

**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 23, 2024**

Council President Heath 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, Mrs. Heath, Mr. Limon, Mr. Postas, Mr. Skellenger and Mr. Snyder.

Absent: Mayor Sowden

Council President Heath led the assembly in the flag salute.

Council President Heath 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 7, 2024, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

PRESENTATIONS

Oath of Office – David Schneider

Council President Heath recognized Police Chief Gregory Cugliari who will introduce Franklin Police Department Sergeant David Schneider.

Mrs. Tremont administered the Oath of Office to David Schneider, Franklin Police Department Sergeant.

Oath of Office – Alex Lospinuso

Council President Heath recognized Police Chief Gregory Cugliari who will introduce new hire Franklin Police Department Patrolman Alex Lospinuso.

Mrs. Tremont administered the Oath of Office to Alex Lospinuso, Franklin Police Department Patrolman.

Oath of Office – Jake Rotunda

Council President Heath recognized Police Chief Gregory Cugliari who will introduce new hire Franklin Police Department Patrolman Jake Rotunda.

Mrs. Tremont administered the Oath of Office to Jake Rotunda, Franklin Police Department Patrolman.

Special Awards Presentations

Chief Cugliari presented Sergeant Schneider with the "Exceptional Duty Award" for dismantling a drug distribution network with the help of the Sussex County Narcotics Task Force in April of 2022.

On August 4, 2023, Officer Alex Lospinuso successfully completed the field training program. In the initial hours of his first day Officer Lospinuso responded to a motor vehicle accident on the northern end of Rutherford Avenue, where his swift actions contributed to saving a life. Chief Cugliari presented Officer Alex Lospinuso with the Police department's "Life Saving Award." Officer Lospinuso was also presented with a plaque from the Ioime Family for his heroic actions.

Franklin Borough Police Department

Parking Meter System – Chief Cugliari explained how the department manages the two-hour parking time limit on Main Street. Captain Geddis explained the parking meter system. It is a kiosk system, and the company recommends putting the kiosks in the areas of the most problems. The cost for each unit is \$7,000 plus a service fee per year per unit. The total cost for 3 kiosks is \$26,387.29.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Limon commented that he will set up a meeting with the public works committee. Mr. Limon discussed items from a previous DPW report regarding road repairs,

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 23, 2024

maintenance of buildings and snow removal. Mr. Limon commented that he received an email that John Rome has advised he is looking to retire as of August 1, 2024.

Mr. Postas commented that the ordinance committee met yesterday, and we are working on issues of vacant commercial properties on Route 23. The EDC Committee met last week and there are new members.

Mr. Snyder commented that the personnel committee met and discussed salary increases.

Mr. Formica commented that public safety met last night as a joint meeting with the Chief of Police and Fire Department to discuss the rails to trails opening. We discussed having a music festival at Fireman's Park with more details to follow.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mrs. Tremont commented that she met with Brightspeed as they will be updating their equipment. Most of the equipment will be above ground but if they do locate anything underground, they will let us know. There were some issues at the cell tower at 19 Evans Street, there were some lines that were down and Brian had to lock out the electric to the cell towers.

Mrs. Heath commented that the Recreation has a new Chairperson, Patti Carnes and Vice Chairperson is Bobbi Formica. March 30, Easter Egg Hunt, Spring Fling is April 20, casino bus trip on February 3 and they are working on the 5k.

Ms. Clinton had nothing to report.

Mr. Snyder recognized Dawn Fantasia, assemblywoman in the audience.

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. Postas. All were in favor.

Dawn Fantasia stepped forward. Ms. Fantasia commented that she was here to be a part of the recognitions of the police officers. Ms. Fantasia commented on the committees that she and the assembly people are on. If the town needs help in their areas to please reach out. There will be quarterly meetings at the District 24 office in Sparta.

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

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

Caterina Motz stepped forward. Ms. Motz commented the drainage ditch that runs near her property is flooding her property.

Mr. Postas commented that the engineer was contacted and recommended to put a grate further up the stream. We will talk to DPW to get a plan in place to correct the problem.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Heath 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 23, 2024

1. Letter dated January 3, 2024 from Darlene J. Tremont to State of New Jersey Legalized Games of Change in re: 2023 annual raffle report
2. Resignation letter from Eric Maynard from the Recreation Committee.
3. Resolution from the County of Sussex authorizing a shared service agreement for congregate nutrition program.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Animal Control Report – January – December 2023
2. Permit Activity Report - December 2023
3. Permit List – December 2023
4. COH report – December 2023
5. DPW Report – November 20 – November 24, 2023
6. DPW Report – November 27 – December 1, 2023
7. DPW Report – December 4 – December 8, 2023
8. Board of Health Report – December 2023
9. Registrar Report – October – December 2023
10. DPW Report – December 11 – December 15, 2023
11. DPW Report – December 18 – December 22, 2023
12. DPW Report – December 25 – December 29, 2023
13. DPW Report – January 1 – January 5, 2024
14. Municipal Court Report – December 2023
15. Zoning Officer report
16. Police Department Report – December 2023

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution 2024-15 appointing Glenn T. Gavan as Municipal Court Judge.
2. Resolution 2024-16 authorizing a disabled veteran exemption for Block 1401 Lot 42
3. Resolution 2024-17 authorizing a budget transfer in the amount of \$7018.00.
4. Payment of bills for the meeting of January 23, 2024.

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the consent agenda of January 23, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Snyder asked for details on the Rowett property and the status of the 4-way stop at Main and Junction.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the reorganization meeting minutes and regular meeting minutes for January 2, 2024. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Sewer Connection Application

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the sewer connection application submitted by Ascend New Jersey LLC for a 51 EDU's commercial dwelling at 24 Munsonhurst Road contingent upon all directives followed as per Utility Engineer, Michael Vreeland's memo dated January 17, 2024, and his final review. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Mr. Postas made a motion to amend the original motion to approve 47 EDU's commercial dwelling at 24 Munsonhurst Road for a total of 51 EDU's. Seconded by Mr. Snyder.

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 23, 2024

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Agreement for Certified Recycling Professional

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the agreement between the Borough of Franklin and SCMUA to retain the services of SCMUA for a Certified Recycling Professional that will be responsible for executing the mandatory annual 2023 municipal recycling tonnage report in the amount of \$300.00 annually. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2024-18

Mr. Postas made a motion to authorize the execution of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Treatment Works approval permit application (TWA-1); Statement of Consent for Block 2401 Lot 21 as requested by AWH Cultivation Facility. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2024-19

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve authorizing the Borough's Certified Recycling Professional to submit the 2023 recycling tonnage grant application to NJ Department of Environmental Protection. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2024-20

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve authorizing a disabled Veteran tax exemption for the premises located at 40 Woodland Rd, Block 2201, Lot 62 and cancel taxes in the amount of \$1,009.62. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2024-21

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve awarding phone stipend to DPW Foremen and On-call Staff. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2024-22

Mr. Snyder made a motion to authorize the hiring of a Laborer for snow removal on an as needed basis in the Department of Public Works at the rate of \$25.00 per hour. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance 01-2024

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt ordinance 01-2024 entitled "SETTING RANGE FOR SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 23, 2024

OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY". Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Council President Heath requested a motion to open to the public Ordinance 01-2024.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open to the public ordinance 01-2024. Seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

There being no one present who wished to address the governing body, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to close to the public ordinance 01-2024. Seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance 02-2024

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt ordinance 02-2024 entitled "BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY CALENDAR YEAR 2024 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. Skellenger.

Council President Heath requested a motion to open to the public Ordinance 02-2024.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open to the public Ordinance 02-2024. Seconded by Mr. Formica. All were in favor.

There being no one present who wished to address the governing body, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to close to the public ordinance 02-2024. Seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Congregate Nutrition Program Shared Services Agreement

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the Shared Service Agreement between the County of Sussex and the Borough of Franklin for the Franklin Congregate Nutrition Programs from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 in the amount of \$27,700.00. Seconded by Mr. Snyder.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discharge of Mortgage

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to confirm the Discharge of Mortgage, pending receipt of payment, dated September 12, 1999, for Linda Massey, 40 Sterling St., Franklin, in the amount of \$10,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discussion on Recreation Field Use Fees

Mr. Formica stated a recommendation of increases on the field use fees for Recreation. The recommendations of the fees are as follows: daily from \$50 to \$75, seasonal from \$200 to \$400, security deposit would match, daily light fee \$75, seasonal light fee \$350 and the rest of the fees will stay the same. The ordinance committee will discuss and make additional recommendations.

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 23, 2024

Discussion on Borough and Water/Sewer Engineer RFP's

Mrs. Tremont commented that she sent out the cost sheets from the four RFP's that were received French and Parrello were the lowest then it was VanCleaf Engineering. Mrs. Tremont commented that it is up to the council in what direction they want to move.

Mr. Postas made a motion to award a contract to VanCleaf Engineering as the Water Engineer and French and Parrello as the Town Engineer. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Liam DeRenzo and William Phillips stated that they are here for the citizenship and community merit badge. In order to obtain this badge, they have to attend a meeting and write about what is talked about and also do 7 hours of service with an organization.

Mrs. Heath commented that Former Mayor James King passed away last week.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26p.m., seconded by Mr. Snyder. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk