

**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 22, 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: Mr. Formica, Mrs. Heath, Mr. Limon, Mr. Postas, Mr. Skellenger (arrived at 7:17pm), Mr. Snyder 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 7, 2022, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

PRESENTATIONS

Oath of Office – Zachary LaGrave

Mayor Sowden recognized Police Chief Gregory Cugliari who explained the police hiring process and introduced new hire Franklin Police Department Patrolman Zachary LaGrave.

Mrs. Tremont administered the Oath of Office to Zachary LaGrave, Franklin Police Department Patrolman.

Center for Prevention & Counseling Walkkill Coalition – Drug Free Communities Support Program

Tamara Contreras and Rebecca Dorney, Walkkill Coalition Coordinators from the Center for Prevention and Counseling, gave a presentation regarding the drug free communities support program and spoke about what the Coalition is looking to achieve.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Limon had nothing to report.

Mr. Postas had nothing to report.

Mr. Snyder commented that he is looking to get the opinions of the other council members in regards to the residency requirement ordinance and the organization of the police department. Mr. Snyder commented that he will schedule an ordinance committee meeting sometime before the next council meeting.

Mr. Formica commented that they have started discussing roads. We picked a few however we are concerned with prices and once we receive confirmation on the numbers, we will finalize the list.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mrs. Heath had nothing to report.

Mrs. Tremont commented that the internet has not been very cooperative for the past two weeks.

Mr. Bernath had nothing to report.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

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Mayor Sowden had nothing to report.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Snyder 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.

Mrs. Joann Tatka, 151 Maple Road Franklin stepped forward. Mrs. Tatka asked about the school board election resolution, the property auction and how many properties were going to be auctioned, asked if anything was done with 25 Susquehanna Street and asked how many years of service Lori Spirito had and asked if the administrative police officers patrolled the roads.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mrs. Heath made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Skellenger. 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. Borough of Ogdensburg Ordinance 02-2022 amending Chapter 30 "Land Development".
2. Thank you note to Franklin Borough Employees and Mayor and Council from Lori Spirito, Re: retirement plaque.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Construction Permit Activity Report – February 2022
2. Construction Permit List – February 2022
3. COH Report – February 2022
4. Municipal Court Report – February 2022
5. Board of Health Report – February 2022
6. DPW Report – February 28 – March 4, 2022

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution #2022-40 - to adopt resolution 2022-40 authorizing participation in self-examination program of the Municipal Budget for the 2022 budget year.
2. Resolution #2022-41 – authorizing the retainer of an auctioneer for the sale of certain land and property no longer needed for public use.
3. Resolution #2022-42 – authorizing fireworks display in the Borough of Franklin on June 18, 2022 at the Franklin Pond Recreation area.
4. Resolution #2022-43 regarding the temporary closure of Franklin Avenue, County Road 631.
5. Payment of bills for the meeting of March 22, 2022.

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of March 22, 2022 with the removal of resolution 2022-41. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve resolution 2022-41 without exhibit "A". Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

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OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for March, 8, 2022. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance 04-2022

Mr. Formica made a motion to introduce an ordinance entitled "BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY CALENDAR YEAR 2022 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.

Mayor Sowden announced the public hearing will be held on April 12, 2022.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mayoral Appointment

Mayor Sowden made the following appointment.

Crossing Guard Captain

Rebecca Babcock at the rate of \$15.75 effective March 24, 2022.

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

Mr. Snyder asked how the decision was made for this appointment.

Mayor Sowden commented at an exit interview with Lynn Prtorich (current Captain) she made the recommendation for her replacement.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Approval of NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the membership application of Jacob G. Sherwood, 88 Scott Road, Apt. 4, Franklin, to the Franklin Fire Department as endorsed by Khyle Conklin, Franklin Fire Department Chief. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Limon, Snyder

ADDENDUM

Approval of NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the membership application of Edward M. Babcock, 48 Butler St., Franklin, to the Franklin Fire Department contingent upon endorsement by Khyle Conklin, Franklin Fire Department Chief. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Limon, Snyder

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Approve Special Event Permit Application

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve the special event permit application for Franklin Mineral Museum to conduct a Rock Swap and Sell on April 23, 2022, rain date of April 24, 2022 at the location of 32 Evans Street, Franklin and to authorize the use of the Franklin Pond area for parking as needed. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Postas

Approve Garden State Fireworks Agreement

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the Fireworks Display for Franklin Day, to be held on June 18, 2022, in the amount of \$7,500.00. Rain Date June 19, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discussion on moving School Board Elections back to April

Mr. Postas voiced his concerns about the school board elections and his opinions on why the election should be moved back to April.

Mr. Ursin explained the reason why the election was moved from April to November.

It was the consensus of the council to have a resolution on the next meeting agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Snyder commented that he read over the operations report from DPW and is happy to see they are keeping busy.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mrs. Heath made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m., seconded by Mr. Postas.

All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk