

MINUTES
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK-SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2021
7:30 PM

(Location Changed to Online Application: Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89349807549>)

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 (present)
Sebastian Donaruma (absent) Mike Homulak (absent)
Craig Repmann (present)

Also present: Katrina L. Campbell, Municipal Attorney
Christine Burke, Municipal Clerk
Captain Timothy Snyder, Police Department
George Reichert, Office of Emergency Management

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only:

No one from the public spoke regarding Agenda Items. Mayor Koury requested that George Reichert, Office of Emergency Management, hold off reporting on storm preparations until the Staff Reports portion of the meeting.

Proclamations & Presentations: None.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the June 24, 2021 minutes Work-Session/Regular Meeting and Executive Session:
Repmann Second: Burgess

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

Payment of Bills

Motion to approve the Bills List: Repmann Second: Burgess

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

Mayor Koury advised the Committee of the CFO's notations explaining the inclusion of quarterly mileage payments for the Township's construction inspectors and the Township's annual emergency medical services contribution.

Ordinances:

1. Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Ordinance 2021-08: Ordinance of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey to Amend Revise and Supplement Chapter 182, "Fees," of the Code of the Township of Franklin to Correct a Typo and to Provide for a Penalty for Failing to Comply with Section 182-12.

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

George Reichert, Office of Emergency Management, indicated that the Fire Chief had no further comments regarding the ordinance.

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

Motion to adopt: Burgess Second: Repmann

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

2. Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Ordinance 2021-09: An Ordinance of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey Prohibiting the Operation of Any Class of Cannabis Businesses Within Its Geographical Boundaries and Amend Chapter 220 "Land Use," Article VI "General Zone Regulation," Section 30 "Prohibited Uses," of the Code of the Township of Franklin to Add Cannabis Businesses to the List of Prohibited Uses.

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

No members from the public came forward to speak.

Mayor Koury reminded those present that the decision to opt-out of cannabis business implementation was an effort to "buy time" to discuss options with the potential to opt-in at a future date.

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

Motion to adopt: Burgess Second: Repmann

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

Resolutions:

1. Resolution 2021-33: Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council to Renew Membership Therein for the Period of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2026.

Mayor Koury clarified that the Township's continued utilization of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council had been requested by the Department of Public Works Supervisor.

Motion to adopt: Repmann Second: Burgess

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

2. Resolution 2021-34: Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Oak Grove Road Improvement project.

Mayor Koury explained that the resolution was in response to the Committee's May 13th decision to apply for an NJDOT grant on the recommendation of the Township Engineer.

Motion to adopt: Repmann Second: Burgess

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

3. Resolution 2021-35: Resolution of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, Creating the Job Description for Several Positions with the Department of Public Works.

Committeeman Repmann thanked Deputy Mayor Diane Burgess and Alan Dilley, Department of Public Works Supervisor, for working on the job descriptions.

Motion to adopt: Repmann Second: Burgess

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

Staff Administrative Reports:

Police: Captain Snyder reported on the June monthly activities of the Police Department, specifying background investigations, arrests, motor vehicle warnings, tickets, accidents, radio calls, animal complaints, property checks, and others. Captain Snyder expressed his appreciation for Committeeman Homulak's acknowledgement at the June 24th Town Committee Meeting, of Officer Caccavale's successful deployment of Narcan and briefly described the circumstances of the event. The Committee expressed their appreciation for the Police Department.

Administrative: The Township Clerk indicated that she did not have anything additional to report.

OEM: George Reichert reported on the JCP&L efforts to prepare for Tropical Storm Elsa.

Board of Health: None.

Old Business:

1. Discussion: Township Planner's Analysis of Cannabis Implementation into the Current Zoning Ordinance.

Mayor Koury explained that he had requested that the discussion item remain on the agenda but would hold off on discussion until the next meeting.

2. Property Purchase – 43 Lower Landsdown Road (New Municipal Building) – Status Update

The Township Attorney explained that a thirty-day extension had been acquired due to scheduling delays of the water test. She further explained that the water test was part of the Township's due diligence process.

New Business:

1. Lease of Township Property – Farm and Hunting.

The Township Attorney updated the Committee on the status of the Township's Farm and Hunting Leases. She explained when new leases could be scheduled to begin and duration timeframe options. She further explained that two of the current hunting leases were scheduled to expire at the end of the year. She sought the Committee's opinion on minimum bid amounts. Upon acceptance by the Town Committee, the Township Attorney indicated she would prepare the leases for advertising approval at the next meeting.

Committee Member Reports:

Committeeman Repmann indicated that he did not have anything to report.

Deputy Mayor Diane Burgess reported that she and Committeeman Donaruma had met with Quakertown Volunteer Emergency Medical Services (QVEMS), described the meeting as productive and agreeable, and would provide additional information at the next meeting. The Township Attorney indicated that she would have more information regarding the QVEMS Lease to discuss in Executive Session at the next meeting.

Mayor Koury reported on his contact with JCP&L regarding power outage restoration and JCP&L's efforts to restore power to affected residents. He further reported on the Township's decision to opt-out of Cannabis businesses until more information could be obtained and explained an offer from NJLM to tour a cannabis facility on Monday, July 12th at 9:30 AM. He reported that the Land Use Board would hold their next meeting the following week on July 14th. He also reported that the Township Clerk had discovered that the Amwell Valley Motorcycle run scheduled for July had been cancelled.

Committeeman Repmann requested that power outage reporting information be placed on the Township website and as a news blast to subscribed residents.

Comments from the Public:

No members from the public came forward to speak.

Executive Session: None.

Action by the Committee: None.

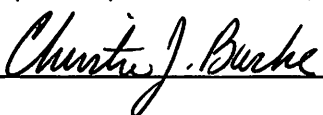
Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Repmann Second: Burgess

All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Prepared by Christine Burke, Township Clerk



Adopted: 08/12/2021