

The Council-Manager Plan (NJSA 40:69A-81 to 40:69A-98)

The Mayor and Council are the policy makers for the Township are elected by the people of the Township. The Manager, while the Chief Executive and Administrative Officer of the municipality, is appointed by the Mayor and Council and can be suspended and removed by a majority vote of the Mayor and Council. The Manager's function is to carry out the will of the Mayor and Council.

The Mayor and Council under the Council-Manager Plan

Under the Faulkner Act, the following options are followed by the Township of Franklin:

1. ***Basis of Election:*** Partisan Elections in November.
2. ***Election of Mayor:*** By the voters.
3. ***Size and Structure of the Council:*** Nine Members: 1-Mayor; 3-At-Large Council Members; 5-Ward Council Members. Terms of Office: 4-years terms staggered.

The power and function of the Mayor and Council in the Council-Manager plan is as follows: *All powers of the municipality and the determination of all matters of policy shall be vested in the municipal council, except as otherwise provided by the Faulkner Act, or by general law.*

The Mayor under the Council-Manager Plan

In the Council-Manager plan the Mayor is a member of Council. He is elected by the people for a four-year term (this seat was previously designated as an at-large council seat).

The Mayor's duties are as follows:

- Presides over the Council and, as a member, has a voice and vote in its proceedings.
- Appoints the trustees of the public library
- Has no executive powers; he is simply the *primus inter pares*. The first among equals on the council.

The Manager in the Council-Manager Plan

The Manager serves an indefinite term, and can be suspended and removed by a majority vote of the Council, provided that the correct procedures are followed. The Manager has the following functions:

- Chief Executive and Administrative Official of the Township;
- Appoints and Removes all Department Heads and all other officers and employees (*Except the Municipal Clerk and the Tax Assessor who are appointed by Council*);
- Investigate any officer or department of the Township;
- Attend all meetings of the Council with the right to take part in discussion, but without the right to vote;

- Recommend necessary or expedient measure to the Council;
- Negotiates contracts for the Township, subject to Council approval;
- Sees that all contract and franchise terms are kept and performed;
- Prepares the municipal budget;
- Advises Council as to the financial condition of the Township;
- Makes an annual report to Council; and
- Makes such other reports as the Council requires.