

**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 22, 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. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder 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 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 had nothing to report.

Mr. Snyder had nothing to report.

Mr. Formica had nothing to report.

Mr. Skellenger commented that the property at 35 Fowler Street sold for \$115,000 and its on the agenda for acceptance. The Franklin Fire Department is hosting a venison dinner on December 3, 2022, contact any fireman if interested in tickets.

Mrs. Heath commented that there was a safety committee meeting on November 10 with Mr. Snyder, Mr. Formica, Chief Cugliari and Andrew. Chief Cugliari gave a report of all motor vehicle accidents on County Route 631 from 2018 through 2022 and the committee agreed that they would contact the County to request the speed limit be lowered to 25 mph and to also try to get put on the County agenda the possibility of straightening the roadway. There is also an agenda item to discuss police staffing and the recreation meeting that was scheduled for the November 17<sup>th</sup> was canceled, the tree lighting is scheduled for Saturday, November 26, 2022 from 5-7pm Santa will be arriving shortly after 5pm, hot chocolate and goodies will be served and the boy scouts will be taking photos.

Mayor Sowden asked Mr. Formica how everything went with the tree lighting set up. Mr. Formica commented that one tree is decorated but now we have an issue with the power. There are two quotes that should be coming in to fix the issue. JCP&L came out and said that it is a break in the wire, underground, going from the pole to the meter.

Mrs. Tremont commented that there was a safety meeting with Ernie and Bill from statewide and we went over worker compensation claims and incidents and discussed new regulations. We are also working on setting up an active shooter training.

Mr. Bernath commented that the water tower bid is set to be published on December 1, 2022 and the bid opening will be January 18, 2023 at 10:30am and we can award or reject all the bids at the January 24, 2023 meeting.

Mr. McBriar had nothing to report.

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Mayor Sowden commented that radar signs are installed on Cork Hill Road. Mayor Sowden commented he is interested in trying to schedule a workshop meeting on December 6, 2022 at 7pm with Jessica Caldwell and Tom Jones to discuss the redevelopment of Main Street. After a discussion it was decided to instead of adding a workshop meeting it would be better to invite the Planning Board, Historical Commission and Recreation Committee to attend the Regular Mayor and Council meeting on December 20, 2022 with a 6:00pm start time and draft the proper notice for the newspaper.

**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.

Mr. Christian Daguin, 36 John Wilton Street Franklin, stepped forward. Mr. Daguin addressed the council with concerns of “jake braking” on Route 23.

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. 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. None received.

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

1. Municipal Court Report – October 2022
2. DPW Reports – October 31, 2022 – November 11, 2022
3. Police Department Report – October 2022
4. Board of Health report – October 2022

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

1. None filed.

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

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of November 22, 2022.

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of November 22, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

**OLD BUSINESS**

Resolution #2022-114

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-114 approving the SOP for Sworn Police Officers as approved and recommended by Chief Cugliari. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: Limon Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for November 9, 2022. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

## MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 22, 2022

### Resolution #2022-115

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-115 appointing Suzann Brush as Deputy Municipal Court Administrator at the annual salary of \$42,000, effective December 1, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

### Resolution #2022-116

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-116 accepting the on-line bid in the amount of \$115,000 for 35 Fowler Street, Block 901, Lot 1, and the Mayor and Council authorize execution of the real estate contract. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

### Mayoral Appointments

Mayor Sowden made the following appointments:

#### **Municipal Public Defender**

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to confirm the mayor's appointment of John Grey, Esq. - at the rate of \$150.00 per client effective immediately, term expires: December 31, 2022 as recommended by Judge Glenn Gavin. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

#### **Recreation Committee**

Mr. Formica made a motion to confirm the mayor's appointment of James Taffinito - Member to a 3-yr. unexpired term ending 12/31/2023. As recommended by the Recreation Committee. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

#### **Discussion on Police Department Staffing**

Mayor Sowden requested Mrs. Heath to clarify.

Mrs. Heath commented that the Police Department is asking for authorization to make a fourth sergeant and begin testing to promote.

Mr. Snyder commented that he does not support promoting a police officer to sergeant.

Mrs. Heath made a motion to authorize the Police Chief to start the [promotional] process for exams and present the list to the Safety Committee on the recommended candidate for the position of sergeant. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: Snyder Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

### **MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS**

Mrs. Heath commented on the water bills and when they were received and the property on Nestor Street.

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Mr. Snyder commented on the Hess property and what is being done. Can we make owners responsible. Mr. Snyder asked where the 51 units were going to be built. Mayor Sowden commented that they would be going in the old Harden Lumber property.

Each Council Member wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Limon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45p.m., seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

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John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

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Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk