

**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
OCTOBER 8, 2019**

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: Mr. Postas, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Soules, Mr. Zydon and Mayor Giordano.

Absent: Mr. Limon

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 4, 2019, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

Mayor Giordano commented he is changing the order of the agenda, moving the presentation until after the committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Zydon had nothing to report.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mr. Soules had nothing to report.

Mr. Snyder reported the window at the Hungarian Church has been fixed, the fitness stations have begun to be installed.

Mr. Skellenger asked where the placement of the new ADA playground equipment will be.

Mr. Snyder replied on the north end of the playground.

Mr. Postas reported the Personnel Committee met this evening and have asked the Administrator to put three ads in the paper for CFO, P/T custodian for Borough Hall and Police Station and P/T DPW laborer.

Mayor Giordano asked if a shared service with the school for the custodian position might be an option.

Mr. Postas commented the pay scale may be not be comparable.

Administrator McHose reported the Borough has been awarded a grant from the Forward Franklin Alliance for the flooring under the ADA equipment, approval of the Council to accept the grant will be needed and thanked the Forward Franklin Alliance. Administrator McHose commented she is in the process of ordering benches and garbage cans to make things more uniform at the pond area. Some of the Forward Franklin Alliance banners have been installed concentrating on the parade route, additional banners will continue to be placed around town.

Mr. Snyder made a motion to accept the Forward Franklin Alliance grant. Seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Giordano congratulated Ogdensburg Fire Department on placing "Best Over All" at the 99th County Fire Parade, it was well attended and everything was great, watching the competitions always reminds him of the community he grew up in. The Franklin Police had "Walk to School Today" which was also well attended and thanked the Police Department for doing it. We (the Borough) are doing a lot of community-oriented events in town, there is much to enjoy, Franklin is a good place.

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OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

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

Dick Durina, 23 Lozaw Road, Franklin stepped forward. Mr. Durina commented on the Mayor leaving Franklin Borough. Mr. Durina asked if he could ask the attorney a few questions on the settlement agreement between Silk City Rentals and Franklin Borough. Mr. Durina asked what is a Whispering Woods hearing.

Mr. Ursin explained it is a hearing that is done when a land use matter has gone to Superior Court and is coming back down, it is a summary hearing with testimony before the Land Use Board regarding any changes that was previously presented to the Land Use Board and what is proposed now. The hearing provides public participation and information about how the project has changed.

Mr. Durina confirmed the hearing will be open to the public. Mr. Durina continued questioning other items in the settlement agreement, the Open Public Meetings Act, Sunshine Law and the Right to Know Law, testimony of sufficient water allocation for this (Silk City Rentals) project, petitioning the Highland's Council and the sewer service area (SSA).

Mr. Ursin explained the Highland's Council petition process, the sewer service area process and the limited role the Borough has with respect to the sewer service area.

Bobbi Formica, 157 Maple Road, Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Formica commented on how upset she was and still is with events that unfolded at the County Fireman's Parade.

Joanne Tatka, 151 Maple Road, Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Tatka commented on the insurance coverage for family members when in Borough vehicles as she requested at the last Mayor and Council meeting.

Mr. Ursin commented the Borough's risk manager informed him that any vehicle used by an employee should conform to the rules set for that employee, if there is a pattern of unauthorized usage it could be a problem for insurance and gave hypothetical examples.

Mr. Zydon suggested to Ms. Tatka if she has specific knowledge of an incident, she should report it to the Borough so that disciplinary actions can be addressed.

Ms. Tatka also commented on pot holes on Susquehanna Street. Ms. Tatka asked if the Public Works Supervisor was asked for his opinion on the water allocations for the apartment project (Silk City Rentals/JCM Investors, LLC).

Susan Gunderman, 22 Jenkins Road, Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Gunderman commented on the status of a written request she put in back in June regarding some road repairs that was needed from last winter. Ms. Gunderman also commented she agrees with Mr. Durina's concerns on the water issues for the project (Silk City Rentals/JCM Investors, LLC).

Rachel Heath, 7 Hemlock Drive, Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Heath commented on the discussion from a previous meeting regarding the responsibility of property owners who have sidewalks, and would like to bring attention of the condition of the road on Hemlock Drive. Ms. Heath provided pictures showing cracks in the street with weeds growing through them along with pictures of the sidewalks. Ms. Heath also commented on Trans-options, who started the walking to school program through Forward Franklin suggesting utilizing grants. Ms. Heath asked when is Hemlock Drive scheduled to be paved.

Mr. Snyder commented Hemlock Drive was discussed many years ago, and is scheduled for paving in 2022 according to the 10-year plan schedule.

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A discussion continued on right of ways and who's responsibility it is to repair and maintain the sidewalks with the exception of the removal of snow.

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

Mr. Ursin commented the ordinance will need to be reviewed, it is very clear regarding snow and ice removal but doesn't comment on maintenance; it may be a property line issue.

PRESENTATIONS

Patti Carnes, EDC Vice Chair and Dawne Rowe, EDC Member stepped forward. Ms. Carnes commented because the September meeting was cancelled, we would like to present the September Business of the Month tonight to Weis Markets. They participate in many community activities such as; Cram the Cruiser, Stuff the Bus and allowing various volunteer organizations to sell items outside their store.

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 August 22, 2019 from Alison Littell McHose to The Home Furniture Warehouse regarding receipt of office equipment donation.
2. Letter dated September 10, 2019, from Gary A. Baldwin, Borough of Tinton Falls Council President, to All Mayors and Governing Bodies of the State of New Jersey, Re: R-19-149 resolution to urge voters to support the referendum on the election ballot in November, so that veterans or widowed spouses of veterans who reside in continuing care retirement communities (CCRC) will be eligible for property tax deduction.
3. Borough of Tinton Fall Resolution R-19-149 resolution to urge voters to support the referendum on the election ballot in November, so that veterans or widowed spouses of veterans who reside in continuing care retirement communities (CCRC) will be eligible for property tax deduction.
4. Letter dated September 23, 2019, from F. Parker Space, Assemblyman, Steven V. Oroho, Senator, Harold J. Wirths, Assemblyman, to Darlene Tremont, Franklin Borough Clerk regarding invitation to a meeting.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Municipal Court Report for August 2019

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Letter dated October 4, 2019 from Richard Knop, Concerned Citizens for a Better Franklin, Re: Use of the Senior Center for its monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month for the calendar year of 2020.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of October 8, 2019.

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the consent agenda of October 8, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Soules.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Soules, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Giordano commented we have a contract from Tilcon New York, Inc. for the paving of Paddock Road, \$15,991.45, Newton Street, \$13,552.20 and Susquehanna Street, \$33,798.75.

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Mr. Ursin explained the funds for this project was previously budgeted, it is through a co-op contract, the Council is approving the expenditure. This item was not on the agenda tonight and delaying the approval, with cold weather coming, could cause a delay in completing the project. If the Council so chooses, they can make a motion to both add this to the agenda and approve the expenditure.

Mayor Giordano stated this appropriation was already approved by Council with ordinance 10-2018.

Mr. Zydon made a motion to add the Tilcon New York, Inc. to the agenda and approve the contract in the amount as stated by Mayor Giordano, pursuant to co-op pricing. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Postas, Skellenger, Soules, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: Snyder

Mayor Giordano commented the DPW has done a lot of work on Newton Street involving re-grading and drainage, saving the Borough much money.

Mr. Snyder asked for an update on the NJDOT Route 23 requests.

Administrator McHose commented there are no updates to report at this time.

Mr. Skellenger requested an update on the installation of lights on Main Street.

Administrator McHose commented she will contact Tom Knutelsky, he still needs to bring the light meter to evaluate the placement of the lights.

Mayor Giordano commented if this can't be done in the next week can we request our other engineer come out to do it.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion if Harold Pellow & Associates can't complete the light placement evaluation this week to request it be done by Michael Vreeland's Engineering Firm. Seconded by Mr. Zydon. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Soules made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for September 30, 2019. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Zydon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Soules, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

Resolution #2019-85

Mr. Soules made a motion to adopt resolution 2019-85 change of procedure for claimant certification. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Soules, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

Discussion on vehicle re-auction

At this time there was a discussion on whether to re-auction or salvage the vehicles that did not sell on Municibid.com.

Mr. Zydon commented he looked over the list and recommends scrapping some vehicles.

Mr. Soules requested donating some of the vehicles to the Fire Department for their use in training.

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Mr. Zydon made a motion to donate the 2001 PT Cruiser and the 2002 Ford F-250 to the Fire Department for training purposes and then have them scrapped. Seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

Discussion of CFO position

Mayor Giordano commented Monica Miebach, CFO has resigned and is leaving at the end of the month leaving the position open. Mr. Postas commented at the beginning of the meeting the Personnel Committee has authorized putting ads in the paper for the position.

Mr. Zydon commented to have the Personnel Committee do the interview process as we have always done in the past.

Mr. Postas commented we have defined guidelines that we are looking for in regards to the actual job duties, we will also look into possible shared services, though we do want someone in the building at all times, we want to do what is going to work out the best financially for the town.

Mr. Zydon is concerned about having a CFO shared service because the attention of the position is spread throughout other municipalities and not able to be concentrating on our needs.

Mayor Giordano commented we will process the placement of ads tomorrow.

Discussion on grant application submission to Forward Franklin Alliance

Administrator McHose explained an opportunity to apply for additional funding through a grant from Forward Franklin Alliance for repairs to the Hungarian Church roof. Administrator McHose requested approval of the Council to move forward with submitting the grant application. The cost involved would be for labor and purchasing plywood, we already have the shingles.

Mr. Snyder commented are we (the Borough) trying to keep the historical integrity of the church, we don't want to jeopardize that if we are still interested in preserving that.

Mr. Postas commented he was under the impression that the shingles were purchased with the historical preservation in mind so that shouldn't be an issue.

Administrator McHose stated the Littell Center/Old Armory Building did not sell at auction and requested to have a discussion on the next agenda to discuss moving forward with whether or not to continue our lease, our current lease ends on December 31, 2019. We should keep the Hungarian Church in mind for other possible uses of the space for activities.

A discussion continued on opportunities utilizing the Hungarian Church.

Mr. Postas made a motion to authorize Alison McHose to submit a grant application to the Forward Franklin Alliance for repairs to the roof of the Hungarian Church. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION II

Mr. Zydon 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.

Tamara Contreras, 121 South Rutherford Avenue, Forward Franklin Alliance representative, Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Contreras informed everyone FFA approved two mini grants, one for resurfacing of the medivac pad at the Fireman's Pavilion field and the Historical Society received a website and walking audio tour app for Franklin Borough. Anyone can put in an application; funding is still available. Ms. Contreras commented the "Walking to School Bus" was a great example of community coming together.

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Administrator McHose stated there will be some paving work being done on South Rutherford Ave.

Joanne Tatka, 151 Maple Road, Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Tatka commented she is happy to hear the Borough is addressing the Hungarian Church, it will help with the revitalization of Main Street. Ms. Tatka asked what was the out come of the 5K run and the carnival.

Mr. Postas commented the 5K event had 103 participants.

Administrator McHose commented the carnival did well but no final numbers have been received yet. We (Recreation Committee) are discussing with the carnival vendor for possible dates for next year.

Shane Hrbek, 343 Rutherford Avenue, Franklin stepped forward. Mr. Hrbek requested clarification for the location of the ADA playground equipment. Mr. Hrbek commented Trans-options had unused money left over last year and the Borough might want to look into that for future needs. Mr. Hrbek also commented on the need to move quickly if we are going to put in an application to the Forward Franklin Alliance, it's first come first serve.

Patti Carnes, 289 Rutherford Avenue, Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Carnes commented on her concerns with the length of time it has taken to get the lights put up on Main Street. Ms. Carnes also commented to have the LED lights installed without worrying about brightness and adjustments can be made later if needed.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to have JCP&L install the standard LED lights on Main Street. Seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

Emily Bazelewich, 1 Mill Street, Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Bazelewich commented on the difficulty in hearing the Council members in the back of the room. Ms. Bazelewich suggested donating the old vehicles to the Vo-Tech.

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

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Skellenger commented on the difficulties getting volunteers in our town and the importance of treating those volunteers properly.

Mayor Giordano commented he appreciates all our volunteers and the work they do and agrees with Mr. Skellenger. Everyone needs to be treated properly.

Mr. Zydon commented on apologies being made by all.

Dawne Rowe, 140 Munsonhurst Road, Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Rowe commented on volunteers, customer service issues and defusing situations whether right or wrong by talking it out or apologizing.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15p.m., seconded by Mr. Soules. All were in favor.

Nicholas Giordano, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk