

MINUTES
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK-SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2020
7:30 PM

(Location Changed to Online Application: Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83096446373>)

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Koury at 7:31 pm. Mayor Koury read the OPMA Statement and led the flag salute.

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

Also present: Katrina L. Campbell, Municipal Attorney
Christine Burke, Municipal Clerk
Cameron Keng, Chief Finance Officer
Captain Timothy Snyder, Police Department

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 September 24, 2020 minutes Work Session/Regular Meeting: Donaruma

Second: Homulak

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

Deputy Mayor Diane Burgess had trouble maintaining contact with the online Zoom meeting and was not available for the call of the roll.

Payment of Bills

Motion to approve the Bills List: Repmann Second: Homulak

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

Ordinances:

1. Public Hearing & Final Adoption of Ordinance 2020-09: Ordinance of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey Amending Various Chapters of the Code of the Township of Franklin to Revise the Requirements for Escrows and Fees.

Motion to open Public Hearing: Repmann Second: Homulak All in favor. Motion carried.

No one from the Public came forward to speak.

Upon questioning by the Mayor all present indicated they were in favor of closing the public hearing.

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

Motion to adopt: Donaruma Second: Homulak

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

Deputy Mayor Diane Burgess had trouble maintaining contact with the online Zoom meeting and was not available for the call of the roll.

2. Introduction & First Reading of Ordinance 2020-11: An Ordinance of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, Amending Various Chapters of the Code of the Township of Franklin to Revise Construction Code Fees and Escrow Fee for a C Variance.
 - a. Public Hearing and Final Adoption scheduled for November 12, 2020.

Motion to Introduce: Repmann Second: Donaruma

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

3. Introduction & First Reading of Ordinance 2020-12: Ordinance of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, Revising Chapter 220 of the Code of the Township of Franklin to Amend the Official Zoning Map and Rezone the Area Known As Cherryville to Village Business Zone and Expand the Neighborhood Business Zone; and Permit Solar Panels in Certain Instances.
 - a. Public Hearing and Final Adoption scheduled for November 12, 2020.

Motion to Introduce: Burgess Second: Homulak

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

Resolutions: None.

Staff Administrative Reports:

CFO: The CFO reported on the year end preparations of the Finance Department, specifying the preparations made for the Annual Audit. He further reported on the preparations made for the annual Tax Sale, indicating that the sale would be conducted online and that the required advertisement would be published in the Township newspaper the following Thursday. He explained that the sale included more properties than in previous years. Upon questioning by Deputy Mayor Burgess, the CFO and Township Attorney explained that the sale was being conducted for delinquent taxes from 2019 and could not be deferred due to COVID-19. Upon questioning by Mayor Koury, the CFO explained the increase of delinquent properties and that the properties were delinquent in 2020 as well. He went on to report that he had begun working on the State's annual Best Practices Inventory survey with the Municipal Clerk.

Police: Captain Snyder reported on the monthly activities of the Police Department, specifying arrests, motor vehicle warnings, tickets, accidents, and others. He further reported that the Quakertown Fire Company had submitted a request for an officer to be present on Election Day. Upon questioning by

Mayor Koury, Captain Snyder explained how COVID-19 had affected Police Department activities, including ticketing and radio calls.

Administrative: The Township Clerk reported on the status of the 2020 Census and explained that the Census count had been extended through October. Upon questioning by Mayor Koury, the Township Clerk explained the response rate of the County and the Township. Upon further questioning by Deputy Mayor Burgess, the Township Clerk explained efforts made to encourage Census participation through the Township's website and signage placed on Township property.

The Township Clerk went on to report that the Deputy Clerk had been working with Lora Jones, the Township Historian, to promote the Township's Dodransbicentennial Car Rally and Scavenger Hunt Event scheduled for Saturday, October 24th. She explained that the Deputy Clerk had placed information on the Township's website, sent e-mail blasts to Township subscribers and is maintaining a database of registrants.

The Township Clerk further reported that phone calls regarding the Sidney Road Turkey had reduced since the Mayor's efforts to relocate the bird on September 29th. She indicated that a press release was placed on the Township website that contains pictures and a short video of the bird's relocation. She went on to explain that the Deputy Clerk was compiling articles for the Township Newsletter and that the deadline for submission was October 9th.

The Township Clerk continued her report by explaining that a Vote-By-Mail Drop Box had been installed on the side of the Municipal Building on September 24th and that the required surveillance system had been installed on September 30th. The Township Clerk had been responding to numerous questions regarding voting in the General Election. She further reported on the collection of Bi-Weekly Staff Reports for the Administrative Staff, end-of-year preparations including the annual Best Practices Inventory, and registration for the 2020 NJLM Annual Conference. Upon questioning by Mayor Koury, the Township Clerk explained efforts to prevent confusion between the Ballot and Municipal Drop Boxes and Captain Snyder confirmed that there was a light on the side of the building with the Ballot Drop Box.

Committee Member Reports:

Deputy Mayor Diane Burgess reported on Franklin Township's COVID-19 status and explained where residents could go for testing.

Committeeman Craig Repmann reported that Franklin Township's Movie Night would be October 24th and that the Franklin Township School would be assisting with advertising via the school newsletter. He further explained that he had extended an invitation to South Ridge Community Church and requested that Committeeman Homulak invite the Quakertown Fire Company. Mayor Koury explained that Committeeman Repmann was responsible for stopping the New Jersey Fish & Game official from shooting the Sidney Road Turkey. Committeeman Repmann clarified that the New Jersey Fish & Game official only agreed to wait until Mayor Koury intervened.

Committeeman Mike Homulak reported on the Quakertown Fire Company's efforts regarding the safety of the South Ridge Community Church fireworks display and indicated that the Fire Company's Oktoberfest had been a success. He further reported on the Capital Appropriations of the Fire Company regarding the acquisition of an ambulance and the sale of a ladder truck that would pay for 40% of the cost of a new ladder truck. He indicated that the Fire Company may also be selling another truck.

Mayor Philip Koury reported that the Land Use Board meeting was scheduled for the following week and thanked Captain Snyder, the Township Attorney and Committeeman Repmann for their efforts regarding the Sidney Road Turkey. He explained that the Township Attorney had been monitoring Facebook regarding residents' concerns. He went on to thank the CFO for his efforts to locate a professional company for the surveillance system at the Municipal Building and thanked the staff for their cooperation in submitting Bi-weekly Staff Reports.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Comments from the Public:

No members from the public came forward to speak.

Board of Health:

Motion to recess the Work-Session/Regular Meeting of the Township Committee in order to convene a Board of Health Meeting: Repmann Second: Donaruma All in favor. Motion carried.

The Work-Session/Regular Meeting of the Township Committee was called to recess at 8:03 pm to convene a Board of Health Meeting.

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee was reconvened at 8:08 pm.

Executive Session:

The Township Attorney explained the need to enter Executive Session, that no action could be taken and that all attendees of the meeting were excused except for the Committee, the Township Clerk, and the Township Attorney. Upon confirmation of the absence of all but the required attendees, the Township Clerk stopped audio-visual recording of the meeting.

Motion to enter executive session: Donaruma Second: Burgess
All in favor. Motion carried.

Committee entered Executive Session at 8:09 pm.

Topics discussed:

1. Personnel/Contractual – Police Contract
2. Contractual – Lease of Township Land
3. Litigation/Attorney-Client Privilege – Status of Garden State Growers Litigation

Committee exited Executive Session at 8:30 pm.

Action by the Committee: None.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Repmann Second: Burgess

All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Prepared by Christine Burke, Township Clerk



Adopted: 10/22/2020