

**REGULAR AGENDA
FOR THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN,
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 46 MAIN STREET
FRANKLIN, NEW JERSEY AT 7:00 P.M. ON
OCTOBER 13, 2026**

- A. **Mayor Sowden** will call the meeting to order; Clerk will call the roll.
- B. **Mayor Sowden** will invite all present to salute the flag.
- C. **Mayor Sowden** will state that "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et sequentes. It has been properly advertised by posting in Borough Hall, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."
- D. **PRESENTATIONS**
There are no presentations this evening.
- E. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** **Mayor Sowden** will allow each member of the Council, Borough Administrator, Borough Clerk, and Borough Attorney to present their respective committee report.

Mayor Sowden will offer the Mayor's Report.

- F. **OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:** **Mayor Sowden** will request a motion to open the meeting to the public, for any questions or comments concerning the good and welfare of the Borough. **All comments should be directed to the Mayor and kept to a 3-minute maximum per person.**

After giving all persons present an opportunity to address the Governing Body, **Mayor Sowden** will request a motion to close the meeting to the public and return to the regular order of business.

- G. **CONSENT AGENDA:** **Mayor Sowden** will request that all persons present review the consent agenda. If any member of the Council or public wishes an item on the consent agenda to be discussed and considered separately, a motion to this effect shall so be made, at this time.

After all persons have had an opportunity to review the consent agenda and offer requests for changes, Mayor Sowden will request a motion to approve the consent agenda.

- H. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- I. **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Approval of the Minutes** for the regular meeting minutes for September 22, 2026. (Absent: Snyder)
2. **Resolution 2026-93** authorizing additional compensation for the violations clerk for the purpose of attending court sessions at a rate of \$100 per court session. (tabled from the September 22, 2026 meeting)
3. **Resolution 2026-99** authorizing the water/sewer collector to issue a credit on account #6845-0 in the amount \$100.00.
4. **Introduction of Ordinance 2026-10** entitled "CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE MAPLE ROAD PUMP STATION, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$48,837.00 THEREFOR FROM THE WATER/SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THIS PURCHASE."

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden will request a motion to open the meeting to the public for Ordinance 2026-10.

5. Introduction of Ordinance 2026-11 entitled “CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE MOSCOW STREET WATER MAIN, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$40,279.00 THEREFOR FROM THE WATER/SEWER CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR WATER DISTRIBUTION.”

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden will request a motion to open the meeting to the public for Ordinance 2026-11.

6. DPW Salary Step Increase
A motion is in order to approve a DPW salary step increase for Michael Raperto to Grade Step 7 \$30.04 per hour as per the DPW contract, effective September 1, 2026 as recommended by Brian Vanderbroek, Water Department Supervisor.
7. Mayoral Appointment
Mayor Sowden will make the following appointment.

Recreation Committee

Patrice Speroni, Member (3-yr unexpired term) Expires 12/31/2027

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION – IF REQUESTED

Mayor Sowden will request a motion to adopt a resolution to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss certain items excluded from the public.

THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT ALLOWS THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC FROM A PORTION OF A MEETING IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, THAT THE PUBLIC SHALL BE EXCLUDED FROM DISCUSSION OF MATTERS ALLOWED BY NEW JERSEY LAW.

THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES WILL BE PLACED ON FILE IN THE BOROUGH CLERK’S OFFICE, AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AS PROVIDED FOR BY NEW JERSEY LAW.

Be further advised this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

- K. MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS: **Mayor Sowden** will allow each member of the Governing Body to offer any miscellaneous comments which they may have at this time.
- L. ADJOURNMENT: **Mayor Sowden** will request a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN
HELD AT THE FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
46 MAIN STREET, FRANKLIN, NJ
SEPTEMBER 22, 2026**

Mayor Sowden called the meeting to order and requested the Borough Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the Governing Body were present: Mrs. Carnes, Mr. Formica, Mrs. Heath, Mr. Limon, Mr. Skellenger and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: Mr. Snyder

Mayor Sowden led the assembly in the flag salute.

Mayor Sowden stated "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et sequentes. It has been properly advertised by posting in Borough Hall and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations for tonight's meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Limon commented a small subcommittee meeting was held.

Mrs. Carnes commented that she was talking with Metropolitan Dermatology who is opening an office very soon here in Franklin and is discussing a date and time for a ribbon cutting.

Mrs. Heath commented that there was a personnel meeting, attended the public safety meeting and a talent show at Westwind Manor. Our 9/11 memorial ceremony was a huge success. Thank you to the Franklin PD, Franklin FD, Blue Bloods Law Enforcement MC, Franklin Boy Scouts, Christi Lemay, Mayor Sowden, Phil Crabb and Assemblywoman Dawn Fantasia. Extended appreciation to Franklin Council Members and borough residents. A special thanks to Franklin Recreation. Commented seats still available for the September 26 bus trip to Wind Creek, October 17th is the Food Truck Festival, October 24 is the Halloween parade, trunk or treat. November 14 is the vendor fair at the Franklin fire house and the Christmas tree lighting and Santa is November 28.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report. Working on bringing the DMV Mobile unit in next year.

Mr. Formica commented that there was a building and grounds meeting regarding Christmas lights and a public safety meeting.

Mrs. Little had nothing to report.

Mr. Spidaletto asked to table Resolution 2026-93 to do more research.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden had nothing to report.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open the meeting to the public for anyone wishing to address the Governing Body. Seconded by Mrs. Heath. All were in favor.

Joanne Tatka stepped forward. Ms. Tatka thanked for the brush removal. Questioned Franklin House increase. Asked about the well behind ShopRite Liquors. Asked about progress with JCP&L property back on tax rolls. Asked if town employees pay towards their health benefits. Asked who SCMUA representative is for sewers. Commented on the Police Chief salary increase and questioned what warrants such an increase of \$38,000. Resolution 2026-78 had a \$325,000

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

appropriation for police salaries asked what percent of a raise did the officers get and what is carried over to the 2027 budget.

Laurie Hendersot resident of Franklin House, voiced concerns regarding potential rent increase.

William Geiger resident of Franklin House, voiced concerns regarding Franklin Senior Housing rent increase and commended everyone on the 9/11 memorial.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Limon made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mrs. Heath. All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Sowden requested that all persons present review the consent agenda and offer any comments they may have at this time regarding the consent agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Township of Frankford resolution entreating a full, independent and transparent investigation into the improper registration of non-citizens in New Jersey and calling for additional safeguards to protect election integrity.
2. County of Sussex resolution requesting a full, independent and transparent investigation into the improper registration of non-citizens to vote in New Jersey and calling for additional safeguards to protect election integrity.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Permit Activity Report – August 2026
2. COH Report – August 2026
3. Permit List – August 2026
4. County Board of Health Report – August 2026
5. Municipal Court Report – August 2026

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of September 22, 2026.

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of September 22, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for tonight's portion of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for September 8, 2026. (Absent: Skellenger, Snyder) Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: Skellenger

Resolution 2026-92

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-92 authorizing the hiring of a seasonal laborer for maintenance in the department of public works. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

Resolution 2026-93

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to table Resolution 2026-93 authorizing additional compensation for the violations clerk for the purpose of attending court sessions at a rate of \$100 per court session, until the next meeting on October 13, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote to table:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-94

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-94 authorizing a purchase through the ESCNJ Cooperative contract for standby generators for the Department of Public Works at a cost not to exceed \$84,760.00. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-95

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-95 authorizing a disabled veteran exemption on Block 302 Lot 2. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-96

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-96 authorizing a disabled veteran exemption on Block 1401 Lot 1. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-97

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-97 authorizing a disabled veteran exemption on Block 1204 Lot 16. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-98

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-98, New Jersey Department of Transportation Division of Local Aid and economic development recommendation of award state aid project for the Kovach, Mabie and South Streets improvements. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance 2026-09

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-09 entitled "CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PURCHASE OF UPFITTING FOR THE NEW POLICE CARS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$18,531.00 THEREFOR FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THIS PURCHASE." Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for Ordinance 2026-09. Mrs. Heath made a motion to open the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance 2026-09, seconded by Mr. Formica. All were in favor.

There being no one present who wished to address the governing body regarding Ordinance 2026-09, Mr. Formica made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance 2026-10

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2026-10 entitled "CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE MAPLE ROAD PUMP STATION, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$48,837.00 THEREFOR FROM THE WATER/SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THIS PURCHASE." Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held on October 13, 2026

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: Formica

Introduction of Ordinance 2026-11

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2026-11 entitled "CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE MOSCOW STREET WATER MAIN, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$40,279.00 THEREFOR FROM THE WATER/SEWER CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR WATER DISTRIBUTION." Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held on October 13, 2026

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Formica commented that Thursday night at the pond 5pm - 8pm is the Wallkill Valley Night Out which includes our first responders.

Mr. Skellenger commented that Father Bogie is retiring and his last mass is September 27 at the church picnic, Fireman's Park at 11:30am.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Limon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30p.m., seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Colleen L. Little, Municipal Clerk

Borough of Franklin, County of Sussex

Resolution #2026-93

AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR THE VIOLATIONS CLERK

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 2B:8-1 et seq. the Municipal Court of the Borough of Franklin, Sussex County has been established; and

WHEREAS, the Personnel Committee recommends additional compensation to the Violations Clerk, Alexa Odllakoff; and

WHEREAS, additional compensation to Alexa Odllakoff will be provided as follows:

- a) Court sessions \$100 per session

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Franklin, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, does hereby approve the additional compensation to Alexa Odllakoff as Violations Clerk effective September 9, 2026.

CERTIFICATION: I, Colleen L. Little, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Franklin, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Governing Body of the Borough of Franklin at a regular meeting held on October 13, 2026.

Colleen L. Little, Municipal Clerk

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES				
COUNCIL MEMBER	AYES	NAYES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
PATRICIA CARNES				
CONCETTO FORMICA				
RACHEL HEATH				
JOSEPH LIMON				
STEPHEN SKELLENGER				
GILBERT SNYDER				
MAYOR SOWDEN (Tie Only)				

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN
ORDINANCE NUMBER 10-2026**

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF A
GENERATOR FOR THE MAPLE ROAD PUMP STATION, BY
AND IN THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF
SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING
\$48,837.00 THEREFOR FROM THE WATER/SEWER CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THIS PURCHASE**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Franklin, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey (the "Borough"), needs to purchase a generator for the Maple Road Pump Station, and

WHEREAS, the cost of a portion of said improvements or purposes is \$48,837.00; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to authorize the appropriation and expenditure of \$48,837.00 from the water/sewer capital improvement fund to purchase this generator,

**BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AS
FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1. The capital improvements or purposes described below are hereby authorized as the Purchase of a Generator at the Mape Road Pump Station for the Water/Sewer Utility be undertaken by the Borough. For the said improvements or purposes, there is hereby appropriated the amount of \$48,837.00 from the water/sewer capital improvement fund.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall take effect immediately after final adoption and approval by the Mayor as described in N.J.S.A. 40:49-2.

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced to pass on first reading at a regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Franklin held on September 22, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a regular meeting of the Borough Council to be held on

October 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the Borough Council may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 46 Main Street, Franklin, New Jersey 07416, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Colleen L. Little
Municipal Clerk

ADOPTED ON FIRST READING
DATED: September 22, 2026

Colleen L. Little,
Clerk of the Borough of Franklin

ADOPTED ON SECOND READING
DATED:

Colleen L. Little,
Clerk of the Borough of Franklin

APPROVAL BY THE MAYOR ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

JOHN M. SOWDEN, IV, Mayor

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN
ORDINANCE NUMBER 10-2026**

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES-FIRST READING					Move	2nd
COUNCIL MEMBER	AYES	NAYES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT		
PATRICIA CARNES COUNCIL PRESIDENT	X					
CONCETTO FORMICA			X			
RACHEL HEATH	X					
JOSEPH LIMON	X					X
STEPHEN SKELLENGER	X				X	
GILBERT SNYDER				X		
MAYOR SOWDEN, IV (Tie Only)						

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES-SECOND READING					Move	2nd
COUNCIL MEMBER	AYES	NAYES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT		
PATRICIA CARNES COUNCIL PRESIDENT						
CONCETTO FORMICA						
RACHEL HEATH						
JOSEPH LIMON						
STEPHEN SKELLENGER						
GILBERT SNYDER						
MAYOR SOWDEN, IV (Tie Only)						

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN
ORDINANCE NUMBER 11-2026**

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE EXTENSION OF
THE MOSCOW STREET WATER MAIN, BY AND IN THE
BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$40,279.00
THEREFOR FROM THE WATER/SEWER CAPITAL RESERVE
FOR WATER DISTRIBUTION**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Franklin, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey (the "Borough"), needs to extend the Moscow Street Water Main, and

WHEREAS, the cost of a portion of said improvements or purposes is \$40,279.00; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to authorize the appropriation and expenditure of \$40,279.00 from the water/sewer capital reserve for water distribution for this purpose,

**BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AS
FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1. The capital improvement described below is hereby authorized as the extension of the Moscow Street water main be undertaken by the Borough. For the said improvements or purposes, there is hereby appropriated the amount of \$40,279.00 from the water/sewer capital reserve for water distribution.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall take effect immediately after final adoption and approval by the Mayor as described in N.J.S.A. 40:49-2.

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced to pass on first reading at a regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Franklin held on September 22, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a regular meeting of the Borough Council to be held on

October 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the Borough Council may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 46 Main Street, Franklin, New Jersey 07416, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

Colleen L. Little
Municipal Clerk

ADOPTED ON FIRST READING
DATED: September 22, 2026

Colleen L. Little,
Clerk of the Borough of Franklin

ADOPTED ON SECOND READING
DATED: October 13, 2026

Colleen L. Little,
Clerk of the Borough of Franklin

APPROVAL BY THE MAYOR ON THIS 13th DAY OF October, 2026.

JOHN M. SOWDEN, IV, Mayor

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN
ORDINANCE NUMBER 11-2026**

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES-FIRST READING					Move	2nd
COUNCIL MEMBER	AYES	NAYES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT		
PATRICIA CARNES COUNCIL PRESIDENT	X					
CONCETTO FORMICA	X					
RACHEL HEATH	X					
JOSEPH LIMON	X					X
STEPHEN SKELLENGER	X				X	
GILBERT SNYDER				X		
MAYOR SOWDEN, IV (Tie Only)						

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES-SECOND READING					Move	2nd
COUNCIL MEMBER	AYES	NAYES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT		
PATRICIA CARNES COUNCIL PRESIDENT						
CONCETTO FORMICA						
RACHEL HEATH						
JOSEPH LIMON						
STEPHEN SKELLENGER						
GILBERT SNYDER						
MAYOR SOWDEN, IV (Tie Only)						