

**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, 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 8, 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

Mr. Limon had nothing to report.

Mr. Postas had nothing report.

Mr. Snyder commented that the personnel committee met this morning to discuss salary increases. We need to schedule a finance committee meeting and asked when the committee members were available. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Mr. Formica commented that the ordinance committee met and went over a few items. We will be meeting with buildings and grounds to go over items to be addressed in the future.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mrs. Heath commented that she attended the recreation meeting and they set dates for the Spring fling (April 22, 2023), Fishing Derby (June 3, 2023), National Night Out (August 1, 2023), 9/11 Ceremony (September 11, 2023) and a 5k (October 28, 2023). She attended the Walkkill Valley Coalition meeting and they spoke about cannabis effects with driving. Recreation has developed a nomination form for Senior of the Year.

Mrs. Tremont commented it looks like we have new residents at the pond; a pair of eagles seem to have moved in.

Mr. Bernath commented that the company has been here the last the two days fixing the HVAC units on the roof. He spoke to Brian and they were excavating the line for the electric at the pond and that is complete.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden had nothing to report.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Snyder 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.

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Mrs. Judy Williams, 279 Wildcat Road Franklin stepped forward. Mrs. Williams commented on the replacement of the Christmas Decorations and the signs for welcome to Franklin.

Mrs. Joanne Tatka, 151 Maple Road Franklin stepped forward. Mrs. Tatka wished everyone a Happy New Year, asked about the calendars and wished Andrew good luck. Mrs. Tatka also asked if there was any progress on the Forestry Building.

Ms. Carol Truhan, 20 Nestor Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Truhan addressed concerns with parking and problems she is having with her neighbor.

Mr. Ursin commented that she can file a complaint with the municipal court.

Ms. Truhan commented that her complaints are denied by the court and returned to her.

Mr. Ursin explained if the complaints are denied she can appeal to another court.

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 Mr. Formica. 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. Letter dated November 21, 2022, received December 22, 2022, from Sandy Hull, Delaware Water Gap Defense Fund to Franklin Borough Council.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. DPW Report – December 5, 2022 – December 9, 2022
2. DPW Report – December 12, 2022 – December 16, 2022
3. St. Clare's EMS report – December 2022
4. Board of Health report – December 2022
5. Construction Permit Activity Report – December 2022
6. Construction Permit List – December 2022
7. COH Report – December 2022
8. Franklin Municipal Court Report – December 2022
9. Franklin Municipal Court Yearly Report –2022
10. Hardyston Municipal Court Report – December 2022
11. Hardyston Municipal Court Yearly Report – 2022
12. Franklin Borough Registrar Report – October 2022 – December 2022

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution #2023-14 authorizing participation in the Federal 1033 program effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the consent agenda of January 12, 2023. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS

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

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NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes and executive session meeting minutes for December 20, 2022. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the Organizational meeting minutes for January 1, 2023. (Absent: Limon) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Limon

Resignation Letter from Andrew Bernath, CFO/Administrator

Mr. Snyder made a motion to accept the resignation letter of Andrew Bernath, CFO/Administrator effective January 31, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Mrs. Heath commented that Andrew has done an outstanding job.

Mr. Snyder commented that Andrew has done a great job and good luck.

Mayor Sowden commented that it has been a pleasure working with you.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: Formica Absent: None Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance #01-2023

Mrs. Heath made a motion to introduce ordinance 01-2023 entitled "BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY CALENDAR YEAR 2023 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14) Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held on February 14, 2023.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2023-15

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-15 to authorize additional hours for the part time finance assistant position up to a total of 29 hours per week at the current rate of \$17 per hour, effective immediately. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Department of Public Works Manager Agreement

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the Superintendent of Public Works Department Agreement between the Borough of Franklin and Brian G. VanDenBroek, from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2027. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: Heath Absent: None Abstentions: None

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Mr. Limon made a motion to adjourn into closed executive session to discuss personnel matters and anticipated litigation. Motion seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

Mr. Ursin commented that there will be no official action taken after executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:30pm, the Mayor and Council adjourned into executive session and did not return into open public session.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk