

**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 10, 2020**

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 (via ZOOM), Mr. Postas, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder (via ZOOM), Mr. Zydon 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 5, 2020, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

**PRESENTATIONS**

Miss Madison Pellicier and Mr. Brian Hall of the Wallkill Valley Regional High School chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) addressed the Governing Body regarding the goals of the FBLA. Wallkill Valley FBLA 2020-2021 partnership with business project is focusing on honoring veterans in our four sending districts (Franklin, Hardyston, Ogdensburg and Hamburg). We would like to honor our veterans by creating lawn signs that include a picture of the veteran along with their rank, branch and number of years of service. Each lawn sign is 18x24 and costs \$25 each. On Memorial Day weekend 2021 there will be a ceremony held in each town at a designated location. The FBLA is asking for help with a location to hold the ceremony and costs of signs as well as information on Veterans.

Mayor Sowden recommended that they reach out to the American Legion to coordinate with them for the ceremony. Mayor Sowden asked that they send an email with the information they are looking for.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mr. Postas commented that there was a board of public works meeting last week with both engineers [Mike Vreeland and Tom Knutlesky] and Brian VanDenBroek. On November 16 or 17 work will begin on Mitchell Avenue and McCann Street sewer will begin this month. We also discussed street paving for next year and we will only be paving Scott Road as it will be a large portion for our projects.

Mr. Limon commented that there was a personnel meeting and discussed step increases for the DPW employees.

Mr. Snyder commented that a personnel meeting was held and step increases for the DPW was discussed. We talked about the 2020 best practices inventory, resolution adopting a domestic violence policy and discussed the borough social media policy.

Mr. Formica commented that he went to the first aid squad building and saw where a possible leak was and put silicone around it. When it is time for the roof to be replaced keep in mind that the plywood will need to be replaced too.

Mr. Zydon had nothing to report.

Clerk Tremont commented that the election went well and no issues were reported.

## **MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 10, 2020**

Administrator Bonanno commented that she sent a list to Jackie Espinoza about adding the light at 67-69 Corkhill Road and the LED lights on other areas on Corkhill, Sterling and Rutherford. The parking signs for Main Street will be ordered and today I submitted a grant for reimbursement to the State for COVID-19 expenses.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mr. Snyder commented about the need for an executive session to discuss personnel matters for the next meeting.

Mayor Sowden commented that he along with Councilmen Skellenger and Zydon attended the grand opening/ribbon cutting for Chelsea's Closet on Route 23.

### **OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

Mr. Limon 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.

Mrs. Judy Williams, Franklin Historical Society stepped forward. Mrs. Williams commented there was a Halloween Parade held at the last minute and all CDC guidelines were followed in regards to COVID-19. She thanked Councilmen Zydon and Formica who helped reached out to the police in regards to traffic control. Tree lights were tested and one plug needs to be replaced under one of the trees. We purchased 5 new light reels today from Wal-Mart. Recreation will take care of lights on the bridge which we would like to leave on until at least Martin Luther King Day. Council agreed unanimously to keep bridge lights on as requested.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Postas made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Zydon. 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 Filed

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

1. Construction Permit Activity Report – October 2020
2. Permit Report – October 2020
3. COH Report – October 2020

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

1. None filed.

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

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of November 10, 2020.

Mr. Zydon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of November 10, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business for tonight's portion of the meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for October 27, 2020. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Postas

**MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 10, 2020**

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**Resolution #2020-81**

A motion was made by Mr. Postas to adopt resolution #2020-81 a resolution of the Governing Body of the Borough of Franklin to accept project as complete for proposed resurfacing of various roads (Paddock Road, Newton Street and Susquehanna Street). (Thomas Knutelsky, Borough Engineer letter of recommendation dated October 27, 2020, provided in the Council packets.) Seconded by Mr. Zydon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Snyder

**Resolution #2020-82**

A motion was made by Mr. Skellenger to adopt resolution #2020-82 to approve the coin toss Fundraisers for the Franklin Fire Department for the year 2021 on January 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Postas, Skellenger, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Limon, Snyder

**Resolution 2020-83**

A motion was made by Mr. Zydon to adopt Resolution #2020-83 person to person, place to place transfer of liquor license 1906-33-008-009 issued to Stone Hill Recreation SPE, LLC for the premises located at Route 23 North, Franklin, NJ 07416 (Application for transfer provided in the Council packets.) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**Resolution 2020-84**

A motion was made by Mr. Postas to adopt resolution 2020-84 awarding contract for Well A Rehabilitation to Samuel Stothoff Co., Inc. in the amount of \$41,300.00. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**Adoption of Ordinance #12-2020**

A motion was made by Mr. Formica to table ordinance 12-2020 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING SECTION 161-24 REGARDING FENCES". Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: Postas, Zydon Absent: None Abstentions: None

**Mr. Ursin announced that the public hearing will be held on November 24, 2020.**

**Adoption of Ordinance 14-2020**

A motion was made by Mr. Formica to adopt ordinance 14-2020 entitled "ORDINANCE PARTIALLY VACATING NESTOR STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY IN THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY". Seconded by Mr. Postas.

## MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 10, 2020

**Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for any comments regarding Ordinance 14-2020.**

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open the meeting to the public for comments on Ordinance 14-2020. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

There being no one present who wished to address the governing body Mr. Skellenger made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Seconded by Mr. Formica. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

### Introduction of Ordinance 15-2020

A motion was made by Mr. Limon to introduce ordinance 15-2020 entitled "ORDINANCE OF THE FRANKLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN CHAPTER 56, REGARDING NEPOTISM". Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

**Public Hearing will be held on November 24, 2020.**

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

### 2020 Best Practices Inventory

A motion was made by Mr. Skellenger to accept the 2020 best practices inventory prepared by the CFO, Administrator and the Clerk as required by the Division of Local Government Services. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

## **ADDENDUM**

### Resolution 2020-85

A motion was made by Mr. Skellenger to adopt resolution 2020-85 awarding contract for Well B Rehabilitation to Samuel Stothoff Co., Inc. in the amount of \$36,150.00. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

## **OPEN PUBLIC SESSION II**

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. Judy Williams, Franklin Historical Society stepped forward. Mrs. Williams commented that the Halloween Parade was done in conjunction with the Recreation Committee, Kathleen Clohessey and the Ambulance Squad.

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

## **MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS**

Mr. Zydon commented that there has been destruction in the name of politics in Franklin. Mr. Zydon expressed his displeasure with the destruction that has taken

**MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 10, 2020**

place and stated that if any residents have any damage to contact the police department.

Mr. Postas commented that the town should consider writing a resolution that there will be no cannabis sales in the Borough of Franklin.

Mr. Snyder commented that it is great to hear that we are looking into consolidating services. While he was walking around down by the pond, he noticed that there are some benches that need to be repaired and the two bridges that are down there, do they need to be inspected anymore?

Mayor Sowden commented that we will look into the pedestrian bridges and see what the inspection requirements are.

Administrator Bonanno commented that on Monday the Police Department had their accreditation review and they met and actually exceeded the standards. They will be recommended for accreditation but there has to be an official vote by the body that it awards the accreditation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

---

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

---

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk