

**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
MARCH 23, 2021**

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

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations this evening.

Mayor Sowden requested a moment of silence for the Davenport family and their loss.

Everyone bowed their head in a moment of silence.

Mayor Sowden commended the Franklin Fire Department, First Aid Squad and Police Department for how they handled the horrible fire in our town. It was a great team effort and we all thank you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Skellenger asked Debbie Bonanno, CFO to update the Council on the budget meeting.

Ms. Bonanno reported there was a budget meeting on Saturday evening, [March 20] we did a complete review of the revenues and expenses and where we are in the budget process. There will be another meeting on Thursday, [March 25, 2021] to go over capital projects.

Mr. Postas had nothing to report.

Mr. Snyder had nothing to report, but asked if there are any updates regarding expenditures related to the Highland's Council.

Ms. Bonanno commented she has contacted the professionals who are tracking the expenses, status of grants and what we can be reimbursed for. She will update the Council when she hears back from them.

Mr. Formica reported he spoke with Glen, from the Boy Scouts and Erin regarding the details about the process for the work to be done at the cemetery on Oak Street. They are hoping June as the target date to start the work. Mr. Formica commented on possible changes to the football field and exploring the closing of the road by the concession stand that runs along the side of the pond to the softball field.

Mr. Zydon reported he is working on scheduling a Public Safety meeting with Department Heads to go over the events of March 19, 2021.

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Administrator Bonanno had nothing to report.

Clerk Tremont had nothing to report.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mr. Limon reported he has been informed of the McCann Street progress. Mr. Limon asked if there was any update on the status of the water tower. Administrator Bonanno updated the Council on the status of the water tower and explained that the Borough engineer, Denis Keenan has been in touch with Sprint and things are progressing.

Mayor Sowden reported the McCann Street in ground work has been completed and the paving will have to wait until the asphalt plants open sometime in April.

Mayor Sowden commented the Borough is receiving funds from FEMA and invited Mr. Jim Williams OEM Coordinator to step forward to report on the FEMA reimbursements from Storm Orlena.

Mr. Jim Williams, OEM Coordinator, 279 Wildcat Road, Franklin stepped forward. Mr. Williams reported Franklin Borough has been informed we are to receive \$59,142.38 in reimbursement funds from FEMA related to Storm Orlena. Kimberly Goodlow, from FEMA who would like to schedule a meeting with himself and CFO Bonanno to go over the reimbursement numbers. We could possibly be getting a check by July or August.

Mr. Williams commented he spoke with Bill Hayden from NJDOT on what next steps need to be taken to move forward with the re-opening of Rutherford Ave.

Mayor Sowden commented he will be meeting with Bill Truhan and the Rails to Trails representatives in 2 weeks to discuss some of the railroad lines along Church Street and behind Immaculate Church area that relates to the project in Franklin.

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. Borough of Hamburg ordinance 06-2021 Stormwater Control of the Borough of Hamburg.
2. Adoption of Borough of Ogdensburg ordinance 01-2021 amending and supplementing chapter 30 of the Borough Code entitled "Land Development" to provide standards and regulations for keeping fowl.
3. Adoption of Borough of Ogdensburg ordinance 03-2021 amending and modifying chapter 30 "Land Development", section 201 "Definitions", and section 502.1 "Stormwater Management", of the Borough of Ogdensburg.
4. 2021 Preliminary Equalization Table for the County of Sussex from the County Board of Taxation

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Construction Permit Activity Report – February 2021
2. COH Report – February 2021
3. Construction Report – February 2021
4. Health Department Report – January 2021
5. Municipal Court Report – February 2021

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution #2021-22 – (Removed from the March 9, 2021 Consent Agenda)
Approval to adopt resolution 2021-22 authorizing a disable veteran exemption on 37 Buckwheat Road, Franklin, Block 1302, Lot 18.

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2. Resolution #2021-28

Approval to adopt resolution 2021-28 authorizing a disable veteran exemption on 44 Nestor Street, Franklin, Block 607, Lot 44

3. Payment of bills for the meeting of March 23, 2021.

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve the consent agenda of March 23, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

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. Skellenger made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for March 9, 2021. (Absent: Limon) Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Limon

Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt the Proclamation proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mayoral Appointment

Mayor Sowden made the following appointment:

Economic Development Committee

Tabatha Ressler Member 1-year term Term expires 12/31/2021

Mr. Zydon made a motion to confirm the Mayor's appointment. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2021-25

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt resolution 2021-25 budget transfer of appropriation reserves-current fund in the amount of \$16,650. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2021-26

Mr. Zydon made a motion to adopt resolution 2021-26 authorizing the Tax Collector to refund A. Allende, in the amount of \$1,412.92 for an overpayment of taxes. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

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Resolution #2021-27

Mr. Postas made a motion to adopt resolution 2021-27 confirming the Mayoral appointment of members to the Historical Preservation Commission. Seconded by Mr. Zydon.

Mayor Sowden read into record the members appointed to the Historical Preservation Commission listed in resolution 2021-27 as follows:

Phillip R. Crabb	Member/Chairman	4-year term	Term expires 12/31/2024
Judith Williams	Member	4-year term	Term expires 12/31/2024
Connie Cholminski	Member	3-year term	Term expires 12/31/2023
Jeffrey Garrity	Member	3-year term	Term expires 12/31/2023
Donald DeVore	Member	2-year term	Term expires 12/31/2022
Charles Postas	Member	1-year term	Term expires 12/31/2021
John Postas	Council Liaison	1-year term	Term expires 12/31/2021

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Formica, Postas

Adoption of Ordinance #04-2021

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt ordinance 04-2021 entitled "BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY CALENDAR YEAR 2021 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)". 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 04-2021.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open to the public ordinance 04-2021. Seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

Administrator Bonanno explained ordinance 04-2021.

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 04-2021. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance #05-2021

Mr. Postas made a motion to introduce ordinance 05-2021 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 119 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "FEES"." Seconded by Mr. Zydon.

Public hearing will be held on April 13, 2021.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Limon, Postas, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: Formica, Skellenger Absent: None Abstentions: None

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 6:35PM to discuss personnel contract negotiation matters, it concluded at 6:52PM.

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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. 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 or via Zoom 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.

ADDENDUM

Offer of employment

Mr. Zydon made a motion to extend an offer of employment to the Police Officer candidate named in the March 19th email from Chief Cugliari at step 3. (swearing in to be scheduled for April 13, 2021) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Postas, Skellenger, Zydon

Nays: Limon, Snyder Absent: None Abstentions: None

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

There were no miscellaneous comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Postas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35p.m., seconded by Mr. Zydon. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk