

**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
FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

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: Mrs. Heath, Mr. Limon (via ZOOM), Mr. Postas, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: Mr. Formica

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 7, 2022, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Limon commented that he spoke with Mr. Snyder regarding ordinances over the weekend however no official meeting was held. Mr. Limon had a phone conversation with Mr. Formica regarding an update on the water tower and he also updated me on a new program we are looking into for radio meter reading.

Mr. Postas commented that a meeting was held last week with the Finance committee to look at the budget.

Mr. Snyder commented that there will be an ordinance committee meeting at the end of this week or beginning of next week. We want to talk about potential ordinances regarding Main Street issues, the amount of police officers able to be hired and other various ordinances. Mr. Snyder also commented he would like to have some discussion with the County Engineer on the possibility of doing something about the curve on Church Street by Oak Street.

Mr. Skellenger commented there is a personnel meeting tomorrow to discuss negotiations with the DPW and the Police Department. We are going to look into selling Borough owned property.

Mrs. Heath commented that she met with Chief Cugliari, it was very informative and he gave her an overview of the police department and the organization charts. On Thursday night she attended the Recreation meeting and she stated that the committee is awesome. Mrs. Heath gave a list of upcoming Recreation events. The weekend of May 18th is possibly the carnival, June 5th is a fishing derby, June 18th Franklinite & Miss Franklin Pageant with Fireworks, Pond opening is to be announced as they are advertising for lifeguards, August is national night out, September 9/11 memorial service and a car show or a special event for adults, October 29th is the Halloween Parade. Mrs. Heath attended a class over the weekend for newly elected municipal officials.

Clerk Tremont had nothing to report.

Administrator Bernath nothing to report.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

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Mayor Sowden commented that he has been working with the County in regards to the speed limit on Church Street and Franklin Avenue. Mr. Formica had a meeting with power and light and the cable company regarding a leaning telephone pole.

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.

Mr. Frank Cicerale of Hardyston Township stepped forward. Mr. Cicerale addressed the Governing Body regarding a modular home he wants to put on a lot in Hardyston Township and would like to hook-up to Franklin Borough's Sewer system. Mr. Cicerale asked the Governing Body if they had everything needed to make a decision on whether or not he could hook-up the modular home to the sewer system. Mr. Ursin commented that Mr. Cicerale may need to obtain a TWA (treatment works approval) before the Governing Body can make any decisions.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Postas made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Snyder. 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):

1. Letter dated January 11, 2022 from Layth Taki of Altice to Mayor Sowden regarding the cable franchise fee for the period of January 2021 through December 2021.
2. Letter dated January 24, 2022 from Darlene J. Tremont to Legalized Games of Chance regarding the 2021 Annual Raffle Report.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Police Department Report – December 2021

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution #2022-27 – to authorize the tax collector to release a tax lien for the property located at 261 Corkhill Road, also known as Block 2601, Lot 4.
2. Resolution #2022-28 – to authorize compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Under Title VII of the civil Rights Act of 1964".
3. Payment of bills for the meeting of February 8, 2022.

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the consent agenda of February 8, 2022 with the removal of PO 34709. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Formica Abstentions: None

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve PO 34709. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Heath, Limon, Postas, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Formica Abstentions: Skellenger

OLD BUSINESS

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

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NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for January 25, 2022. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Formica Abstentions: None

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve the executive session meeting minutes for January 25, 2022. (Absent: Limon) Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Heath, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Formica Abstentions: Limon

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve extending a conditional offer to the Police Officer candidate recommended in the Police Chief's 2/3/22 letter. (Letter provided to Council via email) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Heath, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: Limon Absent: Formica Abstentions: None

Resolution #2022-29

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt resolution 2022-29 2021 budget transfer resolution in the amount of \$4,000. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Formica Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance #01-2022

Mr. Postas made a motion to adopt an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY REPLACING SECTION 259-8, SPEED LIMITS". Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for any comments regarding Ordinance 01-2022.

Mr. Postas made a motion to open to the public Ordinance 01-2022. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

No one from the public stepped forward or raised their hand on ZOOM.

Mr. Postas made a motion to close to the public Ordinance 01-2022. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Heath, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: Limon Absent: Formica Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance #02-2022

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY MODIFYING SECTION 259-2 REGARDING PARKING". 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 02-2022.

Mr. Postas made a motion to open to the public Ordinance 02-2022. Seconded by Mrs. Heath. All were in favor.

No one from the public stepped forward or raised their hand on ZOOM.

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Mr. Postas made a motion to close to the public Ordinance 02-2022. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Heath, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: Limon Absent: Formica Abstentions: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Snyder commented that the street light at the corner of Main Street and Junction Street has been out for a long time and asked if there is a reason that it has not been looked into and fixed. Mrs. Heath commented that she reported the street light out to the Clerk's office this afternoon.

Mr. Postas commented that the light to the right of the library has been on constantly since it has been installed.

Mrs. Heath commented that we have properties that we are going to put up for public auction; I would appreciate it if we look into any of those properties for Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Postas commented that of the properties auctioned off last year, how many are still with the original owner and have those people who purchased the properties paid the taxes.

Mr. Snyder commented that he would like to receive a monthly report from Zoning Officer and DPW.

Mr. Postas commented that when we meet as a personnel committee, we need to discuss the employee reviews.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Postas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:37p.m., seconded by Mrs. Heath. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk