

MINUTES
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, August 8, 2019
7:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Craig Repmann at 7:30 pm. Mayor Repmann led the flag salute.

Roll Call: Mayor Craig Repmann (present) Deputy Mayor Diane Burgess (present)
Mike Homulak (absent) Sebastian Donaruma (present) Phil Koury (absent)

Also Present: Katrina L. Campbell (Municipal Attorney)
Paul Sterbenz, Engineer (Maser Consulting, P.A.)

Promotion of Sgt. John Oliveira to Rank of Lieutenant:

Sgt. John Oliveira was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in the presence of family and friends. The Municipal Attorney took his Oath of Office.

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only:

Dan Connor, 248 Cherryville Road, questioned the Committee regarding placing unadopted resolutions, ordinances and minutes upon the website. The Mayor and Municipal Attorney responded. Dan Connor questioned Capital Ordinance 2019-06 as it pertains to municipal computer equipment. A brief discussion took place regarding updating the Municipal Building's computer hardware.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the July 11, 2019 minutes Regular Meeting was tabled.

Payment of Bills

Motion to approve the Bills List: Burgess Second: Donaruma

Roll call: Repmann (Aye) Burgess (Aye) Homulak (Absent) Donaruma (Aye) Koury (Absent)

Ordinances:

1. Final Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 2019-05: Ordinance to Create Chapter 210, "Hazardous Materials Clean-Up"

Motion to open Public Hearing: Burgess Second: Donaruma All in favor. Motion carried.

No one from the Public came forward to speak.

Motion to close Public Hearing: Donaruma Second: Burgess All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to adopt: Burgess Second: Donaruma

Roll call: Repmann (Aye) Burgess (Aye) Homulak (Absent) Donaruma (Aye) Koury (Absent)

Resolutions:

1. Resolution 2019-45: Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Improvements to West Sidney Road – Section III project.

Motion to adopt: Burgess Second: Donaruma

Roll call: Repmann (Aye) Burgess (Aye) Homulak (Absent) Donaruma (Aye) Koury (Absent)

2. Resolution 2019-46: Bid Award – Laurelton Trail Road Reclamation Project – Asphalt Paving Systems, Inc. – Amount Not to Exceed \$73,200.00.

Deputy Mayor Diane Burgess explained that only one bid was received for this project.

Motion to adopt: Donaruma Second: Burgess

Roll call: Repmann (Aye) Burgess (Aye) Homulak (Absent) Donaruma (Aye) Koury (Absent)

3. Resolution 2019-47: Resolution to Extend Grace Period for Third Quarter Taxes Due August 1, 2019.

Motion to adopt: Burgess Second: Donaruma

Roll call: Repmann (Aye) Burgess (Aye) Homulak (Absent) Donaruma (Aye) Koury (Absent)

Staff Administrative Reports

Police: None

CFO: None

Administrative: The Township Clerk updated the Committee on the continuing efforts to update the Clerk's Office.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Discussion Item – Procedure for payment of Land Use Board Invoices.

Discussion regarding the procedure for payment of Land Use Board invoices was tabled.

2. Proposed referendum regarding marijuana facilities in Franklin Township to be placed on the General Election Ballot in November. Discussion and vote to approve referendum resolution.

The Municipal Attorney explained the procedure to place a non-binding referendum on the General Election Ballot and indicated that the Township could not meet the deadline for the 2019 General Election. Committeeman Sebastian Donaruma explained the interest in placing the question on the General Election Ballot.

3. Waive municipal fee for the Quakertown Fire Company 50/50 Raffle to be held at Franklin Township Community Day. Discussion and vote to waive municipal fee.

The Municipal Attorney explained the Township's option to waive the municipal fee for raffle license applications submitted by non-profit organizations.

Motion to waive municipal fee: Donaruma Second: Burgess

Roll call: Repmann (Aye) Burgess (Aye) Homulak (Absent) Donaruma (Aye) Koury (Absent)

Committee Member Reports:

Committeeman Sebastian Donaruma explained actions taken by the Police and Public Works Departments to address complaints of speeding on Lower Landsdown Road. He also explained efforts taken by the Police Department to increase safety in the Walmart Shopping Center as a response to recent national events.

Deputy Mayor Diane Burgess explained concerns regarding a tree extending into the roadway near a bad curve on Oak Grove Road. Upon discussion and citing a public safety issue that impacts the Right of Way, notice would be sent to the Police and Public Works Departments. The Municipal Attorney explained the procedure of notifying the property owner before municipal action can take place.

Mayor Craig Repmann spoke regarding Community Day, scheduled for September 28, 2019. Community Day is free to residents and their families and paid for by the Clean Communities Fund Grant. He also spoke regarding the Franklin Township School Superintendent, Mr. Diaz. The superintendent is a shared service with Union Township.

Comments from the Public:

Multiple complaints were received from the public regarding the sound system and the inability to hear the Committee from the audience section of the meeting room.

The following members of the public spoke regarding the discussion for a non-binding referendum on medical marijuana facilities in Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, and marijuana in general:

Jackie Bowers, 15 Whitebridge Road

Clark Bowers, 15 Whitebridge Road

The Municipal Attorney explained the need to recess the Work Session/Regular Meeting of the Township Committee and that public commentary would continue upon return from the Board of Health Regular Meeting.

Board of Health:

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee was called to recess at 8:06 pm to convene a Board of Health Meeting.

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee was reconvened at 8:15 pm.

Upon return to the Regular Meeting of the Township Committee, public commentary continued.

The following members of the public spoke regarding the discussion for a non-binding referendum on medical marijuana facilities in Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, and marijuana in general:

Kathi Thonet, 14 Upper Kingtown Road
Carol Luling, 1104 Croton Road
Robin Ramalho, 88 Locust Grove Road

The Committee and Municipal Attorney addressed the public's questions and concerns. The Municipal Attorney explained the procedure for placing a non-binding referendum on the General Election Ballot. The process for obtaining a marijuana license in the State of New Jersey was also explained.

Executive Session: None.


Action by the Committee: None.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Burgess Second: Donaruma All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Prepared by Christine Burke, Township Clerk



Adopted: 09/12/2019