

**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
AUGUST 13, 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 (via zoom), Mr. Limon, 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, 2024, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

PRESENTATIONS

Franklin Recreation Committee - At this time, Bobbi Formica, Recreation Co-chair introduced the 2024 Royal Court of Franklin.

Junior Miss Franklin Addyson Snyder
Little Miss Franklin Cameron Larco
Princess of Franklin Alexa Raperto
Prince of Franklin Jacob Narel
Miss Franklin Makayla Snyder

Makayla Snyder was also the 2024 Sussex County People's Choice Queen of the Fair.

Michael Christensen from Boy Scout Troop 90 Eagle Scout presented to the Council his idea of the project he wants to do in Franklin. Mr. Christensen wants to get the Council's permission to construct a new Veterans Memorial at the park.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Heath commented that she is glad to be back.

Mr. Skellenger commented that he is happy to hear that everything went well with NJMVC Mobile Unit and hopes to have them back again.

Mr. Formica had nothing to report.

Mr. Limon commented that we are actively looking for locations for the water wells. There was a personnel meeting and the items discussed are on the agenda.

Mrs. Carnes commented that there was an EDC Meeting this past Thursday. The next pond side market is at the end of September and we discussed about moving the location to closer to the road to bring more people in. Mrs. Carnes attended the grand opening for Apulia Risto-Pizza in the plaza where Chelesa's Closet was.

Mr. Snyder commented that there was a personnel meeting and the items discussed are on the agenda. We would like to hire another DPW employee full time. The Council authorized the Municipal Clerk to advertise for the DPW position.

Mrs. Tremont had nothing to report.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden had nothing to report.

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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. Snyder. All were in favor.

Mrs. Joanne Tatka stepped forward. Mrs. Tatka congratulated Darlene on her retirement and wished her well. Mrs. Tatka questioned the amount of money to be paid to Allied Painting. Mrs. Tatka asked how the recreation grant for \$77,000 will be used. Mrs. Tatka also asked if we are hiring a new director for DPW. How much money was received for the 2nd quarter from the Cannabis place. Has anything been done with the old power and light building.

Ms. Regina Bozza stepped forward. Ms. Bozza commented on the drainage problems and damage to her driveway at her home. She purchased the home in 2022 and was told that the damage to the driveway was a result of the rain due to the driveway being the lowest point in the road from the north/south and west/east. The previous owner informed me that he spoke to the town engineer about the drainage issue prior to the road being paved in 2022. Ms. Bozza commented at what point will this issue not be ignored. Ms. Bozza commented that she will be filing an OPRA request for information from past requests that may have been filed regarding the problem. Could a catch basin be installed near her property.

Mr. Ursin explained what can be done. The municipality doesn't normally get involved with drainage issues on private property.

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 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):

None Filed

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. DPW Report – May 27 – May 31
2. DPW Report – June 3 – June 7
3. DPW Report – June 24 – June 28
4. County Board of Health – June 2024
5. Police Department Report – June 2024
6. DPW Report – June 10 – June 14
7. DPW report – June 17 – June 21
8. DPW Report – July 1 – July 5
9. DPW Report – July 8 – July 12
10. Municipal Court Report – July 2024
11. Permit Activity List – July 2024
12. Permit List – July 2024
13. COH Report – July 2024

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of August 13, 2024.

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of August 13, 2024 with the removal of PO# 37977. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

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Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve PO# 37977. Seconded by Mr. Snyder.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Skellenger

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 July 16, 2024. (Absent: Heath) Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Heath

Resolution 2024-86

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-86 requesting permission for the dedication by rider for Franklin Pond Markert Days. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-87

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-87 authorizing the award of a required disclosure contract with B&N Tree Care for the Department of Public of Works. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-88

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-88 authorizing the award of a required disclosure contract with B.G. Coston and Sons LLC for the Department of Public Works. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-89

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-89 requesting approval of items of revenue and appropriation NJSA 40A:4-87. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-90

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-90 authorizing the award of a required disclosure contract with Montague Tool and Supply Co. for the Department of Public Works. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

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Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-91

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-91 extending the grace period for payment of 3rd quarter taxes. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-92

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-92 to accept project as complete for Franklin Meadows Waterspheroid. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-93

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-93 authorizing extending the probationary period for Jacob Brush in the Department of Public Works. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-94

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-94 authorizing the hiring of a full time laborer for the Department of Public Works. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-95

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-95 authorizing the water/sewer collector to cancel an overbilling on Block 901, Lot 2. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-96

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to table resolution 2024-96 authorizing the award of Hemlock, Catlin and Junction Road Improvements to AA Berms. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon roll call vote to table:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Heath

Adoption of Ordinance 13-2024

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt ordinance 13-2024 entitled "AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN REPEALING AND REPLACING THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADOPT A NEW CHAPTER 128, ENTITLED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AND REGULATIONS TO ADOPT FLOOD HAZARD MAPS; TO DESIGNATE A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE." Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open to the meeting to the public for Ordinance 13-2024. Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open the

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meeting to the public for Ordinance 13-2024. Seconded by Mr. Snyder. All were in favor.

There being no one present 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.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance 15-2024

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to introduce ordinance 15-2024 entitled "CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PURCHASE OF ALCOTEST SYSTEM, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$22,823.00 THEREFOR FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE COST THEREOF." Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Mayor Sowden announced that the final reading will be September 10, 2024.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance 16-2024

Mr. Formica made a motion to introduce ordinance 16-2024 entitled "AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN AMENDING THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN CODE OF ORDINANCES TO MODIFY CHAPTER 5 REGARDING THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT." Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Mayor Sowden asked what has changed over the original ordinance that has been working for the last 13 years.

Mr. Formica commented that he doesn't feel it's working, and this is preparation for the future.

Mrs. Heath commented that there needs to be a change in the structure for the future of the department.

Mr. Limon commented that originally, he didn't agree to this change. He understands there are some issues but why do we want to go back.

Mr. Skellenger commented that he supports this change as it was explained.

Mr. Snyder commented that the issues that have been happening now make it hard to understand and this ordinance will hopefully correct the problems.

Mrs. Heath commented that the morale down there is not good. This shows we're trying to fix the problems. This has not been done out of the blue, it's been happening over time.

Mrs. Tremont voiced her concerns about the way the ordinance is written.

Mayor Sowden announced that the final reading will be September 10, 2024.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

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Mayoral Appointment

Mayor Sowden made the following appointment.

Crossing Guard Hire

Sharon Spear as substitute crossing guard at the rate of \$15.71/hr. effective September 1, 2024, contingent upon successful physical and background check, as recommended by Rebecca Babcock, Crossing Guard Captain.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to confirm the mayor's appointment. Seconded by Mr. Snyder.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Acceptance of Letter of Retirement from Darlene J. Tremont

Mrs. Heath made a motion to accept the letter of retirement from Darlene J. Tremont effective December 31, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Mr. Snyder read the letter of retirement from Darlene J. Tremont into the record.

Mrs. Tremont thanked everyone for their kind words.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discussion on geese at the pond

Mrs. Heath will get in touch with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture regarding the geese issue at the pond.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Snyder asked if the trees can be trimmed by the Jehovah witness property.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21p.m., seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk