

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN
HELD AT THE FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
46 MAIN STREET, FRANKLIN, NJ
MARCH 15, 2023**

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

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.

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

DISCUSSION

CY2023 Municipal Budget

Michelle LaStarza, CFO, discussed the budget with the Council. The finance committee met with Andrew once to discuss the budget and I met with the finance committee the other day, the only thing that was not discussed was the water/sewer budget. Ms. LaStarza commented that the total budget is \$8,207,499.63 compared to \$7,507,602, which is 9.32 percent increase in the total budget.

Mr. Postas asked where did the bulk of increases come from.

Ms. LaStarza commented that the bulk of the increases came from insurance and garbage. Most of the professional contracts went up by two-percent.

Discussions were held regarding various line items in the budget and whether to lower or raise those line items.

Discussions were held regarding salary increases.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Postas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m., seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk