

**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 24, 2025**

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

Absent: Mrs. Heath and Mr. Limon

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 12, 2025, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

**PRESENTATIONS**

Bobbi Formica of the Recreation Committee presented the 2025 Royal Court of Franklin: Prince of Franklin Colton Ross, Little Mister Franklin Ryan Patterson, Junior Mister Franklin Matthew Patterson, Princess of Franklin Isabella Tan, Little Miss Franklin Carly Correal, Junior Miss Franklin Kylie VanAllen and Miss Franklin Lily Parker.

Mr. Joseph LoPorto of the New Jersey Firearms Owners Syndicate voiced his support of resolution 2025-60.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mrs. Carnes commented that Franklinite is this Saturday (June 28<sup>th</sup>) from 3pm-9pm; there will be food trucks, bands and finishing up the evening with fireworks.

Mr. Snyder had nothing to report.

Mr. Skellenger commented that the real estate committee met and discussed properties that may be put up for auction.

Mr. Formica commented that on Tuesday June 17<sup>th</sup> he was asked to be a part of the eagle scout review board for Michael Christiansen and he is glad to say that Michael was awarded his eagle scout.

Mrs. Little had nothing to report.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that a good portion of the employees attended the harassment in the workplace training that was held on June 10<sup>th</sup>. We made application to Atlantic Health for two AED's (defibrillators) that we acquired today and asked to meet with the public safety committee to determine the best location for placement.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden commented that a meeting was held last week on the rails to trails with the state, county, Mr. Snyder, myself, and Neil. We really got excited about the lines that are owned by the state and how we want to try to open them up. We are getting ready to have an actual walk the trail meeting to see what's involved there; the rails to trails people would be reviewing the safety issues. But we all agreed that it was generally a good idea to open up the trail where it goes from Maple Road down to the pond. They were asking for just a little help, Mayor Sowden was wondering if we could take our road mower down there one day after this meeting to open up the trail a little wider. We are talking about eventually developing a line that will go from Maple Road to Ogdensburg and then from Franklin north to Hamburg and possibly working with the SCMUA to allow us to use the old rail line over to Sussex Tech. The walk the trail meeting will be held on July 16<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. The

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consensus of the council was to allow the use of the road mower to open up the trail a little wider.

### **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.

Ms. Dawn Fantasia stepped forward. Ms. Fantasia spoke regarding the firearms permit fees and voiced her support for the resolution.

Mr. Josh Davante, Assistant Cub Master and Barbara DeRenzo of Troop 90 Boy Scouts. Mr. Davante commented that they are putting in a formal request to use the Franklin Pond football field the evening of August 23<sup>rd</sup> into the morning of August 24<sup>th</sup> for a movie night/camping night and would also like to use the concession stand for the use of electricity to power the blow up movie screen and to put together a small breakfast the morning after.

The consensus of the council was to allow Troop 90 to use the Franklin Pond football field the evening of August 23<sup>rd</sup> into the morning of August 24<sup>th</sup> for a movie/camping night.

Ms. Dawne Rowe stepped forward. Ms. Rowe congratulated everybody on the good work with the carnival. Ms. Rowe commented that she is a big believer in the constitution. She stated that she kind of likes the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment, she is fond of the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment and while she also commends the council for refunding these fees; she wonders if the council or even the assemblywoman could get that passionate about defending everyone's right to the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment, to the due process to the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment based on what is going on everywhere.

Mr. Daniel Francisco stepped forward. Mr. Francisco, Mayor of Englishtown, voiced his support for resolution 2025-60.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Snyder. 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. Letter from the Township of Sparta in re: 2025 Township of Sparta Housing Element and Fair Share Plan
2. Township of Hardyston Joint Land Use Board Notice of Public Hearing on adoption of an amended master plan to add the "2025 Hardyston Township Housing Element and Fair Share Plan".

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

1. Municipal Court Report – May 2025
2. Road Department Report – June 2 – June 6
3. County Board of Health Report – May 2025
4. Water/Sewer Report – May 12 – May 16
5. Water/Sewer Report – May 19 – May 23
6. Water/Sewer Report – May 26 – May 30
7. Water/Sewer Report – June 2 – June 6
8. Road Department Report – June 9 – June 13
9. Police Department Report – May 2025

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

1. None filed.

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

1. Resolution 2025-57 – authorizing Borough Clerk to renew Liquor Licenses for the 2025-2026 Licensing Term

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2. Payment of bills for the meeting of June 24, 2025.

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to approve the consent agenda of June 24, 2025.  
Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath, Limon Abstentions: None

### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for June 9, 2025. (Absent: Mrs. Carnes) Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath, Limon Abstentions: Carnes

#### **Resolution 2025-58**

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-58 endorsing the 2025 Housing Element and Fair Share Plan adopted by the Borough of Franklin Planning Board on June 16, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath, Limon Abstentions: None

#### **Resolution 2025-59**

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-59 approving stipend in the amount of \$1,025 semi-monthly for tax collector shared service agreement. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath, Limon Abstentions: None

#### **Resolution 2025-60**

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-60 authorizing refund of municipal portion of handgun carry permit fee upon submission of receipt. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath, Limon Abstentions: None

#### **Adoption of Ordinance 07-2025**

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Ordinance 07-2025 entitled "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$1,378,584 THEREFOR (INCLUDING A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,161,200 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF". Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for Ordinance 07-2025. Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open the meeting to the public for Ordinance 07-2025, seconded by Mrs. Carnes. All were in favor.

There being no one present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to close the meeting to the public for Ordinance 07-2025, seconded by Mrs. Carnes. All were in favor.

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Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath, Limon Abstentions: None

### **Adoption of Ordinance 08-2025**

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Ordinance 08-2025 entitled "CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PURCHASE OF SERVER AND PRINTER FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING \$16,500.00 THEREFOR FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TO PURCHASE A NEW SERVER AND PRINTER FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE COST THEREOF". Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for Ordinance 08-2025. Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open the meeting to the public for Ordinance 08-2025, seconded by Mr. Snyder. All were in favor.

There being no one present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to close the meeting to the public for Ordinance 08-2025, seconded by Mr. Snyder. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath, Limon Abstentions: None

### **Introduction of Ordinance 09-2025**

Mr. Formica made a motion to introduce Ordinance 09-2025 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING SECTION 259-2, PARKING". Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held on July 15, 2025.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath, Limon Abstentions: None

### **Public Employer Trust Agreement**

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve the Public Employer Trust Agreement between the Borough of Franklin and Brown and Brown, Benefit Advisors for Horizon Healthcare Dental for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, at no increase in premiums, addendum with coverage cost election attached. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath, Limon Abstentions: None

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

## **MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS**

Mr. Snyder commented that we still have a lot of things out on Route 23 that need to be looked at and one is the old Hess Station, what is going on there, its an eyesore. Some of the properties that are overgrown, do we have somebody that goes around and checks on them and documents what needs to be done. The Rowett Garage and the Main Street church are two properties that need to be addressed.

Mr. Skellenger commented that on a positive note, whoever owns the bank did a really good job with cleaning up that property.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m., seconded by Mr. Snyder. All were in favor.

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John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

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Colleen L. Little, Municipal Clerk