

TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
O-3-2017

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE
TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, desires to adopt an Ordinance in order to establish a Communications Commission within the Township of Franklin, County of Gloucester; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee finds that effective communication of information concerning the Township, its businesses and residents including, the dissemination of important emergency, community, health and safety information to the public in an economical manner benefits the community; and

WHEREAS, there exists a need to create a Communications Commission to oversee the dissemination and distribution of Township information through the Township website and all other information portals and platforms available to the Township in order to provide effective communications consistent with the needs of the residents of the Township of Franklin for local information.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey that:

SECTION 1: Commission Established.

There is hereby established within the Township of Franklin a “Communications Commission of the Township of Franklin” (hereinafter the “Commission”) for the Township of Franklin.

SECTION 2: Composition, Terms of Office, Alternates, Removal, Vacancies.

Said Communications Commission shall be composed of nine (9) members and two (2) alternates all of whom shall be citizens and residents of the Township of Franklin excepting the appointees or designees from the School Districts as set forth below. Said members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Township Committee at the annual reorganization meeting of said Committee or at any other regular meeting of the Township Committee. The members first appointed shall be designated to serve staggered terms: three members for five years, two members for four years, two members for three years, two members for two years, one alternate for one year and one alternate for two years from the date of their appointment. Thereafter, all commissioners, including alternates, shall be appointed for a five year term or until their successor is appointed, whichever is later. Vacancies shall be filled for any unexpired terms.

Among the nine regular members of the Commission established one member shall be appointed from among the members of the Delsea Regional Board of Education who shall serve on the Commission either personally or by designee and one member shall be selected from among the members of the Franklin Township Board of Education who shall serve on the Commission either personally or by designee.

SECTION 3: Compensation; Officers.

Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation. The members of the commission shall choose a Chairman and Vice Chairman. The Commission shall appoint a paid Secretary who shall keep accurate records of its meetings and activities. The compensation for said Secretary shall be derived from the Commission’s budget as set forth below.

SECTION 4: Powers and Duties.

The Communications Commission established by this Ordinance shall be strictly an advisory commission charged with assisting the Township in maintaining, managing, establishing and creating all Township portals and platforms for the conveyance of local news and information

including, but not limited to the Township's website and public access television station. The Communications Commission shall not have any authority or involvement regarding the Franchise Agreement with Comcast or any other cable provider but may be part of the negotiating committee at the time of the renewal of the Franchise Agreement with Comcast or any other cable provider at the discretion of Township Committee.

SECTION 5: Expenditure of Funds.

The Township Committee may annually appropriate funds for the use of the Communications Commission and such funds may be expended on the authority and approval of the Commission upon submission of proper vouchers.

SECTION 6: Limitation of power; annual report.

The Commission shall not have any powers other than those set forth herein, and specifically shall have no power to pledge the credit of the municipality or to enter into contracts or to otherwise create debts. The Commission shall make an annual report to the municipality during December of each year, setting forth in detail its operations and recommendations covering the preceding 12 months.

SECTION 7: Meeting dates.

The Commission shall meet monthly at the Township of Franklin Municipal Building. The meeting shall be the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

SECTION 8: Severability.

Each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase of this Ordinance is declared to be an independent section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase, and the finding or holding of any such portion of this Ordinance to be unconstitutional, void, or ineffective for any cause, or reason, shall not affect any other portion of this Ordinance.

SECTION 9: All other Sections of the Code of the Township of Franklin which references "Cable Television Commission" or "Cable TV Advisory Board" shall be replaced with "Communications Commission".

SECTION 10: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon posting, publication and final passage in the manner prescribed by law.

Attest:

Township of Franklin

BARBARA FREIJOMIL, RMC

DONALD KREVETSKI, MAYOR

CERTIFICATION

I, Barbara Freijomil, Clerk of the Township of Franklin, County of Gloucester, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced at the regular meeting of the Township of Franklin held on January 26, 2017 and thereafter duly advertised in the legal newspaper of the Township at least seven (7) days prior to it being considered for final passage and adoption at a subsequent meeting to be held on February 9, 2017, at which time any person interested therein will be given an opportunity to be heard.

BARBARA FREIJOMIL, RMC
Township Clerk

Introduced January 26, 2017

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Vassallo				
Ms. Flaim				
Ms. Petsch-Wilson				
Mr. Deegan				
Mayor Krevetski				

Adopted February 9, 2017

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Vassallo				
Ms. Flaim				
Ms. Petsch-Wilson				
Mr. Deegan				
Mayor Krevetski				