

**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
NOVEMBER 9, 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

Jeremy Curcio, Senior Sales Manager and Jasmine, Account Executive from Planet Networks updated the Council on the progress of installation for fiber optic internet within Franklin Borough. We are hoping within the next 30-60 days to have everything ready to go.

Mr. Snyder asked if they were done with Franklin as far as setting it up for fiber optic.

Mr. Curcio commented that from a logistical and IT standpoint, there is a hub located by the Franklin ShopRite that is allowing us to extend our network into Franklin Borough.

Mr. Postas asked when can the residents expect to be able to use the fiber optic.

Mr. Curcio commented that they are looking to wire the Borough Hall within 30 days and at the 60-day mark everyone in Franklin should have their service.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Limon had nothing to report.

Mr. Postas had nothing to report.

Mr. Snyder commented that he and Andrew met with Bill Koppenael, County Engineer, in regards to County Route 631. The County is experiencing a shortage of engineers and any potential project could take almost 3 years to be started. There will be a safety committee meeting tomorrow at 12:30 to go over some of the issues with speed limits.

Mr. Formica commented that the personnel committee just met and there will be more discussions next month.

Mr. Skellenger commented that the auction has started for 35 Fowler Street and it ends on November 10.

Mrs. Heath commented that the rabies clinic was successful and thanked those who worked it. The recreation's trunk or treat event went well and they have new ideas for next year. Recreation will be sponsoring the Holiday Tree Lighting at the pond starting at 5pm on Saturday, November 26 and there will be a hot chocolate bar for all attendees. Mr. Formica and other volunteers are starting to work on replacing

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some of the lights. Recreation is also discussing having the Holiday Residential Lighting contest. There is a Safety Committee meeting tomorrow at 12:30.

Mayor Sowden asked about the trees being decorated.

Mr. Formica commented that only one tree will be lit due to the fact that the trees are getting large. Brian is contacting JCP&L to come fix the lighting box for the tree.

Mr. Snyder commented that the solar ordinance will be discussed with the attorney and brought back for discussion.

Mayor Sowden commented that the scarecrow contest went well and thanked those involved.

Mrs. Tremont had nothing to report.

Mr. Bernath commented that the best practices inventory has been completed and based on our answers we will receive all of our state aid. Mr. Bernath has reached out to Sparta Township as our 9-1-1 dispatch shared service is up at the end of this year. Mr. Bernath received Mr. Bolcato's letter regarding Hillside Estates and the renewal of their license and based on his response Mr. Bernath sees no issues with renewing the license.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Postas 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. Carol Truhan, 20 Nestor Street Franklin stepped forward. Mrs. Truhan asked if there were any updates on the parking issues. Asked if there was a timeline when the issue might be updated.

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):

1. Resolution from the Township of Walpack in response to a proposal to change the designation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to the Delaware River National Park and Lenape Preserve.
2. Letter dated October 30, 2022 from Joe and Diane Strongosky acknowledging the helpfulness of the Borough employees.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Police Department Report – September 2022
2. Zoning Department Report – September and October 2022
3. DPW Report – October 3-October 7
4. DPW Report – October 10-October 14
5. DPW Report – October 17-October 21

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution #2022-112 to approve a budget transfer in the amount of \$10,000.
2. Payment of bills for the meeting of November 9, 2022.

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the consent agenda of November 9, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Limon.

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Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution #2022-113

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-113 authorizing entering into a contract with J. Caldwell and Associates, LLC for professional consulting services in the amount of \$9,850.00. Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discussion on Redevelopment Study & Redevelopment Plan for 50 Washington Avenue

Mr. Ursin explained the property and how to move forward. Mr. Ursin also explained the benefits and possible options to develop the property.

Mr. Postas asked why would a business be interested in this property when there is other vacant properties along Route 23.

Mr. Formica commented that he has had some discussion with the Franklin Borough School and the Board of Education is going to decide whether they want to move forward and are interested. Mr. Formica commented that he would like to wait for the school to make their decision.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for October 25, 2022. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Planet Networks, Inc. Proposal and Agreement

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve business fiber internet services in the amount of \$899.75 per month as per proposal #37913, dated November 1, 2022 contingent upon attorney review of the contract. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Hillside Estates Mobile Home Park License Renewal

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the renewal of the 2023 Mobile Home Park License for Hillside Estates at Franklin, LLC. Seconded by Mr. Limon

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2022-114

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve SOP for Sworn Police Officers as approved and recommended by Chief Cugliari. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Mr. Limon asked if the residency requirement can be added and why is this coming out now.

Mr. Postas commented that we have an ordinance for hiring preference, can this be incorporated into this hiring policy.

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Mr. Ursin explained why this was being brought to the Governing Body.

Mr. Postas made a motion table Resolution 2022-114 until the next meeting, seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: Formica Absent: None Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance #15-2022

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt ordinance 15-2022 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. Postas.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for any comments regarding Ordinance 15-2022. Mr. Formica made a motion to open to the public ordinance 15-2022, seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

There being no one present who wished to address the governing body, Mr. Snyder made a motion to close to the public ordinance 15-2022, seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: Limon Absent: None Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance #16-2022

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt ordinance 16-2022 entitled "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF NON-PASSENGER VEHICLES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IN AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE "BOROUGH"); APPROPRIATING \$225,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$214,285 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COSTS THEREOF". Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for any comments regarding Ordinance 16-2022. Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open to the public ordinance 16-2022, seconded by Mr. Formica. All were in favor.

There being no one present who wished to address the governing body, Mr. Postas made a motion to close to the public ordinance 16-2022. 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 #17-2022

Mrs. Heath made a motion to introduce ordinance 17-2022 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY REPLACING SECTION 200-6, REGARDING PEDDLERS LICENSES". Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held on December 20, 2022.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

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Peddlers, Hawkers, Solicitors and Canvassers Permit Application

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the revisions to the peddlers, hawkers, solicitors and canvassers permit application. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discussion on Water Tank Bid Specs

Mr. Formica asked if it was possible to add a price quote for 1 tone painting and lettering of Franklin Borough in bold only for comparison.

Discussion on Franklin Borough Sign

Mr. Formica asked which sign everyone liked.

Mr. Formica will ask the vendor to add colors to options 2, 3 and 6.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

There were no miscellaneous comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Postas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19p.m., seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk