

**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
DECEMBER 15, 2020**

This meeting is being held through a virtual meeting platform called ZOOM. The public has been notified and instructed on how to join the meeting and participate during the public session.

Councilman Snyder used a phone-in link from the website.

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. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Zydor and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: Mr. Limon and Mr. Postas,

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. Skellenger reported the registration for the house decorating contest has ended, the judging will start on December 17, 2020.

Mr. Zydor had nothing to report.

Mr. Formica had nothing to report.

Mr. Snyder had nothing to report.

Ms. Bonanno had nothing to report.

Clerk Tremont had nothing to report.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden reported on November 30, 2020 our Municipal Court office was inspected by the Municipal Division Manager. The Borough received a letter stating the Municipal Court is well-organized and efficiently managed, commending Lori Spirito, Court Administrator for her cross-training effort of Lauren Mitchener, Deputy. Mayor Sowden commented our court system is working well and thanked Lori Spirito and Lauren Mitchener for handling everything great especially under these extreme times. Mayor Sowden also commented we are at beginning steps to certification for the eligibility of a Historic District. It is amazing that Franklin Borough has the capability of the period of significance that dates back from 1765-1954. Under the NJ National Register criteria, we fit the A, B, C and D of historic significance. Dr. Bill Truhan along with others in his committees such as Phil Crabb, Judy Williams has been working on this for quite a few years. There are some additional procedural items that will need to be done and once those are completed, we will be submitting that to the Planning Board and Council so everyone is aware of what we are trying to do. This could be a boom for Franklin Borough in a lot of different ways. Mayor Sowden stated he is working with the County on the Rails to Trails program and also helping the NJDEP on their purchase of the final piece of rail line located behind the Immaculate Church to help them develop the plan.

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Mr. Formica asked how this [Historic Designation] will impact building and construction in town.

Mayor Sowden commented we will be working with the State and the Planning Board so it doesn't affect new building or construction. We just want to preserve the historic buildings we have.

Mr. Snyder questioned if Franklin Borough had already received Historic Designation previously.

Mayor Sowden commented we never got that far. Mayor Sowden also commented he is very excited and happy. We have a very good dedicated group of people working with Bill Truhan to continue to move forward with this all. The Planning Board will be key to where we go with everything.

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. Letter dated December 1, 2020 from the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority in regard to the FY2021 rate schedule effective December 1, 2020.
2. Township of Long Hill resolution 20-313 Demanding that the New Jersey State Legislature accept its responsibility to administer the provisions of the Affordable Housing Act and stay further action until such times as it has promulgated rules governing its implementation.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Board of Health Report – October 2020
2. Construction Permit Activity Report – November 2020
3. Construction Report – November 2020
4. COH Report – November 2020

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution #2020-87
Approval to adopt resolution 2020-87 requesting approval of items of revenue and appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, 2020 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over – Year End Holiday Crackdown Grant in the amount of \$6,000.00.
2. Resolution #2020-88
Approval to adopt resolution 2020-88 authorizing the Borough Clerk to renew the following liquor license for the 2020-2021 licensing term.
Plenary Retail Consumption
1906-33-004-006 Sullivan's Gas Light Inn Pocket License
(This license obtained the required special ruling from the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control which is provided in the Council packets.)
3. Resolution #2020-94
Approval to adopt resolution 2020-94 clarifying the appointment of Deborah Bonanno
4. Payment of bills for the meeting of December 15, 2020.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the consent agenda of December 15, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon, Postas, Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Meeting Minutes

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Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for November 24, 2020. (Absent: Zydon) Seconded by Mr. Snyder.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon, Postas, Abstentions: Zydon

Special Event permit

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve an application for a special event permit from Elaine Tizzano and Mary Burns, for their seventh annual walk in conjunction with the Center for Prevention and Counseling to be held on August 7, 2021, to bring awareness and treatment for substance use disorder. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon, Postas, Abstentions: None

Approval of NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the application for membership of Patrick B. Clark, 31 Skyview Dr., Franklin to the Franklin Fire Department upon endorsement by Khyle Conklin, Franklin Fire Department Chief. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Skellenger, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon, Postas, Abstentions: Snyder

Resolution #2020-89

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt resolution 2020-89 of the Governing Body of the Borough of Franklin seeking to accept and ratify a settlement agreement. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Skellenger, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon, Postas, Abstentions: Snyder

Resolution #2020-90

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt resolution 2020-90 2020 budget transfer in the amount of \$55,800. Seconded by Mr. Zydon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon, Postas, Abstentions: None

Resolution #2020-91

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt resolution 2020-91 to authorize the Administrator to hire Frederick Babcock as temporary custodian at the rate of \$15/hour not to exceed 20 hours per week. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon, Postas, Abstentions: None

Resolution #2020-92

Mr. Zydon made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-92 appointing Wayne Dietz, Skylands Risk Management, Inc. Franklin Borough's Risk Management Consultant and the Franklin Administrator, Deborah Bonanno, as the authorized representative of the public entity is hereby authorized to execute the Risk Management Consultant's Agreement for the year 2021. Seconded by Mr. Snyder

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon, Postas, Abstentions: None

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Risk Management Consultant's Agreement

Mr. Zydon made a motion to approve the 2021 Fund Year Statewide Insurance Fund Risk Management Consultant's Agreement. Seconded by Mr. Snyder.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon, Postas, Abstentions: None

Resolution #2020-93

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt resolution 2020-93 appointing Deborah Bonanno, as Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit calendar year 2021 and Darlene Tremont, as Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit calendar year 2021. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon, Postas, Abstentions: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session for this meeting.

ADDENDUM

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #2020-95

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt resolution 2020-95 to authorize the administrator to hire Joseph Talian as Part Time DPW Laborer at the rate of \$16 per hour not to exceed 25 hours effective December 15, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon, Postas, Abstentions: None

Approval for Liquor License COVID-19 Expansion of Premises Permits

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the following COVID-19 Expansion of Premises Permit application for the following Liquor License. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Franklin Grill & Tavern (Brick & Brew) LL#-1906-33-010-008 27 Route 23

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon, Postas, Abstentions: None

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. 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. Zydon made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Zydon commented on Milton Friedman, Economist who speaks about "4 different ways to spend money". Explaining each item.

- 1) Spend on yourself.
- 2) Spend on someone else.
- 3) Spend someone else's money on yourself.
- 4) Spend someone else's money on someone else.

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“In this environment where we are accustomed to spending other people’s money on someone else, we end up not maximizing the value of the dollar and we don’t end up appreciating money as much either.”

Mr. Zydon stated going forward we [Council] should take this into consideration when working on our budget.

Mayor Sowden wished everyone Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas and a much better New Year in 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

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

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk