

**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
JUNE 9, 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

Mrs. Heath commented that Kevin from Notchwood Landscaping has installed the 9/11 Memorial stone at the pond. He met with the Recreation Committee and made suggestions for the placement of the bricks and two benches. Mrs. Heath is going to distribute a flyer for the purchase of bricks in a loved one's name. Upcoming events for Recreation include a Miners Baseball Game on Saturday, June 20th, June 27th is Franklin Day and Nite and Recreation is planning many activities throughout the day, making the rain barrels, kayaking, bounce houses and the Little Miss, Mister, Miss Franklin Pageant. There are currently 30 craft vendors, 9 food vendors and 4 food trucks signed up for the event. In honor of our 250th Anniversary Celebration there will be a fireworks display will and an extra explosive event this year. Mayor Sowden is coordinating the dedication of the Franklin Rails to Trails. Mets game is September 5th and Wind Creek Casino Trip September 26th. There was a personnel meeting to discuss contracts and a buildings and grounds meeting. She and Neil attended career day at the Franklin Elementary School.

Mr. Skellenger thanked the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission and the District 24 Office for helping us secure another great day at the mobile unit; every appointment was filled. The open space committee at the County met and discussed the applications that were submitted.

Mr. Formica commented that buildings and grounds met and discussed the sink hole at fireman's park and that will be looked at tomorrow. After that, then they are going to repair Catlin Road and discussed paving. What are the next steps in regard to the water meter project.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that he would like to set up a meeting with the ordinance committee to discuss some items regarding the water meter project. They are close to putting the receivers on the towers to collect the data.

Mr. Formica asked the status of the rate study that was being conducted.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that they are almost done with that study.

Mr. Limon commented that buildings and grounds met on June 4th. We are working on the softball dugouts, paving of the roads, parking with the police lot, geese, salt shed placement, flags are ordered, line striping and Borough Hall paving and the little strip behind the legion.

Mrs. Carnes had nothing to report.

Mrs. Little had nothing to report.

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 9, 2026

Mr. Spidaletto had nothing to report.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden commented that he has spoken to a couple of rate payers regarding the water report who were worked up about the report and he talked to them and calmed them down and walked them through it. Mayor Sowden congratulated Mr. Limon and Mrs. Carnes for the republican nominations. Mayor Sowden commented that the Oak Street cemetery has been cleared where Mr. Rourick is laid to rest. Mayor Sowden commented that he is glad to see that High Street is opened.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

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

Dawne Rowe stepped forward. Ms. Rowe expressed her concerns regarding vehicles with loud exhausts. Ms. Rowe commented that she hopes the carnival went well.

Mrs. Heath commented that the carnival was well attended. They did take the comments that they need rides for older children. Next year they will incorporate that. The wrist bands were valued at \$35 and they were not getting people, so they reduced the cost of the wrist bands to \$30.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Formica 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):

None

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Code Enforcement Officer Report – May 2026
2. Water/Sewer Division Report – May 2026

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of June 9, 2026.

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the consent agenda of June 9, 2026. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Mrs. Heath commented that she is happy to see a code enforcement official report for May and it is very in depth.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon,

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: Skellenger

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for May 26, 2026. (Absent: Mr. Formica) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 9, 2026

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: Formica

Resolution 2026-62

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-62 authorizing the Borough Clerk to renew liquor licenses for the 2026-2027 licensing term. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-63

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-63 authorizing payment plan for delinquent water and sewer fees for the property located at 104 Main Street, with the addition of a \$5,000 down payment. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-64

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-64 requesting Governor Mikie Sherrill restore full funding to the New Jersey School of Conservation. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance 2026-08

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2026-08 entitled "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS 2026 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$2,611,378 THEREFOR (INCLUDING A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,352,760 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF." Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held on June 23, 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 asked if there was a cutoff date to purchase bricks.

Mrs. Heath commented that it will be on going.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Formica made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25p.m., seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Colleen L. Little, Municipal Clerk