

**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
JULY 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 posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

PRESENTATIONS

The Recreation Committee presented the 2026 Royal Court of Franklin. Fred Babcock, Chairperson and James Affinito presented the Royal Court with certificates and the Franklin PBA presented Miss Franklin with a scholarship. The winners of the 2026 Royal Court were: Eden Russell-Krieger, Princess of Franklin, Alexa Raperto, Princess of Franklin, Bianca Raperto, Little Miss Franklin and Addison Smith, Miss Franklin.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Limon had nothing to report.

Mrs. Carnes commented that this past Thursday there was an EDC meeting and we discussed on how we want to move forward. After a lot of discussions, we are starting to talk about doing the tourism particularly off the rails to trails.

Mr. Snyder commented that the ordinance committee will be meeting soon and July 22nd there will be a meeting regarding the water meters.

Mrs. Heath commented that the personnel committee met earlier. The Franklin Day/Nite was a huge success. Recreation did a great job.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mr. Formica commented the repairs on Catlin Road were completed and the repairs at fireman's park have been completed.

Mrs. Little commented that the 2nd quarter cannabis tax has been received in the amount of \$322,843.37.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that CFO Michelle asked him to share that our 2026 bond anticipation note has been awarded to Oppenheimer and Co. at a net interest rate of 3.056%.

Mr. Windels had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden commented that the rails to trails has finally come to fruition after about 25 years, it has started. Mayor Sowden commented that he already has an idea as to the direction and I think the DEP does also. Mayor Sowden commented that as far as the bad weather, Franklin is very lucky. We lost two telephones during the event; the response time was not as quick as we would have hoped.

Mr. Limon commented that there will be a Historic Preservation meeting next month.

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 Mr. Formica. All were in favor.

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Joanne Tatka stepped forward. Mrs. Tatka asked for the brush at the intersection of Maple and Wildcat Roads be trimmed back. Ms. Tatka asked if the paving for Maple and Davis is for next year.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that it will be slated for next year. We have applied for State Grants for both of those roadways.

Ms. Tatka commented that at the last meeting it was stated that the trucks were being replaced. Ms. Tatka spoke regarding the recent power outages and asked to be put on a different grid.

Dawne Rowe stepped forward. Ms. Rowe spoke regarding the power outages and the circuit breakers that JCP&L installed. Ms. Rowe asked if a representative from JCP&L could come to a future council meeting to answer questions from the public. Ms. Rowe commented that other towns are passing ordinances to prohibit data centers. Ms. Rowe asked if we are going to do a similar ordinance. Ms. Rowe congratulated everyone on the Franklin Day/Nite festivities. Ms. Rowe asked for a second public session to be added to the agenda.

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 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. Hampton Township Ordinance to amend Chapter 108, entitled "Zoning" of the code of the Township of Hampton, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey to prohibit data centers in all zones.
2. Township of Sparta Ordinance amending Chapter 18, entitled comprehensive land management code, to define and prohibit data centers within all zones throughout the Township of Sparta.
3. Township of Sparta Ordinance 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. COH Report – June 2026
2. Permit List – June 2026
3. Permit Activity Report – June 2026
4. Municipal Court Report – June 2026
5. Code Enforcement Officer report – June 2026

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

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

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the consent agenda of July 14, 2026. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

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

Approval of the Minutes

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Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for June 23, 2026. (Absent: Limon) Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Limon

Resolution 2026-67

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-67 extending the grace period for payment of 3rd quarter 2026 taxes. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-68

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-68 authorizing the hiring of a seasonal laborer for maintenance in the department of public works at the rate of \$20.00 per hour for up to 25 hours per week. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Mr. Snyder asked if this was for summer help or for all year long.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that this is just for the summer.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-69

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-69 rescinding resolution 2026-57 and authorizing additional compensation for the municipal court administrator. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-70

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-70 authorizing advertisement and solicitation of bids for water meter replacements. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-71

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-71 approving submittal of a grant application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Davis Road Resurfacing Phase 1 project. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-72

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-72 approving submittal of a grant application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Maple Road resurfacing project. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Formica

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Resolution 2026-73

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-73 authorizing the purchase of a 2027 Ford F-550 regular cab 4x4 from Ciocca Ford, utilizing the Morris County Cooperative Purchasing Contract in an amount not to exceed \$66,137.00. Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-74

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-74 authorizing the purchase of a 2026 F-250 crew cab 4x4 from All American Ford, utilizing the Morris County Cooperative Purchasing contract in an amount not to exceed \$50,011.00. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Limon asked about contacting JCP&L to come to a future council meeting. Mr. Limon commented on the bills list and the amount paid to the Franklin School in regards to taxes.

Mrs. Carnes commented that since the previous person retired from JCP&L there has been no other representative to come in and see us.

Mayor Sowden commented that we will reach out to JCP&L and ask them to attend the next council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Colleen L. Little, Municipal Clerk