

**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  
APRIL 11, 2023**

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, 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 6, 2023, 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**

Mr. Limon had nothing to report.

Mr. Postas had nothing to report.

Mr. Snyder had nothing to report.

Mr. Formica commented that he sat down with the buildings and grounds supervisor and administrator for the school and discussed a few ideas for the property. Mr. Formica explained the results and options associated with the property in front of the school. Ordinance committee met and discussed having the dispensaries and at this time the ordinance committee has agreed to wait.

Mr. Skellenger commented that we had discussed about making a four way stop by Main Street and Junction Street. We received the recommendation from the police department that it is a good idea however Mr. Ursin suggested that we reach out to our engineer which we did and he came with a budget of up to \$4,000.

Mr. Ursin explained the reason why it is good practice to have an engineer prepare a report.

Mr. Skellenger requested the council's opinions.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to authorize the expenditure of up to \$4,000 for the engineering work to look into changing Main and Junction Streets to a 4-way stop. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: Limon Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mrs. Heath commented that the Easter Egg Hunt was a great success. July 1<sup>st</sup> will be Franklinite with a Band and fireworks.

Mrs. Tremont had nothing to report.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

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Mayor Sowden commented that he received an email from the EPA regarding 19 Park Drive. The EPA will be discussing the new regulations for ethylene oxide virtually on May 1<sup>st</sup> and we will post it to the website.

**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.

Joanne Tatka commented on the cost increase of the fireworks this year, the cost of painting the water tank and the EDU's for Ascend.

Patti Carnes commented that some of the items on the borough website do not open properly when using the phone versus the computer.

There being no one else present or on Zoom 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. Final Equalization Table for the County of Sussex for the year 2023.
2. Hampton Township resolution supporting RevolutionNJ

**REPORTS** (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. DPW Report – March 6, 2023 through March 10, 2023
2. DPW Report – March 13, 2023 through March 17, 2023
3. DPW Report – March 20, 2023 through March 24, 2023
4. Construction Permit Activity Report – March 2023
5. Permit List – March 2023
6. COH Report – March 2023
7. Municipal Court Report – March 2023

**APPLICATIONS** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Application for Peddler/Solicitor permit for Juan Zerna, 325 Main St. Ogdensburg, NJ, for the sale of ice cream.

**RESOLUTIONS** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution #2023-57 – authorizing fireworks display in the Borough of Franklin on July 1, 2023 at the Franklin Pond Recreation area.
2. Resolution #2023-58 – regarding the temporary closure of Franklin Avenue, County Road 631.
3. Payment of bills for the meeting of April 11, 2023.

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of April 11, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the minutes for the budget workshop meeting minutes for March 15, 2023. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES APRIL 11, 2023**

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting minutes for March 28, 2023 (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2023-52

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-52 authorizing a shared services agreement with the County of Sussex for certified fire marshal services for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2028. (Agreement provided in Council packets) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2023-53

Mr. Postas made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-53 to authorize TSS Facility Services, Inc. to provide for street sweeping in an amount not to exceed \$7,250.00. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2023-54

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-54 to approve the coin toss fundraiser for the American Legion Auxiliary on May 21, 2023 from 8am to 12pm at the intersection of Route 23 and Mabie Street. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2023-55

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-55 authorizing the increase to the bid threshold. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2023-56

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-56 providing service weapon to retired officer Jeffrey Korger in recognition of his dedicated service to the Borough. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance 04-2023

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt ordinance 04-2023 entitled "Bond Ordinance providing supplemental funding for improvements to the Elevated Water Storage Tank, originally funded by bond ordinance 10-2022, by and in the Borough of Franklin, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey (The "Borough"); appropriating \$239,235 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$239,235 bonds or notes of the Borough to finance part of the costs of thereof." Seconded by Mr. Formica.

**MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES APRIL 11, 2023**

Prior to final call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public. Mr. Formica made a motion to open to the public ordinance 04-2023, seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

There be no one present or on Zoom who wished to address the governing, Mr. Postas made a motion to close to the public ordinance 04-2023, seconded by Mrs. Heath. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**(Campy's) Blue Star Amusements Agreement**

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the agreement for the amusement rides and related services at the Franklin Carnival on May 24, 2023 thru May 28, 2023 contingent upon the form of the contract. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**Approve Garden State Fireworks Agreement**

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the agreement for Fireworks Display for Franklin Day, to be held on July 1, 2023, in the amount of \$12,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

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 Hire**

Mr. Limon made a motion to confirm the mayor's appointment of Diane Witherby as substitute crossing guard at the rate of \$15.36/hr. effective April 16, 2023, contingent upon successful physical and background check, as recommended by Rebecca Babcock, Crossing Guard Captain. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

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**

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 7:29 p.m., seconded by Mr. Formica. All were in favor.

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John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

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Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk