

Municipality of Princeton, NJ

*400 Witherspoon St
Princeton, NJ 08540*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

2:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

Mayor and Council Closed Session

I. STATEMENT CONCERNING NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act and State regulations governing public meetings, including the time, date and location of the meeting and clear and concise instructions to the public for accessing the meeting and making comments. In addition, the agenda and all related materials were posted electronically and made available to the public on Princeton's meeting portal in advance of the meeting.

II. ROLL CALL

Also Present: Bernard Hvozdovic, Administrator; Jeff Grosser, Deputy Administrator/Health Officer; Deanna Stockton, Deputy Administrator/Municipal Engineer; and Lisa Maddox, Assistant Municipal Attorney

Present David Cohen, Leticia Fraga, Mark Freda, Brian McDonald (arrived 2:34 p.m.), Leighton Newlin, Michelle Pirone Lambros, and Mia Sacks

III. CLOSED SESSION

- 1. Resolution of the Mayor and Council of Princeton to Enter Closed Session (Open Public Meetings Act Sec.3)

RESULT: ADOPTED
MOVER: Leighton Newlin
SECONDER: David Cohen

Aye: Cohen, Fraga, Newlin, Pirone Lambros, and Sacks

Absent: McDonald

-Contract Negotiations- FMBA

Discussion on the matter was postponed for a future meeting date.

-Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege- Boards, Commissions & Committees (BCC's)

Councilman David Cohen, Councilwoman Leticia Fraga, Councilman Leighton Newlin, and Councilman Brian McDonald presented recommendations for candidates to fill vacancies on the various boards, committees, and commissions for which they serve as Council liaisons. Council then discussed each of the recommended candidates. At 2:55 p.m., Mayor Mark Freda, Bernard Hvozdovic, Administrator, Deanna Stockton, Deputy Administrator/Municipal Engineer, and Jeff Grosser, Deputy Administrator/Health Officer departed the meeting.

-Matters requiring confidential advice from counsel on matters related to the Estate of Marcou,

Docket No. MER-L-2330-23

Lisa Maddox, Assistant Municipal Attorney, provided Council with an overview of the DeCotiis Law Firm and advised them of their options should they wish to consult with the firm regarding possible legal representation in the matter of the *Estate of Marcou*, Docket No. MER-L-2330-23. Following Ms. Maddox's presentation and discussion of the available options, Council agreed to proceed with a consultation with Thomas Abbate, Esq. of the DeCotiis Law Firm.

Mr. Abbate joined the meeting at 3:11 p.m.

Mr. Abbate reviewed the information available to him regarding the case and sought clarification from Council concerning the scope of legal services being requested. Council asked general questions regarding the legal process and potential next steps and discussed Mr. Abbate's availability and interest in providing legal representation in the matter.

Mr. Abbate left the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

Following Mr. Abbate's departure, Council continued its discussion regarding the potential retention of legal counsel for the matter.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to close the Closed Session portion to return to Open Session was made by Councilwoman Leticia Fraga, seconded by Councilman David Cohen, and carried unanimously by all members present. Then a motion to adjourn at 4:23 p.m. was made by Councilman David Cohen, seconded by Councilman Brian McDonald, and carried unanimously by all members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M. Mount
Municipal Clerk