

**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  
JANUARY 26, 2021**

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.

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

Absent: 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 6, 2021, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

Mayor Sowden requested a moment of silence in memory of Fred Space, our thoughts and prayers are with the Space family.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Thomas Edward Jones, Historic Preservation Planning, Historic Restoration & Rehabilitation and Urban Conservation was invited to speak. Mr. Jones commented he worked back in 2003 on the document that determined the eligibility for the Borough of Franklin to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places which has been recently re-opened by the State Historic Preservation Office. Mr. Jones also commented he is very familiar with the history of Franklin because of the superb documentation kept through the NJ Zinc Company at Rutgers University. The Borough of Franklin meets all the criteria for being listed on the National Register which is unusual, it has only happened 4 times throughout his professional career. Mr. Jones spoke of costs and options to offset some of those costs such as matching funds, capital funds through the NJ Historic Trust. Capital funds could be used to help finish or partially finish the restoration of the School House/Church into a public facility which can be done in phases. The Change House behind the Historical Society could utilize many sources of funding in the State of New Jersey that can also be looked at through the NJ Historic Trust. There are even remediation funds that can be used for industrial sites. There are various Grant sources that can be used to pay professional service fees such as architects, consultants and engineers. Due dates for the Grant cycles come up this Spring, so there is adequate time to prepare them. Mr. Jones informed the Council of his knowledge and experience with writing grant applications. He is interested to hear the thoughts of the Mayor and Council on what steps they would like to look at seriously.

Mr. Limon asked what the benefits are of being fully listed.

Mr. Jones commented it doesn't infringe on private property owners or businesses, but it does impact state and federally funded projects so that you [the Borough] can comment and participate heavily in mitigation on projects that might come up and gave some examples of those. Also, there is incentive; right now, by being listed on the National Register, if you are a commercial property owner it makes them available to a 20 percent tax credit managed directly through the State Historic Preservation Office and also with the US National Park Service in Washington.

Mr. Formica asked if work can be started on the Church.

Mr. Jones commented the grant process can take about a year. You wouldn't want to start any work until you are sure you are going to get the funds. A requirement to get the funding is the building must be listed on the National Register or in a Historic District.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Snyder had nothing to report.

## **MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 26, 2021**

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mr. Formica commented the two booths on the football field are in disrepair and need to be taken down. Mr. Formica asked if anyone had any objections with moving forward and having the DPW remove them. The Council had no objections.

Mr. Limon apologized for missing the last Mayor and Council meeting last minute. Mr. Limon commented on the water main issue that occurred on Rapole Street and is aware of the McCann Street Sewer project status.

Mr. Zydon reported there was a Public Safety meeting with the department heads of the Fire Department, Police Department and EMS asking for any concerns, ideas or requests they may have. It was very productive. Other meetings will follow from that informational meeting.

Administrator Bonanno commented on behalf of the Sussex County Economic Development Partnership she would like to present Mayor Sowden the Mayor of the Year Award. Ms. Bonanno read the award and the statement that accompanied it. Administrator Bonanno reported the Borough received the full reimbursement in the amount of \$33,242 from the State of NJ for the COVID relief that was applied for. Administrator Bonanno informed the public that the Borough will be providing free Radon test kits during the month of February related to the proclamation that is on the agenda tonight. We received a Grant through the NJDEP, those residents interested will need to call the Clerk's office to make an appointment to pick them up along with leaving some general information.

Mayor Sowden commented he is thankful for the award but can't accept it alone. This is not just the Mayor's award it is also the Council's award. They are a great Council that worked along-side of me working towards a good common goal. They deserve it too.

Clerk Tremont had nothing to report.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden commented he was very proud of the DPW and Brian VanDenBroek for their work and dedication while dealing with the water main break that occurred on Rapole Street. It was a very serious situation that left about a third of Franklin Borough residents including Shop Rite, Walmart and all the way down to Dunkin Donuts without water or very little water. Mr. Williams, OEM coordinator and I were there to assist if needed. It was a very cold long nasty evening and it was amazing to see everyone work together as a team. Mayor Sowden commented on Mr. Jones presentation; there much more to understand and realize as we start to develop these in Franklin. I look forward to working with Mr. Formica on the Hungarian Church because of his background in building. Mayor Sowden stated that with the help of Tom Jones and other preservation people we will succeed in bringing Main Street back to a level that hasn't been seen since maybe 1952.

### **OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

Mr. Formica 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 present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Formica 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):

## **MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 26, 2021**

1. Memo dated December 10, 2020, from Melissa Rockwell, CTA, Sussex County Board of Taxation Re: 2020 Abstract of Ratables.
2. Lafayette Township resolution 2021-15 reestablishing the date of the annual school elections to be the third Tuesday of April starting in 2021.
3. Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders resolution re: reappointment of William Joseph as the official Town Crier for the County of Sussex for 2021.

### **REPORTS** (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Construction Permit Activity Report – December 2020
2. Construction Report – December 2020
3. COH Report – December 2020
4. Municipal Court Report – December 2020
5. Board of Health Report – November 2020

### **APPLICATIONS** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

### **RESOLUTIONS** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution #2021-17  
Approval to adopt resolution 2021-17 to authorize the Tax Collector to issue an appropriate duplicate tax sale certificate #2020-007 for the premises referred to as Lot 1.03 in Block 904.
2. Payment of bills for the meeting of January 26, 2021.

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of January 26, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for January 12, 2021. (Absent: Limon) Seconded by Mr. Formica

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: Limon

#### Animal Control Officer Shared Service Agreement

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to remove from the agenda the Shared Service Agreement between Vernon Township and the Borough of Franklin for the services of Animal Control Officer. Seconded by Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

#### Proclamation

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to accept Proclamation proclaiming February as Radon Action Month. Seconded by Mr. Formica. All were in favor.

#### Mayoral Appointment

Mayor Sowden will make the following appointments:

#### School Crossing Guards for the year 2021

Marie Hughes, Marie Pallotta

Mr. Limon made a motion to accept the Mayor's Appointments. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

## **MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 26, 2021**

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

### **Introduction of Ordinance #01-2021**

Mr. Zydon made a motion to introduce Ordinance 01-2021 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY MODIFYING CHAPTER 10 CREATING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE".

Mr. Formica asked if the 7 members includes Council.

Mayor Sowden commented no it does not.

Mr. Formica asked if it was necessary that membership requires that they need to be a citizen of the United States for 5 years.

Mr. Zydon made a motion to amend the introduction of ordinance 01-2021 section 10-33 B removing the requirement for membership that they need to be a citizen of the United States for 5 years. Seconded by Mr. Formica

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

**Public Hearing will be held on February 9, 2021.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

### **OPEN PUBLIC SESSION II**

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

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

Lynn Lappert, Realtor, Augusta, NJ was granted permission to join the meeting after raising her hand. Ms. Lappert asked when the Municipal Parking Lot fees will be voted on.

Mayor Sowden commented it is still being discussed, we hope to have it on the agenda for the first meeting in February.

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

### **MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS**

Mr. Limon asked for additional clarification on the cause of the water main break on Rapole Street.

Mayor Sowden explained it was a packing nut that was leaking over the course of years that slowly disintegrated the bolt that let go.

Mr. Snyder commented he also would like to thank the DPW, Jim Williams and the Mayor for getting it done as quickly as they did. They did a great job.

### **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. Skellenger. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk