

**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 28, 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

Mr. Phillip Crabb, Historic Preservation Commission Chair, introduced Jessica Caldwell and Mr. Thomas Jones. Mr. Crabb explained Ms. Caldwell's experience and explained Mr. Jones' qualifications.

Ms. Jessica Caldwell, PP, AICP, LEED GA, J. Caldwell & Associates, LLC, stepped forward. Ms. Caldwell commented on revitalization that Franklin can capitalize on. Ms. Caldwell commented that goals and strategic planning should be put in place to show how to get the vision that you are looking for.

Thomas Edward Jones, Historic Preservation Planning, commented on the advantages of taking steps on a year-to-year plan over 5 years. If Franklin is put on the Historical list, commercial customers will get a twenty percent tax credit. Mr. Jones commented that he would work with a committee that is set by the Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Limon had nothing to report.

Mr. Postas had nothing to report.

Mr. Snyder commented that there are two ordinances on the agenda tonight and the third ordinance is not on the agenda tonight. There will be a meeting on July 11 with the Safety Committee.

Mr. Formica had nothing to report.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mrs. Heath commented that Franklin Nite was successful. Mrs. Heath announced the winners of the Franklin pageant, Darling Maldonado – Miss Franklin and she received a \$300 scholarship from the PBA, Brooke Perez – Junior Miss Franklin, Lily Geuther – Little Miss Franklin, Abigail Swiss – Princess of Franklin and Lucian Sierra – Prince of Franklin.

Mrs. Tremont commented that Hardyston Township is holding a Safety Town event and information is posted on the Borough website. Information was received from JCP&L regarding tree trimming. The reassessment was approved by the County and they have sent the agreement to the State and once Scott is back he will let us know what the next step is.

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Mr. Bernath commented that the audit report should be ready for the next meeting. Met with the teamsters and contract negotiations are continuing. Sent a copy of the proposed PBA contract out to the entire council for review.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden commented that he would like to move the July meeting from 19 to the 26.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to move the July meeting from July 19, 2022 to July 26, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

All were in favor.

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.

Mr. Robert VanderPloeg, Franklin Police Department, stepped forward. Mr. VanderPloeg read from a prepared statement. Mr. VanderPloeg commented on the ordinance that was removed and asked to have it reviewed further. Mr. VanderPloeg asked to keep the police department involved in the discussions.

Mrs. Joanne Tatka, 151 Maple Road, Franklin, stepped forward. Mrs. Tatka asked if the police department was being defunded. Mrs. Tatka asked about the payroll services resolution and who is currently doing the payroll. Mrs. Tatka voiced concerns regarding the noise ordinance. Mrs. Tatka voiced her concerns regarding the ordinance for employment practices.

Ms. Dawne Roe, 140 Munsonhurst Road, Franklin, stepped forward. Ms. Roe asked to have the second public session added back to the agenda. Ms. Roe commented that no minutes are posted on the website. Ms. Roe commented that she supports the police department. Ms. Roe asked why the pride month resolution wasn't passed.

Mr. Michael Maynard, 24 Maple Road, Franklin, stepped forward. Mr. Maynard commented that he supports the police and requested transparency.

Ms. Tamara Contreras, Sussex County Welfare Coalition. The produce market that was held on June 11 at the pond was very well attended. The next produce market is July 16, 2022 from 10am-12pm.

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. 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 Township of Fredon supporting the rights of parents' to make their own informed decisions regarding their children's education and exposure to sensitive information

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Police Department Report – May 2022

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

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1. Resolution #2022-68 approval to adopt resolution 2022-68 authorizing the Borough Clerk to renew the following liquor licenses for the 2022-2023 licensing term.

1906-33-005-008 Franklin Silver Ducat II LLC, pocket license
1906-33-009-012 Franklin Silver Ducat II LLC, pocket license
1906-33-004-007 Coyote Cocina Mexicana LLC, pocket license

2. Payment of bills for the meeting of June 28, 2022.

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of June 28, 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. Postas made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for June 14, 2022. (Absent: Limon) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Limon

Resolution #2022-64

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve resolution 2022-64 establishing salaries for certain employees of Franklin Borough for the Year 2022. Seconded by Mrs. Heath

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: Limon Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2022-65

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve resolution 2022-65 establishing salaries for certain part time employees of Franklin Borough for the Year 2022. Seconded by Mr. Postas

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2022-66

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt resolution 2022-66 authorizing a grant application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Taylor Rd., Kane Rd., and Sgt. Dennis F. Premock Rd. Project. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2022-67

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve resolution 2022-67 awarding a contract to Primepoint, LLC for payroll services contingent upon final review of insurance requirements by Franklin Borough's Risk Manager. (Contract included in Council Packets) Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

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Adoption of Ordinance #10-2022

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt ordinance 10-2022 entitled "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS 2022 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE "BOROUGH"); APPROPRIATING \$1,345,083 THEREFOR (INCLUDING A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,159,883 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COSTS THEREOF". Seconded by Postas.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for any comments regarding Ordinance 10-2022.

Mr. Postas made a motion to open to the public Ordinance 10-2022, seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Mr. William VanTassel, 28 Nestor Street, Franklin, was granted permission to join the meeting after raising his hand. Mr. VanTassel asked if the bond ordinance applies additional debt to the Borough over the long term.

Mr. Bernath commented that it is not a long term debt.

There being no one else present or on zoom who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Postas made a motion to close to the public Ordinance 10-2022, 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

Introduction of Ordinance #11-2022

Mr. Snyder made a motion to introduce ordinance 11-2022 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY MODIFYING CHAPTER 184 REGARDING NOISE". Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: Limon Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held on July 26, 2022.

Introduction of Ordinance #12-2022

Mrs. Heath made a motion to introduce ordinance 12-2022 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY REPLACING SECTIONS 56-1 THROUGH 56-5 REGARDING EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES". Seconded by Mr. Postas.

There was a discussion on amending the ordinance.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to amend Ordinance 12-2022 by amending section c to read all applications received shall be reviewed by the appropriate department head and Borough Administrator and may be reviewed by the Personnel Committee and by amending section k to read that no person who is related to a Borough elected office holder, officer or department head shall be employed by the Borough. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: Limon, Snyder Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to introduce amended ordinance 12-2022. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

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Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: Limon, Snyder Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held on July 26, 2022.

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. Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07p.m., seconded by Mr. Postas.

All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk