

**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 26, 2024**

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: Mrs. Carnes, Mr. Formica, Mrs. Heath, Mr. Limon, Mr. Skellenger, and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: Mr. Snyder

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, 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 EDC is reaching out to a company called JC Promotions to see about brining a marketer to Franklin for the 2025 Pond Side Markets. We have a couple tentative dates, April 27, 2025 and September 21, 2025, for a possible flea market/vendor market.

Mrs. Heath had nothing to report.

Mr. Skellenger commented that he has spoken to the CFO Michelle and we are working on the capital requests from each department.

Mr. Formica commented that he has been approached by a couple people to install handrails on the front steps.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that he is looking forward to working with Colleen as the new clerk. Mr. Spidaletto had a conversation with grant writers that are on for approval tonight. Spoke with the DPW in regards to the first snow event and everything seemed to go smoothly. There was something brought up in regards to the plowing of some streets that are identified as not being Borough property.

Ms. Hooker had nothing to report.

Ms. Little thanked the Mayor and Council for the appointment and is looking forward to working with everybody.

Mayor Sowden had nothing to report.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open the meeting to the public for anyone wishing to address the Governing Body. Seconded by Mrs. Heath. All were in favor.

There being no one present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mrs. Carnes. 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.

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CORRESPONDENCE (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Legal notice of a public hearing from the Sparta Township Planning Board regarding an amendment to the master plan to add the “2024 open space and recreation plan update”.
2. Township of Hardyston ordinance amending and modifying chapter 185 “Zoning”, Article XXV “Stormwater Management”, of the Township of Hardyston general code.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Police Department Report – October 2024
2. County Board of Health Report – October 2024

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of November 26, 2024.

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the consent agenda of November 26, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on questionable roads for plowing and salting.

At this time the Governing Body held a discussion on the plowing and salting of non-Borough owned roads.

Mr. Formica commented that this has happened years ago and it was identified and notice was supposed to go out to the residents but that did not happen. He is for plowing the roads this year but they need to be noticed that the roads will not be plowed next year.

Mayor Sowden commented that we will look into this further and see where we can go.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for November 12, 2024. (Absent: Mayor Sowden) Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-118

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-118 authorizing to hire a new Borough of Franklin Police Officer. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-119

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-119 authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract for appointing iParametrics as Grant Writer. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

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Resolution 2024-120

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-120 authorizing the hiring of a full-time laborer for the Department of Public Works Water Sewer Division. Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Mr. Formica asked if the personnel committee was involved in this process.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that the personnel committee was sent a report that he drafted as well as the gentleman's resume.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-121

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-121 authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign certificate 2022-022. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-122

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-122 authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign certificate 2022-023. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-123

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-123 authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign certificate 2022-024. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-124

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-124 implementing water conservation. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-125

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-125 authorizing a settlement of 2010 outstanding taxes owed on Block 2102 Lot 10 QFARM (Formally Block 64 Lot 61.01) and Block 2101 Lot 3.01 QFARM (Formally Block 63 Lot 2.07). Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Franklin Quilters Request

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the Franklin Recreation Committee Sponsored, "Franklin Quilters" request to waive the fees and to use the Senior Center for their meetings on the 3rd Saturday of every month for year 2025.

Mrs. Heath commented that years ago it was found in an old newsletter that the Quilters were sponsored by Recreation.

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Mr. Formica commented that if a committee is going to sponsor something that committee should vote on it.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to table the Franklin Recreation Committee Sponsored, "Franklin Quilters" request to waive the fees and to use the Senior Center for their meetings on the 3rd Saturday of every month for year 2025 until the Recreation Committee has a chance to review the application. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Hillside Estates Mobile Home Park License Renewal

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the renewal of the 2025 Mobile Home Park License for Hillside Estates at Franklin, LLC. Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Sussex County Hunger Coalition

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to approve the request to use the Senior Center on December 9, 2024 and to waive the fees associated with the rental. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Redevelopment Plan Review

Mr. Formica made a motion to authorize review of a redevelopment investigation for the property located at 263 Route 23, Block 1010 Lot 1. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Discussion on Cork Hill Road Grant

Mayor Sowden commented that this a discussion on the grants available for Cork Hill Road due to the fact of the commercial trucking on the road. There are steps that need to be taken. Mayor Sowden is looking for a general consensus from the Council as to if this is the way they want to go.

Mr. Skellenger asked if we would be using the grant writer.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that it would be a combination of the grant writer and engineer.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Skellenger asked if there is an ordinance stating when businesses can open.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29p.m., seconded by Mrs. Heath. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Colleen L. Little, Municipal Clerk