

**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
MAY 8, 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. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder, and Mayor Giordano.

Absent: None

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."

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Giordano requested Mr. Mindlin to come forward and state his age and his length of service as member of the Franklin Borough Fire Department. Mr. Mindlin stepped forward and stated he is 92 years old today and has been a member of the Franklin Borough Fire Department since 1954. Mayor Giordano read a proclamation proclaiming May 8, 2018, as Eddie Mindlin Day. Mayor Giordano commented it is his personal pleasure to be able to present to Mr. Mindlin a plaque in recognition of his birthday. Mayor Giordano also thanked Mr. Mindlin for his service. Mr. Mindlin thanked everyone for the honor.

Mayor Giordano commented he would like to change the agenda and go to item 3 under new business.

Resolution 2018-47

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt Resolution #2018-47 to approve the naming and dedication of the Franklin Pond Island to "Judy's Island" in memory of Judy Postas. (Letter of request included in council packets) Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Mayor Giordano read a letter received from Ms. Renee Zierold requesting the naming of the island. Mayor Giordano also read Resolution #2018-47 naming the island of Franklin Pond to "Judy's Island" and that a plaque will be placed on the island memorializing this naming and dedication.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fantasia, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mayor Giordano stated at this time I would like to go to item 1 under new business.

Appointment of Council Vacancy

Mayor Giordano commented there is a motion in order to fill a vacant council seat in the Borough of Franklin. (Letter from Virginia N. Littell, Municipal Chairman, Republican County Committee included in council packets)

Mayor Giordano opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy of Councilman Rathbun.

Mr. Postas nominated Mr. Stephan Zydon to fill the vacancy. Seconded by Mr. Snyder.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Postas, Snyder

Nays: Fantasia, Limon, Skellenger, Absent: None Abstentions: None

Motion Failed

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Ms. Fantasia nominated Mr. Phillip Crabb to fill the vacancy. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fantasia, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mayor Giordano commented on the political career of Mr. Crabb. Mayor Giordano stated he is happy to have Mr. Crabb fill the vacant council seat.

Mr. Crabb commented he is honored to have been chosen to fill the vacant council seat.

At this time Ms. Tremont, Acting Municipal Clerk administered the oath of office to Phillip Crabb.

Mr. Crabb took his place on the dias.

Ms. Fantasia commented this has been a difficult decision, in no way was the choice a testament for or against any of the candidates up for election.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Limon had nothing to report.

Mr. Postas stated the concession stand is now open on weekends from 11:00a.m. to 6:00p.m. Mr. Postas commented a scuba diver went in to the pond and found it to be clear of debris. The hydro-raking should be started in the next ten days. Braen Quarry is donating the sand for the beach. The first water quality test passed, if this continues there will be swimming in the pond this summer.

Mayor Giordano stated the Franklin Recreation Commission has asked Administrator McHose to place an ad for the hiring of lifeguards.

Mr. Snyder commented the weather has been causing some delays to the work scheduled for buildings and grounds. Administrator McHose informed him the electrical inspection at the concession stand has passed.

Ms. Fantasia commented on an email from the CFO regarding finalizing of all requests for the capital budget. Ms. Fantasia stated the council is going into executive session to discuss FOP contract negotiations. Ms. Fantasia commented she attended the Miss America Meet and Greet sponsored by the recreation commission. There was a very nice turn out. Ms. Fantasia stated the Miss Franklin Pageant is on May 19, 2018, and the local dance studio will be performing there as well.

Mr. Skellenger commented the public utilities committee will be meeting with the Administrator and Mr. VanDenBroek to discuss capital projects for this year. Mr. Skellenger thanked Jennifer Giordano, Franklin Recreation Commission Chairman and the entire recreation commission for all that they have been doing at the pond.

Mr. Crabb commented this past weekend the Franklin Mineral Museum had 625 people attend what is called The Super Dig, it coincided with the Mineral Show held at the Littell Community Center. There were two groups of 60 that signed up for a walking tour of the shafts located behind the Borough Hall. It was so successful that an additional group of 40 was added. Dr. Earl Verbeek would like to give the council an opportunity to take a short walking tour themselves.

Administrator McHose commented on the many activities that are taking place at the pond. Benches at the beach were removed to prepare for the hydro-raking and 2 trees were removed for safety concerns. Administrator McHose complimented Mr. Postas for his work on the 5K run scheduled for June 30, 2018 as part of Franklin Day. Contact information for the 5K run has been added to the sign at the pond, anyone who would like additional information or to register can do so at: raceforum.com/glow.

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Mr. McBriar had nothing to report.

Mayor Giordano stated the line striping on Main Street by Mill Street will be done after the street sweeping has been completed. The concession stand has been painted blue and Kathleen Clohessey has offered to paint a Franklin ram head on the side of the building.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

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

Joann Tatka, 151 Maple Road, Franklin, stepped forward. Ms. Tatka asked about water puddling up on Route 23 by Starbucks. Ms. Tatka commented on the voting process on the nominees for the vacant council seat. Ms. Tatka questioned if the geese deterrent treatment has started and if it is safe if it gets washed into the pond. Ms. Tatka commented on cleaning up after your dogs. Ms. Tatka stated that the ground seems to have given way by the pathway that runs along Route 631 causing it to narrow and also there is a large amount of poison ivy coming up. Ms. Tatka asked if the Mildred Harden Trust Fund is still intact. Administrator McHose explained the Mildred Harden Trust Fund and its' interest. Ms. Tatka commented on volunteers for the concession stand. Mayor Giordano commented volunteers are always appreciated. Ms. Tatka questioned if the Freeholder Board contacted the Borough yet regarding a Freeholder meeting being held here at Franklin Borough. Mayor Giordano commented the Freeholder Board has requested to hold one of their meetings here at Borough Hall sometime in September.

Mike Gunderman, 22 Jenkins Road, Franklin, stepped forward. Mr. Gunderman commented on pot holes on Maple Road and Corkhill Road. Mr. Gunderman stated Edsall Road at the hill is deteriorating. Mayor Giordano requested Administrator McHose to contact John Rome to address the situation.

Tamara Contreras, Rutherford Avenue, Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Contreras commented on the dangerous traffic conditions on Rutherford Avenue that runs behind Starbucks. Ms. Contreras informed the council she is the community organizer for the Forward Franklin Alliance. Ms. Contreras encouraged the council to come to one of the Forward Franklin Alliance meetings that are held monthly to see what they're all about. Ms. Contreras stated there will be a Wellness Expo on May 20, 2018 at the Franklin Borough Elementary School, all residents are welcome.

Emily Bazelewich, 1 Mill Street, Franklin, stepped forward. Ms. Bazelewich commented on the picnic benches at the pond. Ms. Bazelewich asked about having a meet and greet with the Franklin Police Department personnel. Administrator McHose commented on possible locations to hold a meet and greet.

Dawn Rowe, 140 Munsonhurst Road, Franklin, stepped forward. Ms. Rowe complimented the cleaning of Munsonhurst Road, Franklin.

Joe Wyse, 104 Main Street, Franklin stepped forward. Mr. Wyse commented on the clothing bins location list he forwarded to the Administrator and the Zoning Officer.

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 Ms. Fantasia. 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. 2018-2019 Municipal Percentage Shares for Tax Levies for Regional School Districts and Districts merged pursuant to P.L.2009, c. 78.

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2. Letter dated April 17, 2018 from Laine Rankin of the Division of Local Aid and Economic Development to Mayor Giordano regarding the 2018 Municipal Aid Program application for Mitchell Avenue resurfacing project.
3. Borough of Hamburg Resolution #2018-39 State Highway 23 and Gingerbread Castle Road Improvement.
4. Memo dated May 2, 2018 from Darlene J. Tremont to the Mayor and Council regarding clothing bins.
5. Letter dated April 26, 2018 from Melissa Rockwell to John Ficara, Acting Director Division of Taxation, regarding a resolution passed by the Commissioners of the Board of Taxation establishing the percentage of 100% as the ratio of assessed value of true value of real property within Sussex County.
6. Report of Bathing Water Analysis dated May 2, 2018 to Alison McHose from Garden State Laboratories, Inc.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Zoning Officer Monthly Report - April 2018.
2. Municipal Court Report – March 2018.
3. Construction permit activity report for April, 2018.
4. COH report for April, 2018.
5. Construction report for April, 2018.

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

None

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of May 8, 2018.

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of May 8, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fantasia, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Crabb

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Snyder commented on the signage for Main Street. Administrator McHose stated the borough will need to update the signage ordinance prior to placing some of the parking signs.

Ms. Fantasia commented on a presentation for members of Dream Xtreme Dance Studio she had tried to schedule for tonight that will now take place on May 22, 2018.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for April 24, 2018. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Postas

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fantasia, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Crabb

Resolution 2018-45

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt resolution 2018-45 requesting approval of items of revenue and appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87. The sum of \$5,280.00, is appropriated under the caption Distracted Driver Grant. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fantasia, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Crabb

Resolution 2018-46

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Mr. Postas made a motion to adopt resolution 2018-46 Authorization to provide for street sweeping rental from W.E. Timmerman Equipment Co. in the amount of \$5,600.00. (contract included in council packets) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Mr. Postas commented on the operation of the street sweeper. Ms. Fantasia commented on the cost comparisons of renting and doing the street sweeping ourselves instead of hiring a company. Mr. Snyder commented on various options for the future, shared services, continue renting or purchasing a street sweeper.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Crabb, Fantasia, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions:

DPW Laborer Salary Step Increase

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the DPW Laborer salary step increase for Jesse Bogart to Grade 3, \$19.92/hr., per the DPW contract, effective February 1, 2018, as recommended by Brian VanDenBroek, DPW Director, Alison McHose, Administrator and the Personnel Committee. Seconded by Ms. Fantasia.

Ms. Fantasia complimented Mr. VanDenBroek on the details provided in his letter of recommendation.

Mr. Postas questioned the recommendation for the increase being retro-active back to February 1, 2018. Administrator McHose commented on when the letter of recommendation was received and coordinating the meeting with the personnel committee.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fantasia, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Crabb

Discussion on Walkkill Valley First Aid Squad Request

At this time there was a discussion on a request from the Walkkill Valley First Aid Squad for a new or used vehicle.

Mayor Giordano commented on the condition of the vehicle, (Dodge Durango) used by the WVFAS. Mayor Giordano requested the Council's approval to transfer a vehicle from the Franklin Police department to the WVFAS. Mayor Giordano invited the captain of the WVFAS to come forward.

Jennifer Henry, WVFAS 1st Lieutenant stepped forward. Ms. Henry commented the Durango is used for first responding and traveling for continuing education classes of members however, it is no longer reliable to be used for any distances. Ms. Henry stated most of the current equipment on the vehicle can be transferred to any other vehicle, which would be cost saving.

Mr. Crabb commented on whether or not the police department will need the vehicle anymore. Mayor Giordano commented on other transferable vehicles within various departments of the Borough. Ms. Fantasia suggested contacting the police department and revisit this item at the next council meeting, the council agreed.

Mr. Snyder commented on a DPW retirement and filling that position.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Ms. Fantasia made a motion to adjourn into closed executive session to discuss Personnel matters. (FOP contract) Motion seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

After meeting in closed session, the Governing Body returned to their seats at 9:00p.m. and Mayor Giordano declared the meeting to be reconvened into open public session.

Ms. Fantasia made a motion to return from executive session. Seconded by Mr. Limon. All were in favor.

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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. Dick Durina, 23 Lozaw Road, Franklin, stepped forward. Mr. Durina commented on open government. Mr. Durina read the minutes from May 23, 2017. Mr. Durina questioned the advertising for various open positions in Franklin Borough. Mr. McBriar commented that additional facts for the advertising that is done in Franklin Borough will need to be researched before being able to respond. A discussion on advertising for employment opportunities in Franklin Borough continued. Mr. Durina commented on the enforcement of the Franklin Borough's vehicle use policy.

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 Ms. Fantasia. All were in favor.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Ms. Fantasia complimented the Franklin Recreation Commission for all they are doing, the children and residents are very excited to be spending time at the pond again.

Mayor Giordano thanked all the candidates who sent in their names for consideration for the vacant council seat. Mayor Giordano especially thanked Mr. Crabb for accepting the nomination to fill the vacant council seat. Mayor Giordano stated Franklin Borough is fortunate to have a former Freeholder Director, who is also our town historian sit on the council, you are going to be a big asset for Franklin Borough for the time you are here, it is much appreciated.

Mr. Crabb stated it is an honor to be here.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Limon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10p.m. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Nicholas Giordano, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Acting Municipal Clerk