

**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
FEBRUARY 22, 2022**

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 (via ZOOM), Mr. Postas (via ZOOM), 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 7, 2022, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Limon commented that Mr. Snyder will report on the ordinance committee.

Mr. Postas offered no report.

Mr. Snyder commented that there was an ordinance committee meeting and discussed some of the issues that were discussed in prior meetings.

Mr. Formica commented that we received the bid specs from the engineer for the water tower and we are going to do the application with the loan. We are looking into upgrading our water meters to electronic meters. There is a personnel meeting tomorrow night.

Mr. Skellenger commented that the real estate committee will be meeting on March 2nd to go over some properties that will go up for auction.

Mrs. Heath commented that she had a conversation with Joe Butto, from Hardyston Construction and the Borough doesn't have control over units that are 3 or more apartments, they are inspected through the DCA. Mrs. Heath commented that no building permits are required for roofing, siding and deck rails.

Mr. Snyder commented on the receiving of reports on a monthly basis from DPW and zoning.

Mrs. Heath commented that the carnival contract should be coming soon as the carnival is being held May 25th through May 29th. Vendor applications are being revised.

Mrs. Tremont commented that the court office is moving along with combining the administrative offices with Hardyston Twp. and Lori Mitchener is very pleased with Suzann.

Mr. Bernath commented that the budget is being prepared and the initial financial documents were submitted to the USDA for the water tower project.

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OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs. Heath 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.

Mr. Dick Durina of 23 Lozaw Road Franklin stepped forward. Mr. Durina voiced his concerns regarding Franklin Borough's water supply and water system. Mr. Durina suggested that the Board of Public of Works be brought back.

Mrs. Joann Tatka of 151 Maple Road Franklin stepped forward. Mrs. Tatka asked for clarification on the total cost for fixing the pumping stations and questioned the shared court office services.

Mrs. Tremont explained that the municipal court is sharing the administrative office duties and Hardyston is holding court sessions in their building, Franklin court sessions are in our building.

Mrs. Tatka had concerns regarding the water tower, asked if the Detective in the police department patrols and commented that 25 Susquehanna Street is being used as a dump, there is a mattress where the porch used to be and the windows are broken out.

Ms. Dawne Rowe of 140 Munsonhurst Road Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Rowe commented on the water tower and who is responsible for it. Ms. Rowe asked if anything was being done with regards to "jake brakes". Ms. Rowe commented on the fireworks and if the noise can be enforced. Ms. Rowe stated that she supports Mr. Durina's comments regarding the borough water.

There being no one else present or on ZOOM who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Formica made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Postas. 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. Sussex County Board of County Commissioners resolution re: 2022 Board of County Commissioners Municipal Liaisons.
2. Table of Equalized Valuations amended by the New Jersey Tax Court from John J. Ficara, Acting Director, Division of Taxation, Department of Treasury, State of New Jersey
3. Resolution and annual report of the Franklin Borough Planning Board.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Construction Permit Activity Report – January 2022
2. Construction Permit List – January 2022
3. COH Report – January 2022
4. Municipal Court Report – January 2022
5. Board of Health Report – January 2022
6. Police Department Report – January 2022

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of February 22, 2022.

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the consent agenda of February 22, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Snyder

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OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for February 8, 2022. (Absent: Formica) Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Formica

Resolution #2022-30

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve resolution 2022-30 authorizing additional funds to complete emergency well "B" improvements. Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2022-31

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve resolution 2022-31 Municipal support for expanded cultivation for Ascend New Jersey, LLC located at 24 Munsonhurst Road and 12 Munsonhurst Road, Franklin. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2022-32

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve resolution 2022-32 requesting the Tax Assessor to present Franklin Borough's requirements for a multiyear property reassessment at a meeting with County Tax Board and seek their support and authorization to further pursue this course of action. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2022-33

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve resolution 2022-33 2021 budget transfer resolution in the amount of \$1,000. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2022-34

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve resolution 2022-34 to consent to the proposed Sussex County Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan amendment. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance 03-2022

Mr. Formica made a motion to introduce ordinance 03-2022 entitled "A CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AUTHORIZE THE APPROPRIATION OF CAPITAL FUNDS FOR THE CUTTER ASSEMBLIES AT THE RT. 23 SOUTH AND MAPLE ROAD SEWER PUMPING STATIONS". Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Mayor Sowden stated that the public hearing will be held on March 8, 2022.

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Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

National Poison Prevention Week Proclamation

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the proclamation proclaiming the third full week March 20th–26th, 2022, to be National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW). Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Snyder commented that the light was fixed on Main Street.

Mrs. Heath suggested adding a citizen concerns area on social media.

Mr. Snyder commented on the directional signs on streets.

Mrs. Heath commented that she agrees with the public to consider a second public session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m., seconded by Mr. Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk