

**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
MAY 9, 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.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to appoint Mr. Snyder as the Temporary Council President for the purposes of tonight's meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Heath. All were in favor.

Temporary Council President Snyder 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. Skellenger and Mr. Snyder.

Absent: Mr. Postas and Mayor Sowden

Temporary Council President Snyder led the assembly in the flag salute.

Temporary Council President Snyder 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

Mrs. Heath commented that at the recreation meeting there was a presentation from a representative from Keystone Sports in regards to a pickle ball court. Mrs. Heath commented on upcoming events in Franklin such as the Franklin Carnival May 24th through May 29th, Franklinite July 1st (pageants, vendors and fireworks), Concerts in the park July 15th and July 22nd, fishing contest Saturday June 3rd 8am-12pm and National Night Out is Tuesday, August 1st.

Mr. Skellenger thanked Mr. Snyder, Mrs. Tremont and Mrs. Heath for interviewing for the new police hire and police sergeant promotion.

Mr. Formica commented that the kayak launch is installed.

Mr. Limon commented about the paving items on the agenda.

Mrs. Tremont commented on the water tank pre construction meeting and Mike Vreeland is working very diligently with the cell tower companies to have them removed for the tank painting. Mrs. Tremont provided a copy of an email that was sent by Brian in regards the progress of the new well locations.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mr. Snyder commented that the personnel committee met and had contract negotiations and spoke about a new part time for the senior center and summer hours for the Borough Hall.

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 Mrs. Heath. All were in favor.

Patti Carnes asked when the lock would be repaired on the door at the Senior Center.

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MAY 9, 2023

There being no one else present or on Zoom who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Snyder made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Temporary Council President Snyder 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. DPW Report – April 3 – April 7
2. DPW Report – April 10 – April 14
3. DPW Report – April 17 – April 21
4. Construction Permit Activity Report – April 2023
5. Permit List – April 2023
6. COH Report – April 2023

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of May 9, 2023.

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of May 9, 2023 with the removal of PO #36580. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve PO #36580. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: Formica

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for April 25, 2023. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Resolution 2023-68

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-68 to authorize the award of a non-fair and open contract for hydrogeologic consulting services for the Department of Public Works in an amount not to exceed \$18,000. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance 05-2023

Mr. Formica made a motion to introduce Ordinance 05-2023 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MAY 9, 2023

STATE OF NEW JERSEY MODIFYING CHAPTER 248 TOWING SERVICES".
Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON MAY 23, 2023.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

National Association of Letter Carriers Proclamation

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the proclamation proclaiming the second Saturday in May as the National Association of Letter Carriers food drive. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Approval to Extend a Conditional Offer

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve extending a conditional offer to (1) one Police Officer candidate as recommended in the Police Chief's May 4, 2023 letter. (Letter of recommendation provided to Council via email). Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Approve Special Event Permit Application

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the special event permit for Franklin Mineral Museum to conduct a Rock Swap and Sell on July 29, 2023 at the park next to the pond on George LaBance Lane, 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: Postas Abstentions: None

Discussion on 2023 Paving Projects

At this time the Governing Body held a discussion the 2023 Paving Projects.

Mr. Limon commented that he thought the way of action we were doing the sidewalks this year on Hemlock and paving Hemlock next year and asked if the parking lots were taken off the table due to the fact that we needed to find out where the property lines are.

Mrs. Tremont commented that it is not necessarily off the table. There was a meeting with Stefanie from Denis Keenan's office, myself, Brian, Councilman Postas and Jesse Bogart to go over the paving projects. What came about from that meeting were some concerns regarding the parking lot at the municipal building due to the property next door and with the municipal lot there were some issues with crevices and how to ingress and egress from the parking lot and how many parking spaces; that is why Stefanie provided us with three concept plans for us to look at because they wanted to know about landscaping. There are grading issues that need to be addressed and there also needs to be some investigating done to make sure that there are no mine shafts under the parking lot.

After some further discussion, Mr. Formica made a motion to pave, do the curbing and sidewalks on Hemlock Drive and to postpone the paving of the two Main Street municipal parking lots until next year. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: Heath

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MAY 9, 2023

Discussion on Summer Hours

Mr. Snyder commented that the personnel committee met and discussed a request for summer hours for the Municipal Building Employees.

Mrs. Tremont commented that there were two options however the personnel committee agreed that it would be best if we did offer summer hours it would consist of employees taking a half hour lunch Monday through Friday and on Fridays, employees would alternate leaving early at 1:30, leaving each department covered each day so that the Municipal Building remains open as usual to 4:00PM.

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the request for summer hours as described above. Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Discussion on New Hire for Senior Center

Mrs. Tremont commented that she received an email from Anna, the supervisor at the Senior Center for the nutrition program. The nutrition program has become busier and if one person is out then they are down to one person.

After some further discussion, Mrs. Heath made a motion to hire another part time employee at nutrition site at minimum wage and authorize advertising for the position. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Corey Houghtaling, Franklin Fire Department Assistant Chief, updated on the Council on the gas leak that occurred on Wyker Road yesterday (May 8).

Mr. Formica asked that everyone look at the map of Main Street specifically at the end toward Rutherford Ave, we have Hudson Street and Lehigh Street. Mr. Formica asked if the council would be interested in changing the zoning to residential on that side of Main Street.

After some further discussion, Mr. Formica made a motion to get a recommendation from the Planning Board to change the zoning on Main Street from Hudson Street to Rutherford Avenue and include Block 609 Lot 18 and Block 607 Lot 11 to add first floor residential. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54p.m., seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk