

**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 26, 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, 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

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 had nothing to report.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mrs. Heath commented that she attended the Recreation meeting and it is sad that there are two members resigning. There was a request from a Stockholm resident to use the pavilion for a birthday party on May 7, 2022 which was approved by the recreation committee and that the requestor would need to submit a certificate of insurance. Mrs. Heath asked if the ordinance committee could look at the fee schedule to add a fee for the use of pavilion.

Mrs. Tremont commented that the mail in ballots went out this weekend and the ballot box is now open and will remain open until 8pm on primary election day [6/7/2022]. There will be in person interviews on Friday, April 29th for the position of Finance Clerk and we received two additional lifeguard applications but those individuals need to be certified, we also have 4 beach attendant applications. Barbara Truran from the senior center who helps Anna Fisher for the nutrition site has resigned as of this Friday, there is a fill in person that went through Pathstone, who we used to use prior to the pandemic, Anna would like to utilize that individual in place of Barbara and we would have to look into another fill in person.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden commented that he sent an email to the Councilmembers from concerned residents about the conditions at 48 Nestor Street. Mayor Sowden asked for a consensus of the council as to whether or not to have the DPW clean up the property and place a lien on the property.

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Mr. Ursin recommends that the Borough do the bare minimum to clean up the property, such as boarding up doors and windows and possibly installing a fence around the property.

Mr. Formica commented he reviewed the property and yes, the doors and windows need boarding up. It also looked as if an attempt was made to maybe get on to the roof and stated he wants the public to be aware no one should try that, the roof won't hold anyone, it's too dangerous. Mr. Formica agreed a fence around the property would be a good thing.

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. Limon. All were in favor.

Mrs. Joanne Tatka, 151 Maple Road, Franklin, stepped forward. Mrs. Tatka voiced her concerns for the good and welfare of Franklin Borough.

Mrs. Carol Truhan, 20 Nestor Street, Franklin stepped forward. Mrs. Truhan voiced her concerns regarding the noise ordinance.

Mrs. Patti Carnes, 289 Rutherford Avenue, Franklin stepped forward. Mrs. Carnes asked if JCP&L will be installing LED lights in the rest of the town.

Mr. Carl Platvoet, 53 Church Street, Franklin stepped forward. Mr. Platvoet voiced his concerns regarding the noise ordinance and the trucks that use there "jake brakes". Mr. Platvoet commented that he supports the no "jake brake" ordinance. Mr. Platvoet commented that maybe it's a possibility to get the County to eminent domain the property by the church to take the corner out to make it more navigational for the trucks.

Ms. Dawne Rowe, 140 Munsonhurst Road, Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Rowe voiced her concerns regarding the "jake brake" ordinance and vehicles that are speeding on certain streets.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Skellenger 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. Resolution from the County of Sussex in re: Continued Presence of ballot drop boxes in existing locations
2. Ordinance from the County of Sussex in re: providing for the adjustment of library fines, fees and sale of surplus library materials for the Sussex County Library System.
3. Ordinance from the Borough of Hamburg amending chapter 215 Zoning Map of the code of the Borough of Hamburg to amend the Zoning Map to change the zone of certain properties currently in the residential office (RO) zone to the highway commercial (HC) zone.
4. Township of Vernon resolution re: in support of amending title 35 of the New Jersey revised statutes to permit the publication of legal notices by Government entities on official government websites instead of newspapers.
5. Town of Newton resolution #110-2022 re: in support of amending title 35 of the New Jersey revised statutes to permit the publication of legal notices by Government entities on official government websites instead of newspapers.
6. Township of Frankford resolution 2022-029 re: opposing a proposal by the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Chapters of the Sierra Club to change the designation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to the Delaware River National Park and Lenape Preserve until a formal plan is presented for public review and comment.

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7. Montague Township Resolution 2022-041 re: opposing a proposal by the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Chapters of the Sierra Club to change the designation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to the Delaware River National Park and Lenape Preserve until a formal plan is presented for public review and comment.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Police Department report – March 2022
2. Board of Health Report – March 2022
3. DPW Report – March 28 through April 14, 2022

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of April 26, 2022.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the consent agenda of April 26, 2022. 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

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for April 12, 2022. (Absent: Postas) Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Postas

Resolution #2022-56

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt resolution 2022-56 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 7/1/22 - 3/14/23 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

Introduction of Ordinance #05-2022

Mr. Snyder made a motion to introduce ordinance 05-2022 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY ADDING NEW SECTION 259-13 TO THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "ENGINE BRAKING". Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: Limon Absent: None Abstentions: Postas

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held on May 10, 2022.

Introduction of Ordinance #06-2022

Mr. Formica made a motion to introduce ordinance 06-2022 entitled "A CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AUTHORIZE THE APPROPRIATION OF CAPITAL FUNDS

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FOR THE MOTOR & GEAR ASSEMBLY REPLACEMENT AT THE RT. 23 SOUTH AND MAPLE ROAD SEWER PUMPING STATIONS". Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held on May 10, 2022.

Mayoral Appointment

Mayor Sowden made the following appointments.

a) To change the status to permanent crossing guard at the current rate of \$14.73/hr. effective immediately for the following substitute crossing guards:

Kathleen Clohessey

Marie (Predmore) Hughes

Mr. Limon made a motion confirming the Mayor's appointment to change the status to permanent crossing guard for Kathleen Clohessey and Marie (Predmore) Hughes. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

b) To hire Michelle Grieco as substitute crossing guard at the rate of \$14.73/hr. contingent upon successful background check.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion confirming the Mayor's appointment to hire Michelle Grieco as substitute crossing guard contingent upon a successful background check. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discussion on Property Auction

Mr. Skellenger went over the compiled list of properties that could potentially be put up for auction. Mr. Skellenger commented that he received an email from Brian VanDenBroek today regarding 25 Susquehanna Street and that property being let go and given to Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Ursin commented that if you want to auction the properties you certainly have to set minimum bids lower than the fair market value.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to direct Mr. Ursin to draft an ordinance to give 25 Susquehanna Street to Habitat of Humanity. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discussion on School Board Elections

Mr. Postas commented that everyone should have received information from Darlene and it's up to the council if we want to move forward with it.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to move the school board election back to April. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: Limon Absent: None Abstentions: None

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Discussion on Franklin Pond Opening

Mr. Formica commented that there are three lifeguard applications two of which need to be certified.

Mrs. Heath asked how many lifeguards would we need on duty.

After some further discussions, it was the consensus of the Governing Body to not open the pond for this season.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mrs. Tremont commented that we received 100 rapid covid tests from the County Health Department.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10p.m., seconded by Mrs. Heath. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk