

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN
HELD VIRTUALLY ON
FEBRUARY 18, 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. Postas, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Zydon and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: None

Mayor Sowden led the assembly in the flag salute.

Mayor Sowden stated that "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. It has been properly advertised and certified by the Clerk."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Mayor Sowden informed the public the Council held a closed executive session prior to this meeting that began at 6:05PM to discuss personnel matters, it concluded at 6:51PM.

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. Zydon. 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. Skellenger. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Personnel Hiring

At this time there was a discussion on the hiring of a police officer.

Mr. Ursin clarified the reasons the Council entered into executive session and the process to proceed.

Mr. Postas made a motion to extend a conditional offer to the said candidate at the said step rate that was discussed in our executive session. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Mr. Skellenger commented he is in agreement with the Public Safety Committee's recommendation.

Mr. Formica is in favor to extend the offer to the individual as stated.

Mr. Limon thanked the Public Safety Committee for the work on this, but does not support a hire at this time. We should re-evaluate this after the pending litigation is complete.

Mr. Postas commented he is in support of this hire now that we have finalized one of the litigations.

Mr. Zydon commented he is also in support of this hire as expressed by Mr. Postas.

Mr. Snyder had technical difficulties and was dropped from the connection at 7:00PM.

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The discussion on the police hire was paused.

Mayor Sowden commented we will move forward with a discussion on the hiring of a DPW employee to replace an employee that has left. The Borough will need to place an ad to fill the position.

Mr. Skellenger commented he would approve to have the ad placed on Facebook tonight as Ms. Bonanno stated she could do.

Mr. Zydon commented he would like to offer the job to our part time employee first, then have the ad placed.

Mr. Limon commented we should place the ad, but is not sure he would support a hire at this time.

Mr. Snyder returned to the meeting at 7:05PM.

Mr. Snyder commented he supports hiring someone to replace the one we lost.

Mr. Zydon made a motion to start the process to fill the DPW position. Seconded by Mr. Snyder.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: Limon Absent: None Abstentions: None

At this time the discussion on the police officer hire continued.

Mr. Snyder commented he does not support the police hire. There are other things the Police Department can do to rectify the use of overtime besides hiring another police officer.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Postas, Skellenger, Zydon

Nays: Limon, Snyder Absent: None Abstentions: None

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. 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. Formica. All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Postas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:11p.m., seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk