

**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 27, 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 (via ZOOM), 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 scheduled for this evening.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Limon commented that he read the email about Paddock Road and was over there and it looked very good.

Mr. Postas had nothing to report.

Mr. Formica commented that the Finance committee met last night and discussed a couple options.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mr. Zydon had nothing to report.

Administrator Bonanno commented that there is a rabies clinic on November 7th from 1pm-3pm at the Borough Garage on Corkhill Road. Atlantic Health is sponsoring a flu clinic on Thursday November 5th from 4pm-6pm at the Senior Center which is below the Police Department.

Clerk Tremont had nothing to report.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mr. Snyder commented if a personnel meeting was needed.

Ms. Bonanno commented that she will be contacting Mr. Snyder to discuss a meeting date.

Mayor Sowden commented that we have saved some substantial money on all of the three streets [Paddock Road, Newton Street, Susquehanna] that were paved. Mayor Sowden wanted to get a general consensus of the Council regarding the Oak Street Cemetery by the Synagogue in Franklin. It is one of the oldest known cemeteries in Franklin. It used to be maintained by the Sheriffs Department but he was wondering if the DPW would have time to clean up the cemetery. Mr. Postas commented he did not have a problem with it as long as Brian has the time. Mr. Postas commented as long we don't run into a liability issue if someone gets hurt there.

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OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

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

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

There being no one 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. Fredon Township resolution supporting high speed internet accessibility.
2. Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority FY2021 proposed rate schedule effective December 1, 2020.
3. Letter dated October 19, 2020 to Deborah Bonanno, CMFO, QPA, Borough Administrator from Robert L. Dann Executive Vice President & COO, Max Spann re: Government Surplus Real Estate Auction, Franklin Borough, September 16, 2020.
4. Stillwater Township resolution 2020-137 establishing standard protocols for remote public meetings held by a local public body during a governor-declared emergency.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. County Board of Health Report – September 2020

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution #2020-78
Approval to adopt resolution 2020-78 authorizing the tax collector to release a tax lien and that the Mayor and Clerk endorse the original certificate for the property located at 171 Maple Road, also known as Block 2101, Lot 5.
2. Resolution #2020-79
Approval to adopt resolution 2020-79 authorizing the tax collector to release a tax lien and that the Mayor and Clerk endorse the original certificate for the property located at 260 Wildcat Road, also known as Block 2101, Lot 3.01, QFARM.
3. Resolution #2020-80
Approval to adopt resolution 2020-80 authorizing the tax collector to release a tax lien and that the Mayor and Clerk endorse the original certificate for the property located at 271 Wildcat Road, also known as Block 2102, Lot 10, QFARM.
4. Payment of bills for the meeting of October 27, 2020.

Mr. Zydon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of October 27, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Limon commented that he has been working on getting a light installed at 67-69 Corkhill Road for a while with no results and asked if someone could get in contact with Jackie Espinoza (JCP&L) to get that done.

Mr. Postas commented that he has sent a couple different emails to Jackie Espinoza in regards to the same thing as well as asking to continue with the LED upgrade and

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has not heard back. Mr. Postas asked Administrator Bonanno to reach out to Jackie Espinoza in regards to these issues.

Mr. Snyder asked for clarification of the recertification [police department]. Mr. Snyder commented about the signage for no parking on Main Street by the Hungarian Church. Mr. Zydon commented that he contacted the DPW Supervisor about that because the ordinance was passed for parking. Mr. Zydon will follow up with the DPW Supervisor to see if the signs were ordered.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for October 13, 2020. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Snyder.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mayoral Appointment

Mayor Sowden made the following appointments:

Board of Health Members – Effective immediately

Robin Bruscano Unexpired term Term expires: 12/31/2020

Marianne Dunnican Unexpired term Term expires: 12/31/2022

Resolution #2020-76

Mr. Zydon made a motion to adopt resolution 2020-76, seconded by Mr. Formica, authorizing cancellation of taxes on property foreclosed in rem for the remainder of 2020 as follows:

- 359 Scott Rd, Block 102 Lot 2 in the amount of \$6,232.50
- 25-A Susquehanna St, Block 501 Lot 5 in the amount of \$1,805.35
- 19 Sterling St, Block 601 Lot 1 in the amount of \$2,395.36
- 429 Rt 23, Block 606 Lot 29 in the amount of \$2,613.49
- Newton St Rear, Block 802 Lot 6 in the amount of \$151.66
- 25 Susquehanna St, Block 803 Lot 4 in the amount of \$1,585.13
- Cork Hill Rd Rear, Block 2602 Lot 5 in the amount of \$702.19

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2020-77

Mr. Postas made a motion to adopt resolution 2020-77 approving Franklin Borough to apply for a Local Government Emergency Fund Grant through an allocation of the State of New Jersey’s CARES act Coronavirus Relief Fund. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance #12-2020

Mr. Postas made a motion to table the adoption of ordinance 12-2020, until the November 10, 2020 meeting, entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING SECTION 161-24 REGARDING FENCES”. Seconded by Mr. Zydon.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance 14-2020

Mr. Formica made a motion to introduce ordinance 14-2020 entitled “ORDINANCE PARTIALLY VACATING NESTOR STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY IN THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY”. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

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Public Hearing will be held on November 10, 2020.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discussion on Halloween Trick or Treating

At this time there was a discussion on Halloween Trick or Treating.

Mr. Zydon commented he doesn't know what there needs to be a discussion about. Let the parents be the ones to make the decision not us.

The Council unanimously agreed.

ADDENDUM

Discussion of Pandemic Related Outdoor Seating Authorization for Restaurants

At this time there was a discussion of pandemic related outdoor seating authorization for restaurants.

Mr. Ursin commented that back on June 9, 2020 the council entertained a discussion and gave authorization for relaxation of the restaurants site plans to allow for outdoor dining. There were guidelines discussed and you entrusted your zoning officer to review the situations with some flexibility given the pandemic and situation with the restaurants. This came up because we are seeing some other towns reviewing that situation and extending it. Mr. Ursin suggests to the council that we take the relaxation and authorization that you passed on June 9, 2020 and extend it for another 30 days.

After some further discussions, Mr. Postas made a motion to extend the relaxation and authorization for outdoor dining for an additional 30 days. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

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.

There being no one 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.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Formica reminded everyone that election day is coming up soon and to vote.

Mr. Zydon commented that he received an email regarding the government wanting to outlaw the sale of brand-new internal combustion cars in New Jersey come 2035.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Zydon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53p.m., seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk