

**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
OCTOBER 11, 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 and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: Mr. Snyder

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 commented that the American Flags on Main Street were donated by Ron Icorn, an exempt member of the Franklin Fire Department. The cost of the flags was around \$700 and thanked the road department for hanging the flags along Main Street. Mr. Limon asked if there was a moratorium on roads if they have been repaved and if it was being adhered to.

Mr. Postas had nothing to report.

Mr. Formica commented that the personnel committee met and discussed matters of a contract and also a possible hiring that is on the agenda tonight. Brian met with the County today and will receive information on when the new guiderail will be installed on County Route 631.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mrs. Heath commented that the Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 29 through Recreation, set up is at Fireman's Park at 11am and Trunk or Treat is at 12:30. There will be a [Recreation] workshop meeting on October 20 to firm everything up for the Trunk or Treat event. The Franklin/Hardyston free rabies clinic is scheduled for November 5 from 1pm-3pm at the Borough Garage. There are several ordinances that I have to meet with the committee to discuss.

Mrs. Tremont commented that Moo for You will be hosting a grand opening on Sunday October 16, 2022, from 12-4 and Mayor and Council are invited.

Mr. Bernath commented that he has a meeting later this week to finish up contract negotiations. We started our new payroll company October 1st, and everything seems to be transitioning well.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden commented that he would like to have some discussion on police vehicles. The Chief has found one unit, 2022 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor, that is available as a demo at a cost of \$54,182.

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A motion was made by Mr. Postas to authorize the purchase of the 2022 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor vehicle contingent upon the insurance evaluation and do a memorializing resolution at the next meeting. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs. Heath 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, 151 Maple Road Franklin stepped forward. Mrs. Tatka asked if the Council was able to discuss the accident. Mrs. Tatka asked if the water tank is starting to be repaired. Mrs. Tatka questioned the fire department member who does not live within Franklin Borough. Mrs. Tatka asked if the old playground site would be a pavilion for the seniors. Mrs. Tatka read an article in the NJ Herald regarding NJ Historic Sites in line for preservation funds and they gave out over \$15.8 million from the Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Fund; did Franklin put in an application for this.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Limon 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. Township of Hardyston Resolution #81-2022 opposing to the reassignment by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection of all municipalities currently designated Tier "B" under the municipal separate storm sewer system permit program to Tier "A" designation.
2. Township of Hampton Resolution opposing to the reassignment by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection of all municipalities currently designated Tier "B" under the municipal separate storm sewer system permit program to Tier "A" designation.
3. Email dated September 26, 2022, from Cathy Martinez stating her resignation as crossing guard, effectively immediately.
4. Email dated October 3, 2022, from Barbara Formica stating her resignation from the Franklin Borough Board of Health.
5. Sussex County Board of Taxation 2022 Abstract of Ratables.
6. State of New Jersey Department of the Treasury 2022 Sussex County table of equalized valuations.
7. Email dated October 5, 2022, from Bill Lanham, President, Walkkill Valley First Aid Squad Re: His resignation as President and Member from the Walkkill Valley First Aid Squad.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. DPW Report – August 29, 2022 – September 2, 2022
2. DPW Report – September 5, 2022 – September 9, 2022
3. DPW Report – September 12, 2022 – September 16, 2022
4. Municipal Court Report – September 2022
5. Franklin Borough Registrar Report – July 2022 – September 2022
6. Construction Permit Activity Report – September 2022
7. Construction Permit List – September 2022
8. COH Report – September 2022

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of October 11, 2022.

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Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of October 11, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

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 September 27, 2022. (Absent: Snyder) Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution #2022-102

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt resolution 2022-102 to authorize the hiring of a full time DPW Laborer, at the rate of \$24.75/hr. contingent upon successful background check, physical and drug test as recommended by Brian VanDenBroek, DPW Director and the Personnel Committee. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance 14-2022

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt ordinance 14-2022 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY MODIFYING SECTION 259-2 REGARDING PARKING." Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for any comments regarding Ordinance 14-2022. Mr. Postas made the motion to open to the public ordinance 14-2022, seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Mrs. Joanne Tatka, 151 Maple Road Franklin stepped forward. Mrs. Tatka questioned various sections within the ordinance in regard to direction of travel.

Mr. Ursin commented that it is referring to the side of the street not the direction of travel.

Ms. Dawne Rowe, 140 Munsonhurst Road Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Rowe voiced concerns regarding Ordinance 14-2022.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to amend ordinance 14-2022 by correcting the spelling of Caitlin Road to Catlin Road and removing north bound and south bound and replacing with north side and south side. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote to amend:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

There being no one else present who wished to address the governing body, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to close to the public ordinance 14-2022, seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt amended ordinance 14-2022, seconded by Mr. Postas.

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Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: Limon Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Approval of NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the NJ State Firemen's Membership Application for Ashley Delea. 106 Libertyville Road, Wantage, NJ as Firematic Associate member to the Franklin Fire Department as endorsed by Khyle Conklin, Franklin Fire Department Chief. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: Limon

Approval of NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application for Josiah Maynard, 24 Maple Road, Franklin as member to the Franklin Fire Department as endorsed by Khyle Conklin, Franklin Fire Department Chief. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: Limon

Discussion on Solid Waste Bid Specs

Mr. Bernath commented that the bid specs were sent out for all councilmembers to review.

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the bid specs and to authorize the administrator to send them out. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Discussion on Parking on Dina's Way

Mrs. Heath commented that as it stands now it reads there is no parking except Saturdays and Sundays. We would like to eliminate the Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from the ordinance.

It was the consensus of the council to have an ordinance drawn up for introduction at the next council meeting.

Discussion on Recreation Recommendations

Mr. Formica commented that at the Recreation meeting we had a couple of discussions. The Recreation Committee wants to make a recommendation to open the pond for swimming next year and if this is something the council wants to do maybe we can advertise early. More and more people are using the pavilion and recreation had an idea to have the people put a deposit down to ensure the area is cleaned up.

After some further discussions, it was the consensus of the council to leave the pavilion use as is and to start advertising for lifeguards in January 2023. The Council also asked to have the CFO do an analysis of the costs related to opening the pond.

Discussion on Zoom Meetings

Mr. Postas suggested to go back to strictly in person meetings.

Mr. Postas made a motion to stop zoom meetings effectively immediately. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

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Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Postas

Nays: Heath, Limon, Skellenger Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mrs. Heath commented on an email that Mrs. Tremont sent out regarding State Health Benefits. There is a bill being considered that would allow municipalities to have a seat on the commission when they discuss State Health Benefits.

Mr. Skellenger praised the Franklin Fire Department on the Sussex County Firemen's Inspection Day and Parade.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Limon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00p.m., seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk