

**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 24, 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 (via phone) 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 commented that there was an ordinance meeting and we discussed the hiring process, amount of police department employees and upgrade the noise ordinance.

Mr. Formica commented that we met with the hydrogeologist last week and they are going to start looking for additional sites for wells.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mrs. Heath commented that at the ordinance meeting we discussed vacant homes and Mr. Ursin suggested that we create an inventory of all the abandon homes. We also discussed the possibility of charging for the use of the pavilion for parties and Mr. Ursin advised to leave it the way it is. I was unable to attend the Recreation meeting however they sent applications to all the schools for Little Miss/Mister and Miss Franklin and we have received three applications for Miss Franklin. The carnival signs are up.

Mr. Bernath commented that the PBA contract is now back in the hands of the PBA and we are waiting on the PBA to respond. Met with the teamsters and hopefully we will have something very soon. We have the ad ready to go out for the DPW laborer to fill the vacant position.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden had nothing to report.

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.

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MAY 24, 2022

Mrs. JoAnne Tatka, 151 Maple Road, Franklin stepped forward. Mrs. Tatka voiced concerns regarding the good and welfare of Franklin Borough.

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. 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 Hamburg Ordinance amending chapter 215 Zoning Map of the code of the Borough of Hamburg.
2. Township of Frankford resolution opposing certain aspects of Assembly Bill 4454 adopted into law on March 1, 2021.
3. Resolution from the County of Sussex authorizing the creation of a parent's bill of rights concerning the protection and education of Sussex County Children.
4. Kittatinny Regional School District resolution #1-4-29-22 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.
5. Hampton Township School District resolution #2-4-28-22 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.
6. Letter dated May 17, 2022, from Jacob Pease, NJDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water to Brian VanDenBroek Re: Reduced Monitoring for Per-and Poly-Fluorinated Alkyl Substance (PFAS).
7. Sandyston Township resolution R-43-2022 authorizing Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute per diem mutual aid agreement for water emergency standbys as requested through the Sussex County Fire Coordinator on an as needed basis.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Police Department Report – April 2022
2. Zoning Department Report – April – May 2022
3. Municipal Court Report – April 2022
4. DPW Report – April 25 – April 29, 2022
5. DPW Report – May 2 - May 6, 2022

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution #2022-57 – 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.
2. Resolution #2022-58 – proclaiming June 2022 as Pride Month.
3. Payment of bills for the meeting of May 24, 2022.

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of May 24, 2022. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Mr. Formica made a motion to table the consent agenda with the exception of Resolution 2022-57 and the bills list until the next council meeting. Seconded by Mr. Postas

Upon roll call vote to table the consent agenda expect Resolution 2022-57 and bills list:

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MAY 24, 2022

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Postas, Skellenger
Nays: Heath, Snyder, Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-57 and the bills list. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

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. Postas made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for May 10, 2022. (Absent: None)

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder
Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Public Hearing on the 2022 CY Municipal Budget

Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for public comments on the 2022 CY Municipal Budget.

Mrs. Heath made a motion to open the meeting to the public for public comments on the 2022 CY Municipal Budget. Seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

There being no one 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. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Resolution #2022-59

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt the 2022 CY Municipal Budget. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder
Nays: Formica Absent: None Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance #07-2022

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt Ordinance 07-2022 entitled "SETTING RANGE FOR SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY". Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for any comments regarding Ordinance 07-2022.

Mr. Postas made a motion to open to the public ordinance 07-2022, seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Mrs. JoAnne Tatka, 151 Maple Road Franklin stepped forward. Mrs. Tatka questioned various positions on the ordinance.

Mr. Postas made a motion to close to the public ordinance 07-2022. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder
Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance #08-2022 entitled

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt ordinance 08-2022 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MAY 24, 2022

MUNICIPAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 25 SUSQUEHANNA STREET, BLOCK 803, LOT 4 TO SUSSEX COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A: 12-21(L)". Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for any comments regarding Ordinance 08-2022.

Mr. Postas made a motion to open to the public ordinance 08-2022, seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Ms. Dawne Rowe, 140 Munsonhurst Road, Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Rowe commented that this gives the property over to habitat for humanity to construct a house for a needy family.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to close to the public ordinance 08-2022, seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance #09-2022

Mr. Formica made a motion to introduce ordinance 09-2022 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING SECTION 119-4 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "GENERAL FEES". Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held on June 14, 2022.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2022-60

Mr. Postas made a motion to adopt resolution 2022-60 changing the title and compensation for Corry Chrobak to Treasurer, at the rate of \$52,731.73 per year effective June 1, 2022. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2022-61

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt resolution 2022-61 authorizing hiring a part time finance assistant at the rate of \$17.00 per hour, not to exceed an average of 25 hours per week effective June 1, 2022 contingent upon successful background check. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2022-62

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt resolution 2022-62 to authorize Felicitas (Lyta) Soto fill the position as part time senior center attendant at the rate of \$13.00 per hour not to exceed an average of 25 hours per week, effective June 1, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Heath

Mayoral Appointment

Mayor Sowden made the following appointment.

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MAY 24, 2022

To hire Heather Fasolo as substitute crossing guard at the rate of \$14.73/hr. effective June 1, 2022, contingent upon successful physical and background check.

Mr. Formica made a motion to confirm the Mayor's appointment, seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discussion on DPW repair of pot holes at the Franklin Fire Department

At this time there was a discussion on the repair of pot holes at the Franklin Fire Department.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to have the DPW repair the pot holes at the Franklin Fire Department. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Limon, Snyder

Discussion on relocating a water connection at 6 Auche Drive

At this time there was a discussion on the relocation of a water line at 6 Auche Drive at the estimated cost of \$1,750.00; relocation to be done by Franklin DPW.

Mr. Postas made a motion to have the DPW relocate the water line at 6 Auche Drive and have the resident sign something to hold the DPW harmless if the relocation of the water line does not fix the problem. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discussion on water connection of Hardyston Elementary School

At this time there was a discussion regarding the water connection for Hardyston Elementary School.

Mr. Formica made a motion to allow the Hardyston Elementary School to connect to the water system contingent upon the payment of the connection fees. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Postas

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. Skellenger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40p.m., seconded by Mr. . All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Colleen Little, Deputy Municipal Clerk