

**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  
APRIL 14, 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, Mr. Snyder and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: None

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 printed in the New Jersey Herald/Sunday New Jersey Herald on January 11, 2026, 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**

Mrs. Heath commented that the personnel committee met and discussed some personnel matters. The Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success; 5,000 eggs disappeared in about 5 minutes. Thanks to the recreation department and a special thanks to the Easter Bunny who arrived on the firetruck and stayed until everyone got their picture taken with him. The new popcorn maker was also introduced and was a success. Special thanks to the Wallkill Valley First Aid Squad, Franklin Fire Department and the Franklin Police Department. April 18<sup>th</sup> is the Senior Spring Fling at 12pm at the Franklin Fire House and the 2026 Franklin Senior of the Year will be announced. May 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> is the Franklin Carnival and June 27<sup>th</sup> is Franklinite. Neil and I volunteered to pick up trash by the Weis to help out AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassadors.

Mr. Skellenger commented that June 9<sup>th</sup> the Motor Vehicle Mobile Unit will be back at the pond. Appointments will open one month prior.

Mr. Formica commented that the NJDOT approved Franklin Borough for \$1,440,000 for the Improvements to Corkhill Road.

Mr. Limon commented that there was a public works meeting and the main discussion topic was the opening of High Street.

Mrs. Carnes commented that some of our new businesses will soon be planning official grand openings.

Mr. Snyder commented that the Finance Committee met last Thursday and after discussion on what to do and not to do; we came up with to agree on introduction of the budget for tonight.

Mayor Sowden commented that there was a cancellation on the meeting that was supposed to happen with rail to trails and we are regrouping with some other people and hopefully get things moving by the end of this month along with the people from the County where we are working on the grant. Mayor Sowden commented that his goal is to go from Maple Road to Wildcat Road and also from Wildcat Road to Junction Street and also work something out with the County to use part of the SCUMA rail line and open up part of that trail.

Mr. Snyder commented that he knows that Mayor Sowden asked to put money aside for rail to trails but we were not able to do that.

Mrs. Little commented that the filing of the Financial Disclosure Statements are due April 30<sup>th</sup> and the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter cannabis tax was in the amount of \$334,307.28.

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Mr. Spidaletto spoke regarding the addendum items for the LEAP grant and amending the Tax Collector Shared Service Agreement with Lafayette Township. Resolution 2026-44 for the engineering services on the drilling; that has been temporarily postponed, there is a TCC Meeting next week. There is an ordinance on the agenda in regards to 194-1, last year the council took away the fees for the resident parking but noticed in another section that it did not coincide.

Mr. Windels 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.

Dawne Rowe stepped forward. Ms. Rowe asked what kind of shape the wells are in and what kind of plans has anybody made if this gets any worse.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that we just did a rehab on one of the wells to try to get more water out of it. The wells are sufficiently stocked right now.

Mr. Limon commented that we are looking for other sources.

Ms. Rowe commented any hint on where we are looking.

Mr. Limon commented that we have looked on Scott Road.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Snyder made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Skellenger. 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 Sparta Ordinance 26-02 amending Chapter 18, entitled comprehensive land management code, to prohibit detention, correction or other carceral facilities within all zones through the Township of Sparta.
2. Township of Sparta Ordinance 26-03 amending Chapter 18 "Comprehensive Land Management Code", including section 18-8.4 "Residential Development Fees for low- and moderate-income housing" and section 18-8.5 "Incentive zoning and mandatory set-asides" and replacing them in their entirety and repeals appendix A-18.4, "Residential development fees for low- and moderate-income housing" of appendix A "Fee Schedule" and replace it in its entirety.
3. Letter received from a concerned citizen regarding an installation of a crosswalk by the library.

**REPORTS** (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Police Department Report – February 2026
2. Registrar Report – January – March 2026
3. Permit Summary Report – March 2026
4. Permit List – March 2026
5. COH Report – March 2026
6. Municipal Court Report – March 2026
7. Road Division Report – March 2026

**APPLICATIONS** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

**RESOLUTIONS** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of April 14, 2026.

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the consent agenda of April 14, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Limon.

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Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Skellenger

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ADDENDUM**

Resolution #2026-48

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-48 LEAP implementation grant for tax collector shared service agreement with the Township of Lafayette. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Amending the Tax Collection Department Shared Service with Lafayette Township (extending the term of the contract)

Mr. Formica made a motion to amend the Tax Collection Department Shared Service Agreement with Lafayette Township extending the term of the contract to five (5) years. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for March 24, 2026. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-44

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-44 authorizing the award of non-fair and open contracts for professional services for engineering services. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-45

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt Resolution 206-45 authorizing fireworks display in the Borough of Franklin on June 27, 2026 at the Franklin Pond Recreation Area. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-46

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-46 regarding the temporary closure of Franklin Avenue, County Road 631. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

## MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES APRIL 14, 2026

### Resolution 2026-47

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-47 introduction of 2026CY Budget. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Mr. Snyder commented that we came to the amount for the budget of \$9,832,941.07 with the amount of coverage we had \$3,932,989.07, responsibility of the tax payers will \$5,899,952. For the average homeowner this year the taxes will go up \$118 for the municipal side of the tax.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

### Introduction of Ordinance 06-2026

Mr. Limon made a motion to introduce Ordinance 06-2026 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING SECTION 194-1, FEES". Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held on April 28, 2026.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

### Introduction of Ordinance 07-2026

Mr. Snyder made a motion to introduce Ordinance 07-2026 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY REPEALING SECTIONS 176-15 THROUGH 176-39". Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Mayor Sowden announce that the public hearing will be held on April 28, 2026.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

### American Legion Post 132 Request

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to waive the Municipal Pull Tab Instant Raffle License Fee in the amount of \$750.00 for the period of April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and to waive the Municipal fee in the amount of \$20.00 for a Tricky Tray Raffle License. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

### Approval of NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the application for membership of William Marotta-LaRegina as Firematic member to the Franklin Fire Department as endorsed by Corey Houghtaling, Franklin Fire Department Chief. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Limon

### Peddlers Permit Application

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the peddler permit submitted by Curtis Pandorf – Hot Dog Truck located at 76 Route 23, Franklin. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

**MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES APRIL 14, 2026**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

**MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS**

There were no miscellaneous comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

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Colleen L. Little, Municipal Clerk