

**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 23, 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. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: Mr. Limon

Mayor Sowden led the assembly in the flag salute. Mayor Sowden requested a moment of silence in remembrance of Kat Van Allen, a member of the Wallkill Valley First Aid Squad and lifelong Franklin resident, who recently passed away.

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 on June 27th is Franklin Day/Nite Celebration. There are 40+ vendors that will be in attendance and there will be fireworks. Arthur Thomas donated jewelry that has Franklinite on it to pass on to Miss and Junior Miss Franklin.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mr. Formica commented that the sink hole at Fireman's Park has been filled in.

Mrs. Carnes asked what time the pageant starts on Saturday.

Mrs. Heath commented that it starts at 3pm.

Mr. Snyder had nothing to report.

Mrs. Little had nothing to report.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that the Master Street paving project got delayed this week with the weather and we just submitted a grant for the fire department for turnout gear through the AFG grant.

Mr. Windles had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden commented that the Wallkill Valley Heritage Trail ribbon cutting is June 27th at 11am on Maple Road across from the police station. The goal is to next year get the state and county to develop the trail from Wildcat Road to Junction Street and then hopefully the county will be receptive with the trail line that goes out of Franklin junction and over towards Vo-Tech.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

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

Joanne Tatka stepped forward. Ms. Tatka asked if the trail was going to run from Junction Street to Vo-Tech. Ms. Tatka asked if all three wells were working and are you drilling yet by Hardyston.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that we do have approval to go back in there to drill.

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Ms. Tatka asked if there were any medical dispensaries in Franklin. There was a committee set up awhile back to limit the number of recreational facilities, was that ever set, what the maximum was.

Mrs. Heath commented that a letter was sent to zoning to look at this. They did not even entertain it, this was a few years ago. Mrs. Heath commented that she is talking about the smoke shops. Mrs. Heath commented that it was never formally addressed.

Ms. Tatka commented that she is bothered by comments that were made at the March planning board meeting regarding 390 Rutherford Avenue ordinance that was approved by all members of the planning board.

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. Formica. 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 26-11 amending Chapter 18, entitled comprehensive land management code, to define and prohibit data centers within all zones throughout the Township of Sparta
2. Township of Sparta Ordinance 26-12 amending Chapter XVIII entitled "comprehensive land management code" to amend portions of section 18-4.29 entitled "economic development district," portions of section 18-4.35 entitled "PDRM-1 district zone," and portions of section 18-4.36 entitled "PDRM-2 district zone."

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Permit Activity Report – May 2026
2. Permit List – May 2026
3. COH Report – May 2026
4. Municipal Court Report – May 2026
5. County Board of Health Report – May 2026
6. Police Department Report – April 2026
7. Police Department 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 23, 2026.

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the consent agenda of June 23, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

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 June 9, 2026. (Absent: Snyder) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: Snyder

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Resolution 2026-65

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-65 to approve certifying the Franklin Borough Governing Body has reviewed the 2025 Audit comments and recommendations as required by N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-66

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-66 to accept and approve for filing the corrective action plan for the Audit Report year 2025 prepared and filed by the Borough's Chief Financial Officer. (Corrective Action Plan attached) Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance 08-2026

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to adopt Ordinance 08-2026 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.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public. Mrs. Heath made a made a motion to open the meeting to the public for Ordinance 08-2026, seconded by Mr. Formica. All were in favor.

Ms. Joann Tatka stepped forward. Ms. Tatka asked if there was an estimated cost on a new ambulance.

Mr. Formica commented that the approximate cost is \$380,000.

Ms. Tatka asked if more trucks were being purchased for the road department or replacing trucks. Ms. Tatka asked about the new water meters.

Mayor Sowden commented that it will be a different metering system and that is part of the system.

Ms. Tatka asked about the generators for the water department. Do they have their own generators because you have emergency services that have generators also.

Mayor Sowden commented that we have generators at the pump stations and wells.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Snyder made a motion to close the meeting public for Ordinance 08-2026. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

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MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mayor Sowden commented that he hopes everyone enjoys the Franklin Day/Nite celebration. Mayor Sowden would like to look into some things and see if there is something out there that could assist and protect at all our lights.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:31p.m., seconded by Mrs. Carnes. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Colleen L. Little, Municipal Clerk