

**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  
JUNE 25, 2024**

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: Mrs. Carnes, Mr. Formica, Mrs. Heath, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: Mr. Limon

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, 2024, 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. Carnes commented that the EDC Pondsides market is this Saturday (June 29) at 12 and will go into Franklinite that starts at 3pm.

Mr. Snyder had nothing to report.

Mrs. Heath commented that on Friday (June 28) at 7pm is the Miss Franklin Pageant.

Mr. Skellenger commented that there will be a Finance and Ordinance committee meeting soon to bring Mrs. Carnes up to date on what has been discussed. The real estate committee will be meeting in the very near future to discuss the property auction. The MVC Mobile Unit will be at the pond on August 12, 2024, appointments will be scheduled on the website.

Mr. Formica commented that he met with the Fire department, First Aid Squad and Police department and the radio vendor to discuss radio upgrades. The vendor will provide various packets for the radio upgrades.

Mrs. Tremont commented that she spoke with Stefanie from French & Parello regarding the Cork Hill traffic study and Stefanie will be moving forward with the traffic study. At the last meeting we adopted the fee increase ordinance for Hillside Estates and I will be sending them a letter to advise of the fee increase but I would like to give them a 60 day notice instead of the 30 day notice to start paying the new fee to the Borough.

Mr. McBriar had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden commented that the power lines in front of the building need to be moved before any construction of the building can be completed. We received one quote from power and light to move the pole and power lines across the street. Mayor Sowden spoke with one of the utility engineers and they gave an option to move the wires with an "L" instead of moving the pole and that would not cost anything. Mayor Sowden commented that we are having issues with Hospital Road; the area where the hospital was. He spoke to the Chief about the possibility of closing the road. He also spoke to the zoning officer about the property maintenance. Mayor Sowden asked how the council would feel about closing that section of the road off. The general consensus of the council is to confirm the legality of closing the road. If it can be done legally then let's proceed with the closure.

**MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 25, 2024**

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

Mr. Formica 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.

Mrs. Joanne Tatka stepped forward. Mrs. Tatka asked if the pump replacement is for the pump on Munsonhurst Road. Mrs. Tatka commented that the Franklin Fire department, on Saturday morning, was going around fixing the flags. The Medal Tec building on the corner of Wildcat and Maple looks really nice. Mrs. Tatka commented that all the faucets in the ladies' room at the senior center are operational. Mrs. Tatka asked what is happening with the power on Maple Road; it rained on June 14<sup>th</sup> and she was without power for more than 8 hours. Mrs. Tatka asked about the trip savers that were installed.

Ms. Dawne Rowe stepped forward. Ms. Rowe asked about the condition of the wells and how they are holding up. Ms. Rowe wished everyone a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Ms. Courtney Fischer stepped forward. Ms. Fischer asked if the pond will ever reopen for swimming.

Mayor Sowden commented that it is not cost effective to open the pond.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Snyder made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mrs. Carnes. 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):

NONE FILED

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

1. DPW Report – May 27 – May 31
2. Permit Activity Report – May 2024
3. COH Report – May 2024
4. Permit List – May 2024
5. Police Department Report – May 2024

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

1. Social Affair Permit from the Franklin Fire Department for an event to be held on July 20, 2024 at the Franklin Fireman's Park.

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

1. Resolution #2024-81 to authorize the Borough Clerk to renew the following liquor licenses for the 2024-2025 licensing term.

1906-33-004-008 Coyote Cocina Mexicana 120 Route 23

2. Payment of bills for the meeting of June 25, 2024.

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the consent agenda of June 25, 2024 with the removal of PO numbers 37977, 38060, 38233, 38196 and 38197. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve PO number 37977. Seconded by Mr. Snyder.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: Skellenger

**MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 25, 2024**

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve PO numbers 38060, 38233, 38196 and 38197. Seconded by Mr. Snyder.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: Carnes

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Snyder asked about the status of Rowett's garage and the forest fire building.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for June 11, 2024. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-76

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-76 awarding contract for road resurfacing of Catlin Road, Wyker Road, Rowe Place and Junction Street through the Morris County Co-op. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-77

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-77 authorizing the award of a required disclosure contract with Reiner Pump Systems, Inc for the Department of Public Works in the amount not to exceed \$23,960.00. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-78

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-78 to accept project as complete for Hemlock Drive project. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: Heath

Resolution #2024-79

Mr. Formica a motion to adopt resolution 2024-79 authorizing the award of Hemlock, Catlin and Junction Road improvements bid to Cedar Contracting. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: Heath

Resolution #2024-80

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-80 authorizing a refund for a disabled veteran on Block 1101 Lot 14 Qual C01013 in the amount of \$258.46. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

**MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 25, 2024**

Discussion on the purchase of a street sweeper

Mr. Formica commented that he is concerned about the maintenance of the street sweeper. The current proposal does not include a vacuum. More information is needed on various types of sweepers and a shared service with a neighboring town.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Mr. Snyder made a motion to adjourn into closed executive session to discuss personnel and attorney client privilege matters. Motion seconded by Mrs. Heath. All were in favor.

Mayor Sowden commented that there will no official action taken after executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:46pm, the Mayor and Council adjourned into executive session and did not return into open public session.

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John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

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Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk