

**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 12, 2024**

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, Mrs. Heath, Mr. Limon, Mr. Postas, Mr. Skellenger and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: Mr. Snyder

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

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations for tonight's meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Heath commented that the Easter Egg Hunt will be March 30th at 11am at Franklin Pond. The Senior Spring Fling is being organized. Mrs. Heath thanked those involved for getting the new electronic sign.

Mr. Skellenger thanked those involved for getting the new electronic sign.

Mr. Formica had nothing to report.

Mr. Limon commented that public utilities and buildings and grounds met and we will have a discussion on the items later during the meeting. Mr. Limon commented on a capital project for electronic water meters. Mr. Limon commented on the roof estimates and that the roof should be fixed sooner rather than later. There will be another meeting March 25th for public utilities and buildings and grounds.

Mr. Postas commented that a finance committee meeting will be set up soon.

Mrs. Tremont asked if a subcommittee could be formed to review the DPW job descriptions. The committee will consist of Mr. Postas, Mr. Formica and Mrs. Heath and Mr. Limon as an alternate. DPW applicants have been interviewed and we would like to hire them both at entry level.

Mr. McBriar had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden had nothing to report.

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.

Ms. Dawne Rowe stepped forward. Ms. Rowe asked about the amount of potential grant money for 2024 and the amount of grants for 2023. Congratulations on the new sign.

Mr. Formica commented that the Recreation Grant that was received last year was \$75,000.

Ms. Rowe asked about the agenda item for the rules of the Mayor and Council.

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. Skellenger. All were in favor.

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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. 2024 Revised Board of County Commissioners Municipal Liaisons

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. DPW Report – January 22 – January 26
2. DPW Report – January 29 – February 2
3. DPW Report – February 5 – February 9
4. Permit List – February 2024
5. COH Report – February 2024
6. Permit Activity Report – February 2024
7. Municipal Court Report – February 2024

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of March 12, 2024.

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the consent agenda of March 12, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for February 27, 2024. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution #2024-27

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-27 for authorization to provide pond weed management. Seconded by Mr. Limon

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution #2024-28

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-28 appointing the Law Firm of Morris Downing & Sherred, LLP as Prosecutor for the Borough of Franklin Municipal Court. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: Skellenger

Resolution #2024-29

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-29 authorizing participation in the Federal 1033 program effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Postas

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Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution #2024-30

Mr. Postas made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-30 authorizing compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's enforcement guidance on the consideration of arrest and conviction records in employment decisions under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution #2024-31

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-31 authorizing a salary adjustment for the water/sewer and tax collection clerk in the amount of \$6,500 effective January 1, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution #2024-32

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-32 amending the responsibilities and compensation of Michelle Babcock in the amount of \$9,100 effective January 1, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution #2024-33

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-33 establishing salaries for certain employees of Franklin Borough for the year 2024. Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution #2024-34

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-34 authorizing French and Parrello Associates to submit a grant application on behalf of the Borough of Franklin with the New Jersey Highlands Council for Stormwater Management. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Mr. Formica made a motion to remove resolution 2024-34 from the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote to remove:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance 03-2024

Mr. Postas made a motion to adopt ordinance 03-2024 entitled "Borough of Franklin, County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey modifying the Historic Preservation Commission." Seconded by Mr. Formica

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to public for Ordinance 03-2024. Mr. Formica made a motion to open the meeting to the public for Ordinance 03-2024. Seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

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Ms. Dawne Rowe stepped forward. Ms. Rowe compared the ordinance to when the Recreation Commission was changed to a Recreation Committee and asked why the Council is doing this.

Mr. McBriar explained the differences and policies that brought this forward.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mrs. Heath made a motion to close to the public Ordinance 03-2024. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Mayor Sowden commented that he doesn't understand the reasons for the change from Historical Preservation Commission to Historical Preservation Committee. Mayor Sowden would like to know what the rationale is for the change.

Mr. Postas commented that money was spent with no results.

Mayor Sowden commented that there are many components to be able to move forward. Mayor Sowden commented that he reviewed the budget and the funds were allocated incorrectly. Budget was \$10,000 and the balance is approximately \$6000.

Mr. Formica commented on the costs from a previous resolution and escrow funds.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: Limon Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance 04-2024

Mrs. Heath made a motion to introduce Ordinance 04-2024 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 259, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC" Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held March 26, 2024.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: Limon Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance 05-2024

Mr. Limon made a motion to introduce Ordinance 05-2024 entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 161 "LAND DEVELOPMENT" ARTICLE IX STORMWATER AND FLOODING CONTROLS OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN CODE". Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held April 9, 2024.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

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

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Discharge of Mortgage

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to confirm the Discharge of Mortgage dated March 11, 2004, for Dale Card, 30 John Wilton Street., Franklin, in the amount of \$9,950.00. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

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Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Mayoral Appointment

Mayor Sowden made the following appointment.

Crossing Guard Hire

Emelita Naklicki as substitute crossing guard at the rate of \$15.71/hr. effective March 13, 2024, contingent upon successful physical and background check, as recommended by Rebecca Babcock, Crossing Guard Captain.

Mrs. Heath made a motion to confirm the Mayor's appointment. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Rules of the Mayor and Council

Mr. Postas made a motion to adopt the Rules and Regulations of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Franklin for the calendar year 2024. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Mr. Skellenger commented that this is just reverting the rules to follow state rules.

Mr. Postas made a motion to table the rules of the Mayor and Council until the next regular meeting of March 26, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Discussion on Various Paving and Engineering Projects

Mr. Limon commented that the main thing is the paving.

Mr. Formica commented that there are private alleys that the DPW Supervisor is asking to have milled and paved.

Mr. Postas asked if there is a way that confirmation of ownership of the private alley ways. If these alleyways are in fact owned by the Borough, then we will pave them. Hemlock Drive replacement of curbing and aprons this year and pave next year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

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 8:13p.m., seconded by Mrs. Heath.

All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk