

**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 28, 2023**

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 6, 2023, 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

Mrs. Heath commented that the tree lighting was a success. Thank you to everyone for all of your hard work and they served over 100 cups of hot chocolate.

Mr. Skellenger commented that the tree lighting was great.

Mr. Formica had nothing to report.

Mr. Limon had nothing to report.

Mr. Postas commented that the water tank has been shrouded and he received word from Mr. Vreeland that the interior and exterior sand blasting are complete, and the painting will be done by the weekend. Hopefully the tank will be refilled by early next week. Mr. Postas asked Mayor Sowden if there was any news on the well.

Mayor Sowden commented that he had some discussions with Mike today and they are working on sizing the pump and hoping to start next week to run the pumps and water sampling. We should receive the report by the second week of December.

Mr. Snyder commented that there was a personnel meeting with a DPW employee regarding that employee's future with the DPW.

Mrs. Tremont commented that employee evaluations have begun. Mrs. Tremont received a letter from Angelo Bolcato in regard to Hillside Estates renewal application and he finds that the renewal application is within the parameters of the borough ordinance. Mrs. Tremont commented that she received a bench donation request.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden asked for a consensus of the council regarding the zoom status. It was the consensus of the council to discontinue the zoom meetings for 2024. Mayor Sowden asked for a consensus of the council to purchase new tablets/ipads for the council members. It was the consensus of the council to obtain prices for new tablets/ipads.

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 28, 2023

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. Postas. All were in favor.

Mr. John Stuart addressed the governing Body regarding cars speeding on Wildcat Road. Mr. Stuart commented that his dog was hit and killed in front of his house. Since this incident, the police have put a box up to obtain the speed of the vehicles.

There being no one else present or on Zoom who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Postas made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mrs. Heath. 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. Borough of Ogdensburg Ordinance 15-2023 amending chapter 30 "Land Development"

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. County Board of Health report – October 2023

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution 2023-133 – 2023 budget transfer in the amount of \$10,300.00.
2. Payment of bills for the meeting of November 28, 2023.

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the consent agenda of November 28, 2023, with the removal of purchase order numbers 37467 and 37471. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve purchase order numbers 37467 and 37471. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Formica

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Snyder asked if there was an update on the Rowett garage.

Mr. Formica commented on the old gas station property and the graffiti on the building. The zoning officer is looking into other towns' ordinances and we will possibly do a new ordinance in 2024 for abandon properties.

Mr. Skellenger asked about the status of the 4-way stop at Main and Junction Streets and the signs regarding the 2-hour parking on Main Street by Ramsey's Funeral Home.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes and executive session meeting minutes for November 13, 2023. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 28, 2023

Hillside Estates Mobile Home Park License Renewal

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the renewal of the 2024 Mobile Home Park License for Hillside Estates at Franklin, LLC. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Construction Department Shared Service Agreement

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to table the approval of the Construction Department Shared Service Agreement between the Township of Hardyston and the Borough of Franklin beginning January 1, 2024 ending December 31, 2028 and to have the Mayor and Clerk execute the same, until the next meeting. (Agreement included in Council packets) Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Construction Software Shared Service Agreement

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to table the approval of a Construction Software Shared Service agreement between the Township of Hardyston and the Borough of Franklin, Town of Newton, Borough of Hamburg and Township of Wantage for Software System upgrade and annual maintenance and to have the Mayor and Clerk execute the same, until the next meeting. (Agreement included in Council packets) Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance #18-2023

Mr. Postas made a motion to introduce ordinance 18-2023 entitled "SETTING RANGE FOR SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY". Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held December 19, 2023.

Mr. Formica commented that he would like to go over some of the ranges as they need to be adjusted.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to table ordinance 18-2023 until January. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Franklin Quilters Request

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the Franklin Recreation Committee Sponsored, "Franklin Quilters" request to waive the fees and to use the Senior Center for their meetings on the 3rd Saturday of every month for year 2024. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Sowden announced that the executive session was held prior to the regular meeting in regard to contract negotiations.

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 28, 2023

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Snyder asked if there was a water main break on Junction Street over the weekend.

Mayor Sowden commented he believes it was some kind of blockage as he saw the DPW taking the sewer jet out.

Mrs. Heath commented that Mrs. Gail Hodus passed away.

Mayor Sowden requested a moment of silence in memory of Gail Hodus.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38p.m., seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk