

**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 12, 2021**

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, Mr. Limon, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Zydor and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: Mr. Postas

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 6, 2021, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

**PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Limon commented that he is going to schedule a public works meeting before the next meeting.

Mr. Snyder commented that we met with and interviewed two candidates for the CFO/Administrator position last week. We [the committee] have not come to a decision. Mr. Snyder asked to use the meeting that is scheduled for October 20, 2021 at 7:00pm as a special meeting to discuss the positions of CFO and Administrator and hopes everyone can attend and ask questions.

Mr. Formica had nothing to report.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mr. Zydor had nothing to report.

Mr. Zydor asked what the status was with the water tower. Mayor Sowden commented that we are working on finalizing the paperwork.

Mr. Zydor asked when will we start removing the old playground. Mr. Formica commented he will reach out to Bill to get a copy of the paperwork.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden had nothing to report.

**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. Formica. All were in favor.

JoAnn Tatka, 151 Maple Road Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Tatka thanked the Council for the use of the Senior Center for candidates night of course we only had 3 days where a final decision was made and we did our best to get the word out. Ms. Tatka questioned the \$65,000 from the Highlands Council. Mr. Ursin explained what the money would be used for. Ms. Tatka questioned the amount of voters from each district from the special school election. Ms. Tatka was directed to the County Clerk's Office for that information. Mr. Skellenger commented that there were 217 voters from Franklin.

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There being no one else present or on ZOOM who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Limon 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. State of New Jersey Department of the Treasury 2021 Sussex County table of equalized valuations
2. Resolution from the Township of Montague opposing cuts in state school aid allocations to Sussex County school districts.
3. Resolution from the Township of Montague endorsing the “election integrity” bill package pending in the legislature in support of free and fair elections untainted by fraud.
4. Resolution from the Borough of Hamburg supporting a 2021 bear hunt in New Jersey.
5. Township of Hardyston Ordinance amending certain portions of Chapter 185, zoning of the revised general ordinances to permit drive-thru establishments in certain zones as a conditional use and establish standards for drive-thru establishments.

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

1. Municipal Court Report – August 2021
2. Registrar Report – July – September
3. Police Department Report – September 2021
4. Construction Permit Activity Report – September 2021
5. Permit List – September 2021
6. COH Report – September 2021

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

1. None filed.

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

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of October 12, 2021.

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of October 12, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas 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 28, 2021. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Application for Use of Municipal Building or Property

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the revised application for use of Municipal Building or Property. (Revised application included in Council Packets) Seconded by Mr. Zydon.

Mr. Zydon asked for an explanation of this form. Mr. Ursin commented that the updates to the form were mostly tightening up the agreement.

Mr. Skellenger asked for clarification on a political subdivision. Mr. Ursin stated that a political subdivision would be the planning board.

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Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

**Franklin Borough Recreation Committee Sponsorship**

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to confirm the Franklin Borough Recreation Committee as sponsors of the Franklin Seniors to conduct Meetings for the Senior Citizens of the Borough of Franklin one day per week to be held in the Franklin Senior Center. Seconded by Mr. Zydon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

**Resolution #2021-96**

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt resolution 2021-96 requesting approval of items of revenue and appropriation NJS 40A:4-87 in the amount of \$65,000, resulting of funds from the NJ Highlands Council. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

**Resolution #2021-97**

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt resolution 2021-97 confirming the Mayoral appointment of William Caraballo as substitute crossing guard pending upon the results of required background check at the rate of \$14.44 per hour. (Email of recommendation from Lynn Prtorich, Head Crossing Guard included in Council packets) Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

**Resolution #2021-98**

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt resolution 2021-98 awarding contracts for the purchase of dump truck in the amount of \$192,255.00. Seconded by Mr. Zydon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

**Adoption of Ordinance 13-2021**

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt ordinance 13-2021 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING ARTICLE V "ZONING," SECTION 161-27(B) OF THE BOROUGH CODE AND THE ZONING MAP OF THE BOROUGH TO CHANGE THE ZONE CLASSIFICATION OF BLOCK 2401, LOT 20 FROM "R-1" SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO "I" INDUSTRIAL". Seconded by Mr. Zydon

**Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden opened the meeting to the public for any comments regarding Ordinance 13-2021. There being no one from the public who wished to addressed the Governing Body, Mr. Zydon made a motion to close the meeting to public, seconded by Mr. Limon. All were favor.**

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

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Mr. Ursin stated that there will be no official action taken after executive session, the Council will adjourn directly from there.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:30PM, 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