

**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 13, 2020**

This meeting is being held in person adhering to the CDC guidelines and through a virtual meeting platform called ZOOM. The public who attended through ZOOM has been notified and instructed on how to join the meeting and participate during the public session.

Mayor Sowden 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. Formica, Mr. Limon (via Zoom), Mr. Postas, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder (via Zoom), Mr. Zydon and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: None

Mayor Sowden led the assembly in the flag salute.

Mayor Sowden 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, 2020, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations this evening.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Limon had nothing to report.

Mr. Skellenger thanked the Recreation Committee for the Senior Tea that was held on Sunday it went very well and congratulations to the 2020 Senior of the Year, Emily Bazelewich.

Mr. Postas had nothing to report.

Mr. Snyder had nothing to report.

Mr. Formica reported Recreation looked at a few new pieces of equipment for the playground. We have a proposal to be reviewed and if no changes are made, we will go out for additional pricing. Once final pricing is decided we will move forward.

Mr. Zydon reported there was an Ordinance Committee meeting and we discussed the engine braking issue. The Franklin Police Department Traffic Control Officer was in attendance who reviewed the concerns and discussed them with the Chief. At this time, we will not move forward with any prohibition of engine braking due to safety aspects associated with it. We will follow our current noise ordinance if any complaints are made.

Administrator Bonanno reported she has been working with our water engineer (Mike Vreeland) preparing to go out for competitive contracting for the well rehabilitation. We will evaluate the proposals we receive and if deemed appropriate within the expected costs, we will move forward and bring the proposal to the Council for approval.

Clerk Tremont had nothing to report.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden reported there are 51 positive Covid cases in the Borough of Franklin, it has been that way for approximately the past two weeks so far. We seem to be somewhat stable at the moment. Mayor Sowden also reported there was a fire at the old change house last Sunday night. The Franklin Fire Department

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 13, 2020

was dispatched and put the fire out. It doesn't look as if any severe damage was done, mostly soot that is on the ceiling. There was a vehicle that was lost in the fire and the police department is investigating. Mayor Sowden commented there was a function, Sussex County Arts and Heritage Day and Mrs. Williams will report on that during the open public session.

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. Postas. All were in favor.

Judy Williams, Franklin Historical Society stepped forward. Mrs. Williams reported the Franklin Historical Society participated along with Ogdensburg and Sparta in the Arts and Heritage Council Weekend event on October 10, 2020. There were about 10 members and all Covid compliances were followed. It was a great day. We had a tent set up, people came to visit and we did tours. Many were new residents that have been here for 10 years or less. When asked why they came to Franklin Borough, some responded the community, community spirit, the history and the significance of it and lastly the taxes. They also showed interest asking many questions about our schools, housing, when things were built and even why we are called the Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World. It was a very positive day. Mrs. Williams commented on Sunday's Senior Tea naming Emily Bazelewich our 2020 Senior of the Year. She is an outstanding person and deserves it. Mrs. Williams stated this has been a difficult year for all of us and we must dust ourselves off and felt energized by the people she met at the Arts and Heritage Council Weekend. Mrs. Williams encouraged all of our committees, groups and towns to think in a new fashion, positive planning for 2021 and enhance what we have here. Mrs. Williams also reported she was contacted by the Franklin Fire Department regarding the fire at the change house area. She went down there; glad it wasn't the museum; the fire department did their job and everyone was ok.

Luke DeRenzo, 9 Ginter St., Franklin stepped forward. Mr. DeRenzo commented he is here tonight as a requirement of an assignment for his AP US History class. Mr. DeRenzo explained he is required to go to a public meeting every marking period and prepare a report giving a summary on what transpired at the meeting and his reaction to it.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Sowden 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. Township of Frelinghuysen Resolution opposing reallocation from the state recycling fund.
2. Email to Mayor Sowden and Borough Clerk, Darlene Tremont from Franklin Borough Zoning Officer, re: Historical Society Scarecrow contest sign fee.
3. Sparta Township Ordinance amending Chapter XVIII, the comprehensive land management ordinances of the Township of Sparta, to include within Section 18-4.5h a new subsection prohibiting marijuana within all zones.
4. Township of Hardyston Resolution opposing the reallocation from the state recycling fund.
5. Vernon Township resolution requesting that the County of Sussex provide a separate taxation to municipalities that utilize Sussex County Dispatch Services.
6. Borough of Beach Haven Resolution supporting high speed internet accessibility.
7. Hampton Township Resolution opposing reallocation from the state recycling fund.
8. Certification of the table of equalized valuations for Sussex County.
9. Hampton Township Resolution urging Governor Murphy to reopen business in New Jersey in the immediate future.

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 13, 2020

10. Byram Township Resolution urging Governor Murphy to reopen businesses in Byram Township and Sussex County, New Jersey in the immediate future.
11. Hamburg Borough Resolution opposing reallocation from the state recycling fund

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. County Board of Health Report – August 2020
2. Registrar Report – July through September 2020
3. Construction Permit Activity Report – September 2020
4. Permit Report – September 2020
5. COH Report – September 2020
6. Police Department Report – September 2020
7. Municipal Court Report – September 2020

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of October 13, 2020.

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the consent agenda of October 13, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for tonight's portion of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Zydon made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for September 22, 2020. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2020-75

Mr. Postas made a motion to adopt resolution 2020-75 establishing salaries for certain employees of Franklin Borough for the year 2020. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Formica

Adoption of Ordinance #11-2020

Mr. Zydon made a motion to adopt ordinance 11-2020 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING SECTION 161-32 REGARDING RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT STORAGE". (Tabled from September 22, 2020 Council meeting) Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for any comments regarding Ordinance 11-2020.

Mr. Formica made a motion to open to the public ordinance 11-2020. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Administrator Bonanno directed anyone who wished to address the Governing Body to raise their hand.

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 13, 2020

No one from the public stepped forward or raised their hand.

Mr. Postas made a motion to close to the public ordinance 11-2020. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Administrator Bonanno commented Ms. Truhan has raised her hand.

Mr. Postas made a motion to re-open to the public ordinance 11-2020. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Carol Truhan, 20 Nestor St., Franklin was granted permission to join the meeting after raising her hand. Ms. Truhan asked if any changes were made to ordinance 11-2020 when tabled.

Mr. Zydon commented ordinance 11-2020 was tabled on a formality because it had to go back to the Planning Board for review.

Mr. Ursin commented the Planning Board had to be afforded 35 days to review [the ordinance] because it is part of a zoning ordinance. Mr. Ursin confirmed there were no changes since it was introduced.

Mr. Postas made a motion to close to the public ordinance 11-2020. Seconded by Mr. Zydon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance #13-2020

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt ordinance 13-2020 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY REPLACING SECTIONS 270-2, 270-4, 270-12 REGARDING WATER". Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for any comments regarding Ordinance 13-2020.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open to the public ordinance 13-2020. Seconded by Mr. Formica. All were in favor.

Administrator Bonanno directed anyone who wished to address the Governing Body to raise their hand.

No one from the public stepped forward or raised their hand.

Mr. Postas made a motion to close to the public ordinance 13-2020. Seconded by Mr. Zydon. All were in favor

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session for this meeting.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION II

Mr. Postas 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.

Administrator Bonanno directed anyone who wished to address the Governing Body to raise their hand.

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 13, 2020

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

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Postas commented there is a lot of people coming to this town and we need to progress with this town. We have such a great opportunity with people coming in and love this town and its' history. We need to provide them the services to keep them here not just for a few years but for the long term. Mr. Formica has had many great ideas for the pond area. Many people would like to be back at the pond area. There are other areas too in town where we can have a new recreation center that could potentially create more things on Main Street if that's where we decide to put it. We (Franklin Borough) have the opportunity to be the recreation catalyst for the whole Wallkill Valley District. It's important to start now, take the steps to progress forward before somebody else does or we will lose out again.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Zydon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30p.m., seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk