

**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
JANUARY 12, 2021**

This meeting is being held through a virtual meeting platform called ZOOM. The public has been notified and instructed on how to join the meeting.

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. Postas, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Zydon and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: Mr. Limon

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

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations scheduled for this evening.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Postas commented that there was an ordinance committee meeting last night. We discussed the fence ordinance, the no parking signage, went over the ordinance for historical commission and naming an economic development committee by ordinance at the next meeting.

Mr. Snyder reported that information would be forthcoming regarding negotiations for the police contract and DPW contract.

Mr. Formica reported that he went around to all the Borough buildings on Friday with two representatives from Wilden Energy Solutions and they conducted a light audit to see if we are qualified for a grant to upgrade the lighting; some of the buildings have already been up graded. Mr. Formica commented that there are some items that need to be repaired at the police station and borough hall. Mr. Formica also commented that it was pointed out to him that lights need to be added to the front of every bay at the borough garage. Mr. Formica would like to compile a list of items that need attention and give it to the finance committee to see which items can be addressed this year.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mr. Zydon reported that public safety had a meeting and started the process of looking for a patrolman to fill an open position by discussing a notice of intent and there is another meeting next week with all the department heads.

Clerk Tremont had nothing to report.

Administrator Bonanno had nothing to report.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden commented on a letter that was received from SCMUA regarding the cost for 2021. Mayor Sowden commented on the report from the County Board Health regarding COVID-19, Franklin Borough currently has 192 cases. The Historical Commission has been started and plan on having Mr. Tom Jones, Historic Planner/Preservationist, do a small presentation at the February 9, 2021 meeting.

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.

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CORRESPONDENCE (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Letter dated December 15, 2020 from Statewide Insurance Fund to Deborah Bonanno in regards to the 2020 SIF Risk Control Grant Application.
2. Resolution from the Township of Green in support of A4867/S3189 extending the expiration dates of EMT and paramedic certificates.
3. Resolution from the Township of Lafayette in support of A4867/S3189 extending the expiration dates of EMT and paramedic certificates.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Municipal Court Report – November 2020
2. Police Department Report – November 2020
3. County Board of Health Report – November 2020
4. Police Department Report – December 2020

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution #2021-14
Approval to adopt resolution 2021-14 resolution of the Governing Body of the Borough of Franklin to accept project as complete for proposed resurfacing of various streets. (Buckwheat Road and Washington Avenue/School Plaza) (Thomas Knutelsky, Borough Engineer letter of recommendation dated January 5, 2021, provided in the Council packets.)
2. Resolution #2021-15
Approval to adopt resolution 2021-15 authorizing the Borough's Certified Recycling Professional to submit the 2020 recycling tonnage grant application to NJ Department of Environmental Protection.
3. Payment of bills for the meeting of January 12, 2021.

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the consent agenda of January 12, 2021 with the removal of purchase order number 33157. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

Mr. Postas made a motion to adopt purchase order number 33157. Seconded by Mr. Zydon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Postas, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: Skellenger

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Zydon made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for December 15, 2020. (Absent: Limon, Postas) and the reorganization meeting minutes for January 1, 2021. (Absent: None)

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

Mayoral Appointment

Mayor Sowden made the following appointments:

Local Emergency Management Council

Member 1-year term (expires 12/31/2021) Hector Acevedo

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Approval of NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application

Mr. Zydon made a motion to approve the application for membership of Brian S. Davis, 69 Corkhill Road, Franklin, to the Franklin Fire Department as endorsed by Khyle Conklin, Franklin Fire Department Chief. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Postas, Skellenger, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: Snyder

Congregate Nutrition Program Shared Services Agreement

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the Shared Service Agreement between the County of Sussex and the Borough of Franklin for the Franklin Congregate Nutrition Programs from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 in the amount of \$27,700.00. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

Resolution #2021-16

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt resolution 2021-16 authorizing the Administrator to hire Anne LaBarba as part time Finance Assistant at the rate of \$16.00 per hour not to exceed 25 hours per week. Seconded by Mr. Zydon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

Discussion of ordinance amending Chapter 119 of the Borough Code – “Fees”

At this time there was a discussion with possible action taken of an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 119 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED “FEES”.”

Mr. Postas commented that this is an amendment to this ordinance where we are increasing the price of the parking fees for the lot on the corner of Main Street and Parker.

Mr. Formica commented that he feels at this time going from zero to \$300 in light of the pandemic and the hardships that some of the residents are going through is kind of extreme and it is not a good time to implement this. It is free parking during the day and this change would only impact the people who park overnight since there is no overnight parking.

Mr. Postas commented that it is not a free parking fee now, it is a \$75 fee. The new fees would not take effect until June because that is when everyone will have to renew. We have people parking there and we cannot keep up with the upkeep of the lot.

Mr. Zydon commented that we changed the ordinance on Main Street to 2 hour parking all day. Therefore, people will have to use the parking lot and the parking lot will need to be improved.

Mr. Snyder commented that we need to improve the parking lot and the only way to do that is to change the fees for parking.

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Zydon made a motion to table this discussion. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Discussion of Pandemic Related Outdoor Seating Authorization for Restaurants

At this time there was a discussion of pandemic related outdoor seating authorization for restaurants.

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Mr. Skellenger made a motion to extend for an additional 30 days the outdoor seating authorization for restaurants during the pandemic. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

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.

Administrator Bonanno directed anyone who wished to address the Governing Body to raise their hand.

Mr. Matthew Walters, 6-8 Corkhill Road, Franklin was granted permission to join the meeting after raising his hand. Mr. Walters wished everyone a Happy New Year. Mr. Walters asked about the status of the crosswalk on Corkhill Road.

Mayor Sowden commented that the Borough Engineer has gone out to answer questions about sight distance and we are in the process of getting our bearings on the road and getting the marks in. The painting will probably be done in April.

Mr. Walters commented that he does not agree with the pond being open for swimming.

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. Skellenger. All were in favor.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Zydon commented on an editorial that he read in the Advertiser News.

Mayor Sowden commented that he is moving somewhat forward on the discussion about the cemetery on Oak Street. Mayor Sowden commented that there is an Eagle Scout that would like to clean up the cemetery as part of his eagle scout project and asked Mr. Formica if he would be willing to help.

ADJOURNMENT

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

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk