

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN
HELD AT THE FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
46 MAIN STREET, FRANKLIN, NJ
FEBRUARY 27, 2018**

Mayor Giordano called the meeting to order and requested the Borough Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the Governing Body were present: Ms. Fantasia, Mr. Limon, Mr. Postas, Mr. Rathbun, Mr. Skellenger and Mayor Giordano.

Absent: Mr. Snyder

Mayor Giordano led the assembly in the flag salute.

Mayor Giordano stated "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et sequentes. It has been properly advertised by posting in Borough Hall, and printed in the New Jersey Herald/Sunday New Jersey Herald on January 5, 2018, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Limon commented there was no EDC meeting due to lack of a quorum.

Mr. Postas had nothing to report.

Mr. Rathbun commented the Police Department is here to support the hiring of a new police officer as listed on tonight's agenda.

Mr. Skellenger commented the Planning Board meeting was cancelled, therefore there is nothing to report.

Ms. Fantasia commented the Finance Committee had their final meeting, the Council should have received a detailed budget from the Administrator. Ms. Fantasia explained the various line items and how they will impact the municipal taxes. Ms. Fantasia also commented the Borough is not anticipating much change from last year, we are using a statute that helps keep our reserve for uncollected taxes (RUT number) stable. Ms. Fantasia reported the fund balance was utilized again this year and explained the fund balance. The budget should be introduced on either March 13, 2018 or March 27, 2018. Good financial planning has allowed the Borough to keep our debt ratio the same and be able to establish a reserve for tax appeals. Ms. Fantasia met with Mr. Phil Crabb, Town Historian, they discussed possibly applying for the TAP Grant again to help fund the walking paths down at the pond.

Ms. McHose commented on projects she and the Recreation Commission are working on such as the pond, concession stand and paddle boat and kayak rentals.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Giordano welcomed Prosecutor Koch, Freeholder Director John Rose, Freeholder Carl Lazzaro, Freeholder Sylvia Petillo and Freeholder Herbert Yardley. Mayor Giordano stated Franklin Borough received a Grant for \$140,000.00 for the paving of Washington Ave. and School Plaza. Mayor Giordano reported the Spring Fling is on April 14th at the American Legion Post at 12:00 noon. Mayor Giordano attended a Franklin Forward Alliance meeting, they are hiring a coordinator and town organizer. The Franklin Forward Alliance involves elected officials, school children and people from the community, it is an exciting program and encourages all to attend a meeting to see what they are all about.

Mayor Giordano stated he will be changing the order of the agenda tonight and go directly to the first item under new business.

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Appointment of Police of Officer

Mr. Rathbun made a motion to appoint Nicholas Della Fera to the Franklin Borough Police Department starting at step 1 as per the FOP contract effective March 1, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Mr. Limon commented on how the hire will affect the budget.

Ms. Fantasia explained how the hire will not impact the taxes.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fantasia, Rathbun, Skellenger

Nays: Limon, Postas Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Mayor Giordano invited Mr. Della Fera to say a few words.

Mr. Della Fera thanked the Council for the opportunity and will provide the residents of Franklin with the best service possible.

Ms. Tremont administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Nicholas Della Fera, Borough of Franklin Police Department.

Franklin Police Chief, Eugene McInerney thanked the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Giordano requested a 3 minute recess.

After a 3 minute recess Mayor Giordano called the meeting back in session at approximately 7:28PM.

Ms. Fantasia offered additional clarification on the impact to the budget by the new hire, the different shifts that are utilized and excessive overtime issues within the police department. After reviewing the line items in the police budget the new hire along with other adjustments has helped to keep the budget on track.

Mayor Giordano commented at this time we will go back to the regular agenda.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open the meeting to the public for anyone wishing to address the Governing Body. Seconded by Mr. Limon. All were in favor.

Joann Tatka, 151 Maple Road stepped forward. Ms. Tatka requested the yearly rate for the new hire and what the police department overtime was for last year. Ms. Fantasia explained the rate for the new hire and how the introduction of the budget will show the figures in question.

Dawn Rowe, 140 Munsonhurst stepped forward. Ms. Rowe commented on her concerns for our area after the events that happened in Florida. Ms. Rowe made some suggestions regarding assault weapons, doors at schools, types of doors, bullet proof glass and having police officers located at schools.

Ms. Fantasia suggested to Ms. Rowe that she contact the Board of Education and request to review the Memorandum of Understanding that is held at various schools.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Rathbun. All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Giordano requested that all persons present review the consent agenda and offer any comments they may have at this time regarding the consent agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Letter dated February 9, 2018 from Jacqueline Espinoza, Area Manager, Jersey Central Power & Light to Alison McHose, Administrator, Re: Maintenance of power lines.

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2. Board of Chosen Freeholders, County of Sussex resolution titled, Preliminary Adoption and Resubmittal of the Sussex County Wastewater Management Plan to New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for Approval.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Municipal Court Report for January, 2018.

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of February 27, 2018.

Mr. Skellenger asked to remove check #1816, PO #28513 from the List of Bills and vote on that item separately.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the consent agenda of February 27, 2018 with check #1816, PO #28513 removed from the Bills List. Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fantasia, Limon, Postas, Rathbun, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Mr. Rathbun made a motion to accept check #1816, PO #28513 on the February 27, 2018 Bills List, seconded by Ms. Fantasia.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fantasia, Limon, Postas, Rathbun

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: Skellenger

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Fantasia questioned if there was any progress with the property owner on the signage for the Dance Studio behind the Bagel Tree. Mr. Nelson, Nelson Consulting Group responded there has been no communication and he will try to contact them again.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Rathbun made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for February 13, 2018. (Absent: Limon) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fantasia, Postas, Rathbun, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: Limon

Mayor Giordano explained Resolutions 2018-22 through 2018-25 refunding over charges generated for water and sewer accounts.

Mr. Rathbun made a motion to adopt Resolutions 2018-22, 2018-23, 2018-24 and 2018-25, seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fantasia, Limon, Postas, Rathbun, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance 1-2018

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt Ordinance 1-2018 entitled "ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY ADOPTING THE "HOSPITAL SITE" REDEVELOPMENT PLAN PREPARED BY NELSON CONSULTING GROUP DATED OCTOBER 6, 2017". Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

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Mayor Giordano requested Ken Nelson of Nelson Consulting Group to explain the redevelopment plan associated with the ordinance.

Mr. Nelson explained the revision to the redevelopment plan dated October 6, 2017. A redevelopment plan gives much more flexibility than a zoning ordinance. Within the plan is where the standards for the redevelopment area are established, including building design standards which aren't normally allowed in zoning ordinances. Also included is a site plan for the property showing layouts for the building and parking areas, as well as the affordable housing obligations. If there are any deviations to the site plan or other standards by the developer they would have to come back to the Council for a re-approval of the redevelopment plan. The hope is that the redevelopment plan and the possibility of a tax abatement will be the catalyst of the development of this property that has been vacant for well over a decade.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open ordinance 1-2018 to the public. Seconded by Mr. Rathbun. All were in favor.

No one from the public stepped forward.

Mr. Rathbun made a motion to close ordinance 1-2018 to the public. Seconded by Ms. Fantasia. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fantasia, Limon, Postas, Rathbun, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

ADDENDUM:

Mayoral Appointment

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to confirm the Mayoral Appointments for the Recreation Commission. Seconded by Mr. Rathbun.

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|---|
| Mike Gunderman | Member | 5-year unexpired term, expires 12/31/2021 |
| Scott Davis | Alternate #2 | 4-year unexpired term, expires 12/31/2021 |

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fantasia, Limon, Postas, Rathbun, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION II

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open the meeting to the public for anyone wishing to address the Governing Body. Seconded by Ms. Fantasia. All were in favor.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Rathbun made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Ms. Fantasia commented that it is very exciting to have all the Recreation Commission member and alternate positions filled.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Limon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49p.m., seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Nicholas Giordano, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Acting Municipal Clerk