

**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
JUNE 22, 2021**

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 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, 2021, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

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, Mr. Limon, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Zydor and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: Mr. Postas

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations this evening.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Limon reported the Public Works committee met on June 3, 2021 giving a brief review of topics that were discussed such as: joining the co-op membership, hydrogeological study, purchasing of a single axle switch and go truck, Hemlock sidewalks, a grant for camering of sewer lines, at the cost of approximately \$20,000, road paving and list of candidates for the public works position. Mr. Limon commented on scheduling the next Public Works meeting for either July 1 or July 8.

Mr. Snyder had nothing to report other than the agenda items for the new hires.

Mr. Formica reported on Thursday [June 24] at 2:30PM at the pavilion the Sussex County Coalition will be holding another Produce Pop-Up. The inspector with the insurance agent came out to inspect the playground. There were a few suggestions and we are hoping to be opening it in about a month.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report but thanked the Recreation Committee for hosting Franklin Day. They did a great job. Mr. Skellenger commented he wasn't able to attend but was told the Fireworks were also great. Mr. Skellenger announced the winners of the Miss Franklin Pageant; Miss Franklin, Samantha Karpowicz, Jr. Miss Franklin, Lily Parker, Little Miss Franklin, Chloe Geuther, Princess of Franklin, Allyson Drown, Prince of Franklin, Jules Bannister

Mr. Formica commented the Senior of the Year presented the crown.

Mr. Zydor had nothing to report.

Administrator Bonanno had nothing to report.

Clerk Tremont had nothing to report.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden reported at the Planning Board meeting last night they approved a preliminary business [Northeast Janitorial Supplies] to be located in the old Morley Shirt Building.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

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

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Miranda Nida and Lisa Nida, 153 Main Street, Franklin stepped forward. Miranda Nida commented her new neighbor removed its' fence with the promise of replacing it. It has been 5 months and the fence hasn't been replaced. Both Miranda Nida and Lisa Nida asked if the Council could help in any way.

Mayor Sowden commented the Zoning Officer is aware of the issue and is currently addressing it.

Administrator Bonanno directed anyone on Zoom who wished to address the Governing Body to raise their hand.

There being no one else present or on Zoom who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Snyder 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. Borough of Hamburg Ordinance 07-2021, entitled "an ordinance amending chapter 215-entitled a zoning ordinance, article XXVI-prohibited uses-of the code of the Borough of Hamburg, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey prohibiting cannabis cultivation, production, manufacture and sale".
2. Town of Newton Ordinance 2021-12 amending, revising and supplementing sections 320-2.C "permitted uses", 320-3 "definitions" & 320-28 "conditional uses" of the zoning code of the Town of Newton to regulate the cultivation, processing, sales and distribution of legal cannabis within the Town of Newton.
3. Memo dated June 16, 2021, from Lisa A. Gorab, Esq. to Deborah Bonanno, CFO, re: The Board of Education of the Walkkill Valley Regional High School District proposed \$5,300,000 school facilities improvement project supplemental debt statement for resolution to be adopted on June 23, 2021.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Sussex County Board of Health Report – May 2021
2. Franklin Police Department Report – May 2021

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution #2021-53
Approval to adopt resolution 2021-53 authorizing the Borough Clerk to renew the following liquor licenses for the 2021-2022 licensing term.
1906-33-011-005 Kozs Korner, Inc., Kozs Korner
1906-33-005-008 Franklin Silver Ducat II, LLC, Pocket license
1906-33-009-012 Franklin Silver Ducat II, LLC, Pocket license
1906-33-004-006 Sullivan's Gas Light Inn, Pocket license
1906-44-003-010 Jersey Innovative Investments. T/A Wind Grand
1906-31-015-001 Sgt. Francis M. Glynn Post, 132 American Legion
1906-31-017-001 Walkkill Golf Club, Walkkill Golf Club
2. Payment of bills for the meeting of June 22, 2021.

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of June 22, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Zydon commented on swimming at the pond and the "Swim At Your Own Risk" signs. Do these signs cause a liability issue and how were the signs authorized?

Mr. Ursin explained the rules and regulations for the pond that were passed at a previous Mayor & Council meeting. Signs are needed to conform with what was passed and the police have been alerted to the rules and are now making an effort to enforce them.

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Administrator Bonanno commented new “NO SWIMMING” and “NO JUMPING FROM BRIDGE” signs are coming in and will be placed accordingly.

Mr. Zydon requested a notice be placed on Facebook that there is no swimming at the pond.

Mr. Limon commented COVID is the cause why the Borough wasn’t able to move forward with swimming at the pond, we just didn’t know what to expect come the summer season.

Mr. Skellenger commented on the shortage of lifeguards everywhere.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Zydon made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for June 10, 2021. (Absent: Limon) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: Limon

Mayoral Appointment

Mayor Sowden made the following appointment to the Recreation Committee:

Theresa Nahrwold Member (3-yr. unexpired term) expires 12/31/2023

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to confirm the Mayor’s appointment. Seconded by Mr. Limon. All were in favor.

Resolution #2021-54

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt resolution 2021-54 authorizing the hiring of a full-time Step 1 Laborer for the Department of Public Works at the rate of \$18.53 per hour conditioned upon a successful background check, physical and drug test. Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Resolution #2021-55

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt resolution 2021-55 authorizing the hiring of a Tax Collection Clerk in the Finance Department, starting annual salary is \$40,000 conditioned upon successful background check effective June 28, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Resolution #2021-56

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt resolution 2021-56 authorizing the Borough of Franklin to become a member with North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System and authorize the Mayor and Administrator to execute the attached agreement. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance #10-2021

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt ordinance 10-2021 entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 119 “FEES” AND DELETING CHAPTER 92 REGARDING BOATING”. Seconded by Mr. Zydon.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for any comments regarding Ordinance 10-2021.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open to the public ordinance 10-2021. Seconded by Mr. Formica. All were in favor.

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Administrator Bonanno directed anyone on Zoom who wished to address the Governing Body to raise their hand.

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

Mr. Zydon made a motion to close to the public ordinance 10-2021. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Memorandum of Agreement

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve a memorandum of agreement between the Franklin Borough Board of Education and the Borough of Franklin regarding possible sale of property. (Agreement provided in Council packets) Seconded by Mr. Zydon.

Mr. Limon clarified the property is the frontage on the highway [Route 23].

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

Zoning Officer request

Mr. Formica made a motion to authorize the Zoning Officer to exempt/waive the sign fee for the annual Changing the Face of Addiction Walk sponsored by the Center for Prevention & Counseling to be held on August 7, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: Postas Abstentions: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Limon commented he liked the fireworks. Hopefully next year we will be able to have them a second time and a longer show.

Mr. Formica commented there has been discussion on changing time for Franklin Day. We would like to try to have it start later in the day to bring it into the evening and we could call it "Franklin Nite" it would bring the festivities into night time and our mineral would be part of the event name.

ADJOURNMENT

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

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk