

MINUTES  
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
WORK-SESSION/REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020  
7:30 PM

**(Location Changed to Online Application: Zoom - <https://zoom.us/j/98745857570>)**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Koury at 7:32 pm. Mayor Koury read the OPMA Statement and led the flag salute.

Roll Call: Mayor Philip Koury (present) Deputy Mayor Diane Burgess (arrived 7:40 pm.)  
Sebastian Donaruma (present) Mike Homulak (present)  
Craig Repmann (present)

Also present: Richard W. Wenner, Municipal Attorney  
Christine Burke, Municipal Clerk  
Cameron Keng, Chief Finance Officer

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only:

No one from the public spoke regarding Agenda Items.

Presentation: None.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the May 7, 2020 minutes Work Session/Regular Meeting: Donaruma

Second: Homulak

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

Payment of Bills

Motion to approve the Bills List: Donaruma Second: Homulak

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

Ordinances:

1. Public Hearing & Final Adoption of Ordinance 2020-06: Ordinance Revising Chapter 220 of the Code of the Township of Franklin to Amend and Enhance Parking Regulations, to Eliminate Outdated Affordable Housing References and Regulations, to Clarify Regulations Related to Electronic Signage, to Permit Live-Work Units as a Conditional Use, and to Permit Wind Energy Systems as an Accessory Conditional Use.

Mayor Koury explained a need to amend and re-introduce Ordinance 2020-06 based upon clarification concerns raised by the Township Zoning Officer. Mayor Koury offered an opportunity to speak but no members of the public came forward. Mayor Koury further noted that no members of the public were present. Mayor Koury confirmed with the Attorney that the Ordinance would be re-introduced as amended with a new public hearing date of June 25, 2020.

Motion to amend and re-introduce Ordinance 2020-06: Repmann      Second: Donaruma  
Roll call: Burgess (Absent) Donaruma (Aye) Homulak (Aye) Koury (Aye) Repmann (Aye)

Resolutions:

1. Resolution 2020-29: Dedication by Rider – A Resolution Requesting Permission for the Dedication by Rider for a Donation & Bequest Trust Required by N.J.S.A. 40A:5-29
  - a. Estate of August W. Knispel for the Maintenance and Upkeep of his monument located in front of the Municipal Building

Mayor Koury explained that Resolution 2020-29 had been created so that the Township could accept a donation from the Estate of August W. Knispel for the maintenance and upkeep of the former mayor's monument located in front of the Municipal Building.

Motion to adopt: Donaruma    Second: Burgess  
Roll call: Burgess (Aye) Donaruma (Aye) Homulak (Aye) Koury (Aye) Repmann (Aye)

Staff Administrative Reports:

**Police:** None.

**CFO:** The Chief Finance Officer reported on the receipt of Property Tax payments. He indicated that numerous resident messages had been received both by phone and e-mail and that the Tax Collector's Office remains responsive while working remotely. He further reported that most COVID-19 related grant opportunities are for reimbursement of remediation efforts and the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff.

**Administrative:** The Township Clerk reported on continuing efforts to update the Township Website and indicated that the new website should go live around the end of June or beginning of July. She further reported on efforts made for the Township's recertification in the Sustainable Jersey Program and on the progress made to remediate the mold in the Township's Archives. Mayor Koury thanked the Clerk for her efforts to keep the public informed on the 2020 Census.

Board of Health: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

1. COVID-19 Information Updates.

Upon request by Mayor Koury, Deputy Mayor Burgess updated the Committee on the results of a phone call meeting with the Director of the Hunterdon County Freeholders. She indicated that the County was preparing to re-open County facilities to County staff. She reported that COVID-19 statistical data had been adjusted to accurately represent Franklin Township. She explained that the statistical data had been inflated in Franklin Township due to a misrepresentation of the location of a long-term care facility. She further reported on the County's efforts to re-open parks. Mayor Koury spoke regarding the Governor's efforts scheduled to be taken in the coming weeks and the increase of COVID-19 testing

opportunities. Deputy Mayor Burgess noted that a doctor's note was no longer required to receive a COVID-19 test. However, an individual would have to be symptomatic.

**Committee Member Reports:**

Committeeman Sebastian Donaruma reported that he had been receiving questions on the status of the Cell Tower scheduled to be erected on the Township Municipal Building property. Mayor Koury explained that there had been communication of Verizon's intention to pull their application, but official notice had not yet been received by the Township.

Committeeman Craig Repmann reported that the Township's Bulk Waste Day was scheduled for the first Saturday in June. Residents would be required follow social distancing guidelines and unload their vehicles themselves. He further reported that Community Day was still scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup> and that a final decision would be made by mid to end July. He went on to indicate that residents had reached out to him regarding delays in processing their tax payments. The CFO explained the Tax Office's efforts to process tax payments. Due to COVID-19, processing of tax payments had been taking place twice per week and experiencing an approximate two-week delay. Mayor Koury questioned if payments were being scanned or physically taken to the bank. The CFO explained that most payments by check were being scanned and that the rare instances of cash had to be manually taken to the bank. Mayor Koury indicated that it might be beneficial to explain delays in processing tax payments on the Township website.

Mayor Philip Koury reported that the Land Use Board had been holding their meetings online to pay bills and that one applicant had requested to postpone their hearing until in-person meetings could take place. He further reported that residents had been contacting him regarding tax sales and construction issues.

**Comments from the Public:**

No one from the public spoke.

**Executive Session:** None.

**Action by the Committee:** None.

Mayor Koury noted that residents should remain active during the COVID-19 pandemic and that the pandemic should not be a reason to gain excessive weight. He further noted that the next Town Committee meeting was scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Donaruma Second: Burgess

All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Prepared by Christine Burke, Township Clerk

  
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Adopted: 06/11/2020