the mandate, however to conduct the meeting, he would wear a mask.
- Commissioner Peck deemed the meeting unlawful and did not participate any further by removing himself from the room.
- Washington State Representative 8<sup>th</sup> District Brad Klippert spoke on the Washington State Constitution, quoting "Article 1, Section 1, Governments are established to protect and maintain individual rights". He apologized to the voters for passing the law, which enables Governor Inslee to enact the mandates he has instituted. They did not foresee this type of emergency response. He is trying to establish a special session to address and correct this matter. He read data on the Covid 19 figures.

9:36 a.m. Public Comment

- Trevor Crosby grateful for those who stood up for our rights. He opposes the mandates.
- Commissioner Didier wished to suspend the meeting and continue to let the public voice their comments. Shawn Sant requested to turn off the audio and video if the meeting is suspended. The meeting was not suspended.
- Joel Prantel voiced his personal concerns about Lourdes Hospital reporting of the Covid data and its validity.



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- Lawanda Hatch voiced her concerns on mask efficacy. She suggested this website for those who would like to review mask protection and other health studies [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov). Ms. Hatch asked for those who want correct information to go to this site. She asked public to stand against the mandate.
- Regina Grassl opposes the mandate. She told of a story of an elderly woman celebrating her birthday through a video screen.
- Kevin Heinen opposes the Governors mandate and asked for the public and Commissioners to stand up for their rights.
- Trevor O'Dell spoke about the law and tyranny. His doctor would not give him an exemption letter even though he recommended it because the doctor feared retribution to his practice. He plead for Commissioners to take a stand. He expressed his dissatisfaction in Commissioner Peck leaving the room and not listening to the public.
- Adria O'Dell expressed his concerns with medical data and mandates on our health. He thanked those who are willing to step up to uphold our freedoms and stand behind them. He expressed his dissatisfaction in Commissioner Peck leaving the room and not listening to the public.
- George Dockstader advised the Commissioners to conduct county business regardless if you wear a mask or not. He wanted the county business handled or asked them to step down.
- Steve Matthews voiced his concerns on businesses who are being run out of business due to these mandates.
- Alexia, a Community organizer wears a mask to help those around her and she hoped that the Commissioners would take her stance into consideration.
- Steve Simmons supports masks when appropriate and vaccines for those who choose to use them. He is very concerned with the mandate and does not support it.
- John Rosenau opposes the mandates and our loss of true freedom.
- Mike Detrick stated that Idaho has not had mask mandate, however, their numbers are similar to Franklin County's.
- Lawanda Hatch stated she was present at the meeting due to the Governor not Commissioner Didier.
- Commissioner Didier spoke of Commissioner Peck being on the radio promoting vaccinations with a doctor. Commissioner Didier is not in favor of mandatory mask or vaccines.
- Commissioner Mullen supported personal choice. He would not bully anyone in either direction. He was firm in stating, "no one should tell you what to put into your body that is your personal choice". He complied with the mask mandate in the meeting fulfill the requirements, even though he did not support the mandate. He suggested talking to Representative Klippert to find a path forward on changing this mandate.
- Representative Klippert gave an update of Covid-19 data from Governor Inslee's website. 0.085% of Washington's population have died of Covid-19. 99.015% have not died of Covid-19. Of those who tested positive for Covid-19, 98.81% have not passed away. Ask your Representatives to hold a special session. Write a letter to your Representatives.



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- Commissioner Didier announced that UCLA firm is suing Franklin County on the Redistricting matter. Prosecuting Attorney Shawn Sant and outside council Casey Bruner is representing Franklin County. Commissioner Didier has hired Joel Ard to represent him personally.
- Mike Detrick discussed a play on numbers as to what constitutes 100% capacity in the hospitals. Does this mean one floor or eight rooms available. There is a difference between the two numbers
- Citizen- No one has the right to ask him about his health due to HIPPA laws. When his choice is taken away, it ends there.
- Citizen- opposes the mandate and virtual meetings. Public does not have an opportunity to voice opinions when they are unable to attend in-person. They are taking away our voices.
- Clerk of the Board Karin Milham spoke as a citizen. She adamantly opposes the mandate; however, she supports the regulations given to conduct county meetings.
- Dr. Brian York was on the radio with Commissioner Peck and did not support the mandate but did persuade listeners to get the vaccine do to the high number of cases in the Tri-Cities.

❖ *Commissioner Didier recessed the meeting and then adjourned the meeting.*

**Adjourn**

With no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

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Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date