

**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 25, 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

Mr. Ray Sarinelli Sr., Municipal Auditor gave a brief overview of the CY2023 Municipal Budget. Mr. Sarinelli commented on how the tax revaluation effected some residents more than others, which is usually the case. Mr. Sarinelli spoke about the different challenges that were faced when putting the budget together such as the garbage contract which went up 25%, the insurance cost went up \$45,000 and an increase in police pension of \$80,000. There is new revenue that is being received from the cannabis tax and using the fund balance to help keep taxes down.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Limon commented on an email from Brian VanDenBroek and there was a public utility meeting.

Mr. Postas commented that he spoke to Brian VanDenBroek about a new well location.

Mr. Snyder commented that there will be a personnel meeting on April 27th.

Mr. Formica commented that an ordinance committee meeting will be set up soon. There was some damage done to the fence at the playground and the funds have been encumbered to make repairs.

Mr. Skellenger commented that there will be a public safety meeting on May 3rd to interview new police candidates and the sergeant.

Mrs. Heath thanked Recreation for the great job on the Spring fling. Chair Bobbi Formica did a wonderful job. Congratulations to Judy and Jim Williams on receiving the 2023 Franklin Borough Senior of the Year award. Mrs. Heath commented that she attended the Franklin Hardyston Chamber of Commerce Meeting.

Mrs. Tremont commented that we received the 1st quarter tax payment from Ascend in the amount of \$272,806.27. The DPW ad has been placed and the closing date for applications is May 12, 2023. I spoke to Brian VanDenBroek in regards to the stumps on Maple Road and he will start having his employees clean it up when they have time. Financial Disclosure Statements are due to be filed by April 30th.

Mr. McBriar had nothing to report.

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Mayor Sowden commented on the Ash trees that need to be removed and to have OEM canvass the area and let us know his recommendations. Mayor Sowden asked about the status of the paving projects for this year. The Spring Fling was a really nice event and it was great to see the surprised faces of the recipients. I've been in contact with the engineer and we are waiting for the antenna people to be able to move forward with the water tower painting.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

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

Joanne Tatka asked if the JCP&L Property is back on the tax rolls and questioned the EDU rate for 7 LaRue Street.

There being no one else present or on Zoom who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Limon made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Postas. 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. None filed.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Police Department Report – March 2023
2. DPW Report – March 27, 2023 – March 31, 2023
3. Registrar Report – January through March 2023
4. County Health Department Report – March 2023

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution 2023-61 requesting permission for the dedication by rider for mobile video record system.
2. Resolution 2023-62 requesting permission for the dedication by rider for forfeited property.
3. Resolution 2023-63 requesting permission for the dedication by rider for police donations.
4. Resolution 2023-64 - to approve appointing Darlene J. Tremont, as Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit calendar year 2023 and Colleen Little, as Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit calendar year 2023.
5. Payment of bills for the meeting of April 25, 2023.

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of April 25, 2023. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

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

Public Hearing on the 2023 CY Municipal Budget

Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for public comments on the 2023 CY Municipal Budget.

Mr. Snyder made a motion to open to the public CY2023 Municipal Budget. Seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

Joanne Tatka asked what the tax rate would be.

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Mr. Sarinelli commented that the tax rate is .83 per \$100,000 assessed value home.

Mr. Limon made a motion to close to the public CY2023 Municipal Budget. Seconded by Mrs. Heath. All were in favor

Resolution #2023-59

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-59 adopting the 2023 CY Municipal Budget. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for April 11, 2023. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2023-60

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-60 to authorize hiring of a new police officer. (Letter of recommendation from Chief Cugliari included Council packets) Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2023-65

Mr. Postas made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-65 authorizing extending the probationary period for Frederick Milligan in Department of Public Works. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: Postas Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2023-66

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-66 authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract for Borough computer system support to Quikteks in an amount not to exceed \$30,000. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2023-67

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-67 to authorize submission of a Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, NJ Department of Human Services/Division on Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) Youth Leadership Grant application for the Wallkill Valley Municipal Alliance Grant Term 9/1/23 - 9/30/25 in the amount of \$2,547.00. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

American Legion Post 132

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the request from the American Legion to hold their Memorial Day Parade on May 29, 2023; parade line up will start at the Legion Post at 10:15AM, parade starts at 10:45AM. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

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Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Public Employer Trust Agreement

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve the Public Employer Trust Agreement between the Borough of Franklin and Brown and Brown, Benefit Advisors for Horizon Healthcare Dental for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, at no increase in premiums, addendum with coverage cost election attached. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Water/Sewer Connection Application

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the water/sewer connection application submitted by 7 LaRue LLC for a .87 EDU residential dwelling at 7 LaRue Street contingent upon receipt of associated connection fees. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discussion on Cannabis Testing Facility

Mr. Jack Parker is seeking a resolution of support to obtain a license for a cannabis testing facility.

The Governing Body directed Counsel to draft a resolution of support to be voted on at the next council meeting.

Discussion on Cannabis Consumption Areas

Mr. Formica commented that the State is most likely moving forward with cannabis consumption areas. If you are a dispensary or a grower you can apply to the State to have a consumption area.

Mr. McBriar commented that the current [Franklin Borough] ordinance does not allow for cannabis consumption areas in residential areas.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mrs. Heath commented that everyone did a great job on the budget this year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Postas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48p.m., seconded by Mrs. Heath. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk