

**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
SEPTEMBER 28, 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 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. Postas, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Zydon (via Zoom) 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, 2021, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations this evening.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Limon reported there was a Public Utilities Committee meeting on Thursday. Most of the paving projects have been completed, Scott Road and Evans Street. The drainage work was done by the Borough, Woodland Road, Gooseberry, Edsall, Jenkins and Fairway. Next year we want to schedule [paving] Hemlock Drive and Maple Road and possibly use the Safe Routes to School [grant] for the sidewalks on those streets prior to paving them. We are investigating the use of NJDOT for funding of Maple Road from Corkhill Road to Wildcat Road. The DPW Manager has received a complaint from a resident on Scott Road regarding a potential issue from the paving. Once the CFO position is filled, we [Franklin Borough] need to secure funding for the water tower. Mayor Sowden commented it isn't the funding but a legal issue that is being addressed related to the water tower. Next year the committee would like to repave Lozaw Road, Auche Drive, McCann Street and John Wilton Street. Prior to paving those roads, we [Franklin Borough] will address any drainage issues ourselves that may be needed. Mr. Limon commented the tree company that parks at the DPW garage on Corkhill Road worked for us in town for 3 days at no cost in exchange for the Borough allowing them to park there. The cost for that work would have been between \$8,000 and \$10,000. Mr. Limon also reported the committee is working on a plan for a hydrogeological study for the well.

Mr. Postas had nothing to report.

Mr. Snyder reported the Administrator/CMFO interview process will begin with the interviewing of two applicants on Thursday.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mr. Formica reported the official ribbon cutting for the playground took place this past Saturday. It has been well received with many enjoying it; even those from other towns have come down to use it. Mr. Formica thanked the DPW for all their help and work that they did to get the playground open in time.

Clerk Tremont reported the on line vehicle auction is completed. Five vehicles were sold, one had no bids and one was returned. If interested we will re-bid those two vehicles again.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

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Mr. Zydou had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden commented there will be a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan discussion at the Planning Board meeting on October 6, 2021 at 7:30pm. If anyone has any questions about it, they are encouraged to attend the meeting.

Mr. Snyder congratulated the Franklin Fire Department; they took Best Overall Department out of County in Goshen, NY this past weekend. Mr. Limon added Franklin Fire Department also won First Place for the antique truck and engine.

Mr. Limon announced the Sussex County Fireman's Parade will take place this Saturday, October 2, 2021 in Sussex Borough at 2:00pm.

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 Mr. Postas. All were in favor.

Rachel Heath, 7 Hemlock Drive, Franklin stepped forward. Mrs. Heath congratulated and thanked everyone who had a hand in working on the playground. It is beautiful and they did a wonderful job. It has been 32 years to finally get Mildred "Milly" Harden's name in lights. Mrs. Heath asked if the positions for CFO and Administrator will be combined or separate positions. Mr. Snyder commented the Personnel Committee's intention is to have them be separate positions. Mrs. Heath commented on whether or not there is a conflict in having the Concerned Citizens for a Better Franklin use the Senior Center for their meetings. Mr. Ursin commented in general it should be content neutral with allowing organizations to use the building and gave examples of what an organization might be required to provide prior to being authorized to use the building. Once the requirements are satisfied it can be used by any group.

Suki Bhavsar, 91 Main Street, Franklin stepped forward. Mr. Bhavsar commented on moving the parking sign that is located in front of his door at 91 Main Street and place it on the building. Mr. Sowden explained the Borough would need permission in writing from the building owner. Mr. Limon commented the sign is in a bad spot, it's been replaced once already. Mr. Bhavsar requested if the 2 hour restriction could be changed because the sign is in front of a business. Mr. Snyder suggested adding another parking sign at the other side of the building too.

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. Postas. 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.

Mr. Snyder requested the removal of purchase order #34097 from the bills list and vote on that item separately.

CORRESPONDENCE (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution from the Township of Green supporting a 2021 bear hunt in New Jersey.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Board of Health report – August 2021

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution #2021-95
Approval to adopt resolution 2021-95 to approve a coin toss Fundraiser for St. John Vianney Church sponsored by the Knights of Columbus chapter #12649 on October 23, 2021.

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2. Payment of bills for the meeting of September 28, 2021.

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the consent agenda of September 28, 2021 with the removal of Purchase Order #34097 from the bills list. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve Purchase Order #34097 on the bills list. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Snyder

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for tonight's portion of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for September 14, 2021. (Absent: Limon) Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Limon

Resolution #2021-94

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt resolution 2021-94 authorizing Darlene J. Tremont to continue to provide administrative duties at the added rate of \$25.00 per hour. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discussion on Senior Center Usage

At this time there was a discussion on the Senior Center usage.

Mayor Sowden commented various groups have expressed interest in using the Senior Center building. At the last meeting it was voted to wait to allow groups to use it until the purification system is installed. The temporary CFO has notified us we need to get an additional quote because of the cost threshold. Since it won't be installed as soon as thought we need to decide if we want to allow groups to use it prior to the installation of the system. Mr. Postas commented he doesn't have a problem with groups using it prior as long as our custodian is able to keep up with any additional cleaning that would be needed. Mr. Postas also commented on liability issues. Mr. Ursin explained the difference in groups that would be using it. Mr. Ursin commented on the need to have the facility usage form completed along with providing the requirements specified in the form by those requesting to use it. Mr. Ursin stated as commented previously, the criteria for using the building should be very content neutral. Mr. Postas commented on COVID protocols being needed.

A discussion continued on the Senior Center usage.

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the usage of the Senior Center by outside groups pending review by the Administrator and Borough Attorney. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

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Request from Concerned Citizens for a Better Franklin

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the request from the Concerned Citizens for a Better Franklin to use the Senior Center for their meetings on the first Thursday of every month beginning October 7, 2021, conditioned upon completing the Facility Usage Form and meeting the requirements. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

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. Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33p.m., seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk