

**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
MARCH 8, 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, Mr. Skellenger (via ZOOM), 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

Ms. Jackie Espinoza from JCP&L updated the council on the service in Franklin Borough and commented in May there will be tree trimming at the Franklin substation.

Mayor Sowden commented that it was a good team effort and is very pleased with the outcome.

Ms. Espinoza commented that the utility moratorium is ending on March 15th and smart meters will start being installed in 2023.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Limon commented that he reviewed the ordinance documents and asked if the residency requirement is being followed.

Mr. Skellenger commented that the real estate committee discussed the properties that will be listed for sale and once the list is completed it will be sent to the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Snyder commented that he will have an ordinance committee meeting before the next council meeting. He would like to get opinions of the council on ordinances in regards to the organization of the police department and residency requirement.

Mr. Postas had nothing to report.

Mr. Formica commented that there was a meeting yesterday with Rio Supply in regards to electronic water meters. There was also a personnel meeting and we are working on finishing up contract negotiations.

Mrs. Heath commented that on March 1, 2022 she met via zoom with Tamara Contreras and Rebecca Dorney representatives from the Center for Prevention and Counseling and as you are all aware in 2018 the Forward Franklin Alliance was formed, a community revitalization effort led by Atlantic Health System. It was formed to rebuild a sense of community, improve the health and wellness of those who live here, increased concern about youth use of drugs and alcohol in the community which led the center for prevention to introduce ideas for creating a coalition that would address substance abuse among youth. In 2020 the forward coalition for youth was formed and the target population is Wallkill Valley regions youth grades six through twelve. Friday April 1, 2022 at 2pm at the Sussex County YMCA there is a kick off meeting for the youth forward coalition. Mrs. Heath would

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like to invite Tamara and Rebecca to a meeting to discuss the program. The Franklin Carnival will be May 25th through May 29th and the committee is receiving vendor applications for this event. Hooked on fishing will be held June 5th for ages 20 and under and you can register on the Franklin Recreation Facebook page or the NJ Fish and Game website.

Mrs. Tremont had nothing to report.

Administrator Bernath had nothing to report.

Mr. Ursin commented that he would get the information to Mr. Snyder in regards to jake brakes.

Mayor Sowden commented that there are sample chairs in the conference room for the Council look at. On Friday he had a meeting with Josh Gotthiemer and some other Mayors in regards to railway surveys. There was an article in the NJ Herald regarding the Town of Newton and its Historic District and hopes that Franklin can move Forward and apply for grants for its Historic District.

Mr. Postas commented that we as a council need to put our money where our mouth is if we want people to come to Main Street.

Mrs. Heath asked if there were any ideas on what we want to do.

Mr. Postas commented that we might need a different planner.

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.

Mrs. JoAnne Tatka, 151 Maple Road stepped forward. Mrs. Tatka commented that she supports Councilman Postas' comments regarding the historic district.

Ms. Donis Wood of Mitchell Road stepped forward. Ms. Wood commented on issues with late payments and that she paid her taxes twice.

Ms. Tamara Contreras, Forward Franklin Alliance was granted access to join the meeting via ZOOM. Ms. Contreras commented that the Sussex County Hunger Coalition popup produce clinics will be beginning soon and asked that the Forward Franklin Alliance Facebook link be added back to the website.

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. 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. Resolution from the County of Sussex opposing the extension of executive orders by Governor Murphy beyond the public health emergency.
2. Letter dated February 24, 2022 from Lynn Warr-Prtorich, Head Crossing Guard to Mayor Sowden regarding her retirement resignation.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Police Department Report – February 2022

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of March 8, 2022.

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Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the consent agenda of March 8, 2022 with the removal of PO# 34709 and item #2 under correspondence. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve PO# 34709, seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Skellenger

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve item #2 under correspondence, seconded by Mr. Postas.

Mrs. Heath asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Lynn Prtorich.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Formica commented that Kody Conklin from Franklin Fire Department reached out and they received their approvals for the coin tosses however they came in late causing the fire department to lose the first two dates. The fire department is asking to move the dates to March 12th and March 13th.

Mr. Ursin commented to take an all-in favor vote that no one objects to the change in dates.

All council members were in favor of changing the dates with Mr. Limon abstaining.

Mr. Snyder commented that he wants to get the council's opinions on the police department ordinance and residency ordinance

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for February 22, 2022. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2022-35

Mr. Snyder commented that he spoke to the finance committee chairman and also Mr. Skellenger with regards to the budget. Mr. Snyder commented on the removal of funds from the budget for the Edison School House.

A discussion continued on the funds for the Edison School House.

Mr. Postas made a motion amending the introduction of CY2022 Municipal Budget for the Borough of Franklin to add the \$25,000 back into the capital budget for the Edison School House.

Public Hearing will be held on April 12, 2022.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Heath, Postas, Snyder, Sowden

Nays: Formica, Limon, Skellenger Absent: None Abstentions: None

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Resolution #2022-36

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt resolution #2022-36 authorizing the hiring of Zachary LaGrave as new police officer. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger

Nays: Limon, Snyder Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2022-37

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt resolution #2022-37 authorizing the salary adjustment for Michelle Babcock, Planning Board/Zoning Secretary. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2022-38

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt resolution #2022-38 authorizing the Tax Collector to refund Donis Wood for a property tax overpayment credit in the amount of \$1,512.32. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2022-39

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt resolution #2022-39 approving to support urging the swift passage of S-330 which restores energy tax receipts. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance #03-2022

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt an ordinance 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. Postas.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for any comments regarding Ordinance 03-2022.

Mr. Postas made a motion to open to the public Ordinance 03-2022. Seconded by Mrs. Heath. All were in favor.

No one from the public stepped forward or raised their on ZOOM.

Mr. Snyder made a motion to close to the public Ordinance 03-2022. Seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Proclamation

Mr. Postas made a motion to adopt a proclamation to proclaim support of bill S-1727 designating "Franklinite" as the official mineral of the State of New Jersey. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

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Mayoral Appointment

Mayor Sowden made the following appointment.

Historic Preservation Commission

William Truan Advisor (1-yr. term) expires 12/31/2022

Mr. Formica made a motion confirming the Mayor's appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission. Seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

(Campy's) Blue Star Amusements Agreement

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the agreement for the amusement rides and related services at the Franklin Carnival on May 25, 2022 thru May 29, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discussion – Girl Scout Overnight Event

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the Girl Scout overnight event at the Franklin Pond to be held on May 14, 2022 overnight to May 15, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

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

There were no miscellaneous.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Postas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m., seconded by Mr. Snyder. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk