

**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
DECEMBER 23, 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. Postas, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: Mr. Zydou

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 December 20, 2021, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

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.

There being no one present or via Zoom who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Postas made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

At this time there was a discussion regarding the MOU between the Borough of Franklin and the PBA Local 404.

Mr. John Rheinhardt updated the council on the negotiations. The salary seems to be the main focus at this time. The agreement that you have in front of you that has been agreed upon and signed was a 2% increase and then 2.25% for four years. The narrative will take place after the New Year.

Mr. Postas commented on the retroactive pay.

Mr. Snyder commented that he hasn't seen approving a contract in pieces. It is important that all council go over the contract details.

Mr. Rheinhardt commented that we are trying to conclude the financial portion before the end of the year.

Mr. Postas commented that the retroactive pay is about \$65,000.

Mr. Formica made a motion to accept the agreement as read. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: Postas, Snyder

Absent: Zydou

Abstentions: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

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MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Formica commented how can we be more involved with future negotiations. Mayor Sowden commented that the new personnel committee will have representation at the negotiations.

Mr. Formica commented on the auctioning off of the old playground. The DPW can scrap the old playground due to the age of equipment, no one wants to auction it off because it could be a liability.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Limon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23p.m., seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk