

**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
NOVEMBER 12, 2024**

Council President Heath 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: Mrs. Carnes, Mr. Formica, Mrs. Heath, Mr. Limon, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder.

Absent: Mayor Sowden

Council President Heath led the assembly in the flag salute.

Council President Heath requested a moment of silence for Retired Police Lieutenant Louis Sweller, who passed away on Sunday.

Council President Heath 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, 2024, 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.

Mrs. Carnes commented that she is trying to schedule an EDC meeting. The tree lighting at the pond will take place Saturday, November 30th at 5pm, there will be Santa and hot cocoa.

Mr. Snyder commented that he only has the items that are already on the agenda.

Mr. Formica commented that the fire department has been busy with the fire here and are helping with the fire in Greenwood Lake. Mr. Formica thanked the fire department for all they do.

Mr. Skellenger commented that there was a finance meeting to go over budget items with the fire department.

Mr. Spidaletto thanked the Council President, the council as well as Darlene, Colleen and the others in the office.

Mr. Ursin 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. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Elaine Tizzano stepped forward. Ms. Tizzano thanked the Council for their support during the Facing Addiction Annual Walks. Center for Prevention is a great organization.

Joanne Tatka stepped forward. Ms. Tatka questioned the resolution on the wells and asked if anyone has been monitoring them.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that we have been monitoring the wells; this is just going to be an upgrade of the equipment that is out there.

Ms. Tatka asked who does Nelson Tree Service work for. Congrats to recreation on the various functions that they held this year. Ms. Tatka questioned the salary for the road supervisor and questioned the extension of premises resolution. Ms. Tatka asked what the administrators' salary is and asked where he previously worked.

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Mr. Spidaletto commented that his salary is \$125,000 and he previously work for Hopatcong Borough and was a long time employee in Sparta Township.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Formica made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Snyder. 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. 2024 Abstract of Ratables
2. SCMUA FY2025 Proposed Rate Schedule Effective December 1, 2024

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. DPW Report – September 30 – October 4
2. Board of Health Report – September 2024
3. Animal Control Report – April 2024- October 2024
4. Municipal Court Report – October 2024
5. COH Report – October 2024
6. Permit List – October 2024
7. Permit Summary Report – October 2024
8. Permit Activity Report – October 2024

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Special Event Request from Elaine Tizzano and Mary Burns, for their 11th annual walk in conjunction with the Center for Prevention and Counseling to be held on August 2, 2025, to bring awareness and treatment for substance use disorder.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution 2024-117 authorizing a budget transfer in the amount of \$57,170.00
2. Payment of bills for the meeting of November 12, 2024.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the consent agenda of November 12, 2024 with the removal of PO #37977. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve PO #37977. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Skellenger

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 October 22, 2024. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-111

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-111 authorizing the award of a required disclosure contract with Neal Systems Incorporated for the Department of Public Works. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

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Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-112

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-112 providing service weapon to retired Sergeant Rafael Burgos in recognition of his dedicated service to the Borough. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-113

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-113 appointing Colleen Little as Municipal Clerk and Registrar for the Borough of Franklin amending the effective date to November 16, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-114

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-114 authorizing the hiring of a road division superintendent in the Department of Public Works further authorizing the execution of an employment agreement. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-115

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-115 place to place transfer – extension of premises for Liquor License #1906-33-010-008, Franklin Grill and Tavern. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-116

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to approve resolution 2024-116 appointing a Municipal Housing Liaison. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

DPW Salary Step Increase

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve a DPW salary step increase for Andrew Burd to Grade Step 10 \$30.46/hr., as per the DPW contract, effective November 16, 2024 as recommended by Brian VanDenBroek, DPW Director. Seconded by Mr. Snyder.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

DPW Salary Step Increase

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve a DPW salary step increase for Matt Kuperus to Grade Step 8 \$27.47/hr., as per the DPW contract, effective November 16, 2024 as recommended by Brian VanDenBroek, DPW Director. Seconded by Mr. Limon.

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Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Approval of NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the application for membership of Austin Covert, 44 Shady Lane Apt. 6x, Hamburg, as Firematic member to the Franklin Fire Department as endorsed by Corey Houghtaling, Franklin Fire Department Assistant Chief. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Limon

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Formica asked a question regarding the water main break. We had 3 DPW employees come in for overtime along with the water department and we ended up outsourcing the repair. Previous repairs were always done in house; why was this time outsourced.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that he will look into that.

Mr. Snyder asked if there were any updates on the line striping.

Ms. Tremont commented that she received an email from Stefanie and they have to get three quotes.

Mr. Formica commented that he met with Stefanie at the Municipal Parking Lot and we reviewed options that would be a cost savings.

Mr. Snyder asked if there was an update on the basketball court. The company did a temporary striping and will be back in the spring to do the permanent striping.

Mr. Limon asked how the election day went.

Mrs. Heath commented that this is Darlene's last official meeting and would like to publicly thank you for your wonderful job.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Limon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26p.m., seconded by Mr. Snyder.

All were in favor.

Rachel Heath, Council President

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk