

**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  
OCTOBER 24, 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 6, 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**

Mrs. Heath commented that Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> will be the annual Halloween Parade from Rutherford Ave and ending at Fireman's Park. There will be donuts and cider for the children. At 6pm there will be a Halloween party at Fireman's Park.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mr. Formica commented that the Christmas decorations have been ordered and some have been delivered. I need to set up a meeting with JCP&L to double check the outlets.

Mr. Limon had nothing to report.

Mr. Postas commented that the water tower painting is in progress, and they started drilling the test well for the well off of Lehigh.

Mr. Snyder commented that the personnel committee met last week to discuss the possible restructuring of the DPW Department. We discussed employee salaries and discussed a percentage increase in salaries for next year.

Mrs. Tremont commented that the next Mayor and Council meeting is November 13, 2023, instead of November 14, 2023, due to the NJ League of Municipalities Conference. We established a committee to work on the court shared service with Hardyston. That committee consists of myself, Councilwoman Heath, Court Administrator Lori Mitchener, Hardyston Manager Carrine Piccolo-Kaufer and Hardyston Mayor Kaminiski and we will be starting interviews next week for judges and prosecutors. The CFO has started the process for the 2024 budget.

Ms. Clinton had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden had nothing to report.

**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 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. Skellenger. All were in favor.

**MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 24, 2023**

**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 in support of Assembly Bill No. 5548 prohibiting the state from imposing a mileage-based user fee.
2. 2023 Sussex County Abstract of Ratables.
3. Table of Equalized Valuations for the year 2023.

**REPORTS** (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Municipal Court Report – September 2023
2. County Board of Health Report – September 2023
3. DPW Report – September 18 – September 22
4. Police Department Report – September 2023

**APPLICATIONS** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

**RESOLUTIONS** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of October 24, 2023.

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the consent agenda of October 24, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

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.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for October 10, 2023. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2023-121

Mr. Postas made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-121 appointing Darlene J. Tremont, as Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit calendar year 2024 and Colleen Little as Alternate fund commissioner for the Local Unit calendar year 2024. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2023-122

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-122 approving the LOSAP qualification list and authorizing contributions for qualifying members of the Franklin Fire Department and the Walkkill Valley First Aid Squad. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Limon

Resolution 2023-123

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-123 authorizing the award of a required disclosure contract with EM signs in the amount not to exceed \$38,000 for the department of Recreation. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

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**Resolution 2023-124**

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-124 requesting approval of items of revenue and appropriation NJSA 40A:4-87 captioned drive sober or get pulled over Labor Day Crackdown Grant in the amount of \$7,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**Resolution 2023-125**

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-125 authorizing a disabled veteran exemption on Block 1006 Lot 18. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**Resolution 2023-126**

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-126 authorizing a Shared Service Agreement with the Township of Vernon for Animal Control Services beginning January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026 in the amount of \$13,750 for 2024, \$14,000 for 2025 and \$14,250 for 2026. (Agreement provided in the Council Packet) Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**Adoption of Ordinance #15-2023**

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt Ordinance 15-2023 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING THE BOROUGH CODE TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 164 ENTITLED, "LEAD-BASED PAINT INSPECTIONS" REQUIRING INSPECTIONS OF CERTAIN RENTAL DWELLINGS FOR LEAD-BASED PAINT HAZARDS AS MANDATED BY P.L. 2021, C.182." Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for ordinance 15-2023. Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open to the public Ordinance 15-2023. Seconded by Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

There being no one present or on Zoom who wished to address the governing body, Mr. Snyder made a motion to close to the public for Ordinance 15-2023. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**Adoption of Ordinance #16-2023**

Mr. Postas made a motion to adopt Ordinance 16-2023 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY CREATING CHAPTER 215 – STORM SEWERS". Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for ordinance 16-2023. Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open to the public for Ordinance 16-2023. Seconded by Mr. Snyder. All were in favor.

There being no one present or on Zoom who wished to address the governing body, Mr. Snyder made a motion to close to the public Ordinance 16-2023. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

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Adoption of Ordinance #17-2023

Mr. Postas made a motion to adopt Ordinance 17-2023 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 234, REGARDING PRIVATELY-OWNED SALT STORAGE". Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for ordinance 17-2023. Mr. Formica made a motion to open to the public for Ordinance 17-2023. Seconded by Mr. Limon. All were in favor.

There being no one present or on Zoom who wished to address the governing body, Mr. Postas made a motion to close to the public Ordinance 17-2023. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discussion on 25 Susquehanna Street

Mayor Sowden asked if everyone had a chance to read the building inspectors email in regards to the property. We are now at the stage where we know the conditions of the building and we received a cost estimate to raise the building. Habitat for Humanity no longer wants this building and wants to give it back to the Borough. Mayor Sowden commented that he is looking to do two things this evening; the first being is to direct Mr. Ursin to take back the property and then once we take back the property we can raise the house, clean up the site and potentially sell it to adjoining property owners.

Mr. Formica commented if we OK everything tonight, how long would the process take.

Ms. Clinton commented it may take a couple months but would have Mr. Ursin advise on the timeline.

Mr. Postas made a motion to take back 25 Susquehanna Street from Habitat for Humanity and to memorialize the same in a resolution. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

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 comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Postas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22p.m., seconded by Mr. Formica. All were in favor.

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John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

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Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk