



MINUTES OF FRANKLINVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

April 13, 2026

ATTENDEES: Mayor Ben Harman, Mayor Pro Tem Billy Farias, Commissioner Priscilla Dunn, Commissioner Richard Goodwin, Commissioner Sara Nieblas, Commissioner Mac Whatley, Finance Officer/Town Clerk-Beverly O'Brien, Utility Clerk-Christie Gunter, Public Works Director-Arnold Allred

GUESTS: Jackson Allred, Laurie Cone, Jessie Freeman, Steven Hammer, Harvey Harman, Robert Osborne, Mary Joan Pugh, Shelly Siskin, Elizabeth Wood

26-91 7:00 pm: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence/Prayer

26-92 CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Harman opened the consent agenda. **Commissioner Whatley, motion to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Dunn. Motion adopted, unanimously.**

26-93 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Harvey Harman discussed the need for more cleanup along the new line for the sewer treatment plant from the Ogles Creek pump station. There are felled trees and a 20-foot section of pipe still to be cleaned up. Public Works Director Allred said he would bring this to the attention of the contractor.

26-94 OLD BUSINESS

Mary Joan Pugh, Director of the Piedmont Trail, discussed the punch list for the Bush Creek project and the Recreational Trail Grant application. She and Paxton Arthur with Randolph County and Mr. Allred will meet on Friday morning to discuss the plans for the trail. With the Town Public Works doing some of the trail construction they hope to have the new section open for the 3rd Saturday in October. Commissioner Whatley reminded the Board the 10th of October is the 250th year event for the Town.

General discussion reference placement of the trail to the trailhead at the corner of Buie Lane and Andrew Hunter Road. Discussion reference safe crossings. The Tourism Development Authority is applying for a designation of Franklinville as a Trail Town through Outdoor, NC. This will bring more acknowledgement and possibly more travel to use the greenway and park facilities.

Commissioner Whatley discussed the MAGS Grant he has applied for and has been notified we will receive. The grant is \$2250.00 from the TDA to be used for signage for the trail and the Historic properties. He suggests the signs can have a QR Code that will link to a historical website. Commissioner Whatley discussion reference

historical sites and buildings in Franklinville and surrounding area. He discussed the QR Code and the narration.

Mayor Pro Tem Farias discussed the ordinance requested by the Code Enforcement Officer for the contracted enforcement company, ACE Code Enforcement. The ordinance, included here, will allow the officer to move forward with enforcement actions against 308 Weatherly Drive for the code violations cited In July 2025 and non-compliant as of this date. **Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Farias to pass the ordinance for the enforcement of the code violations. Seconded by Commissioner Goodwin. Motion adopted, unanimously.**

Mayor Pro Tem Farias discussed the rebuilding of the Methodist Church will start soon and Commissioner Whatley discussed the Sapona water project and the possibility of the project being continued under consideration of the EDC. Mayor Pro Tem Farias discussed the installation of a mural along the side of the old Poole building, and the new owners are agreeable for this use. He discussed the artist meeting and some ideas for the building. General discussion reference the theme for the mural, patriotic as this is the 250-year anniversary of the Revolution. Utility Clerk Christie Gunter asked for space and a design to be done for a painting to allow visitors to be able to photograph themselves in front of it. To make it more of a destination for photos. Mayor Pro Tem Farias discussed the need for a lift for the project. General discussion reference possible lifts and costs. Commissioner Nieblas discussed possible options for the lift and said she would check on availability. Mayor Harman discussed the Rural Development and the Commerce Department he has been looking at for loans, grants, and interest.

26-95 ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Finance Officer O'Brien gave the finance report, see attached. She discussed the schedule of meetings and public hearing needed for the Budget passage each year. The next Budget Meeting is Tuesday night, the 15th of April at 6:00pm. This should be the final budget meeting necessary to iron out the budget for first approval at the May meeting and public hearings, and final vote at the June meeting. She discussed the Audit Contract for Mr. Eddie Carrick, CPA, which must be submitted to the Local Government Commission and needs the Board approval. The Audit cost is a little more than the past two years because of the additional Single Audit necessary because of the Federal grants, but still less than the costs 5 years ago with another audit firm.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Farias to approve the Audit Contract in the amount of \$17,500.00.

Seconded by Commissioner Dunn. Motion adopted, unanimously.

26-96 PLANNING and ZONING

Commissioner Whatley discussed several projects in and around the area. Town Clerk O'Brien asked if they could schedule a Planning Board meeting for an application for 222 Sunrise Avenue to build a garage that by necessity of the slope, would need to be closer than the standard setback allowance from the road right of way. Commissioner Whatley said a Planning Board meeting was unnecessary if the building met all other criteria and the placement was not an obstacle to the neighbors or neighborhood and did not encroach too closely to a neighbor's property. Town Clerk O'Brien agreed to issue the permit after the Chair looked at the plan.

26-97 PUBLIC HEALTH and SAFETY

Mayor Pro Tem Farias discussed the schedule for the Deputies. He has scheduled them for the Car Show and the Yard Sale events and will use them at likely hours for vandalism or speeding.

26-98 LIBRARY and COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Commissioners received the reports contained in their packets for the Library and the Parents as Teachers Program. See attached. Mayor Harman discussed parking for the litter sweep event this Saturday and where to leave the trash bags from the pick-up. General discussion reference the public parking area near the new Greenway and if the area needed signage.

26-99 PUBLIC UTILITIES

Public Director Allred discussed his meeting with the LKC Engineering and the Water AIA grant and the AIA Sewer grant. He also discussed the Ogles Creek Pump Station Treatment Plant, and the older generator has been placed at the Maintenance building. The new pump station is fully operational now. Director Allred discussed the Highway 64 water line and the installation of the meter vault. He discussed patching on Clark Street, Wallace Street and Rockie River Street. Director Allred also discussed the repairs to the water heater. at the Otus Thomas Concession Stand. Mayor Pro Tem Farias asked about placement of the garage door from Shortridge Towing that Mr. Shortridge had painted with a mural for Franklinville. After his recent death, his daughter and family have donated the panels to the Town. Initial discussion suggested the picnic shelter for installation, but the side of the library building was considered better because of less chance of vandalism. Mr. Allred showed photo comparisons of two Honda Side by sides. Both are 2016 models with low hours. One is \$11,200.00 and the other with lower hours is \$9000.00. Mr. Allred owns the less expensive option.

Motion by Commissioner Dunn to buy the Honda side-by-side from Arnold Allred for \$9,000.00. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Farias. Motion adopted, unanimously. The unit will be used to access the Greenway for maintenance more easily than a full-sized truck.

Director Allred discussed his meter reports and his public works report for the past month. See attached.

26-100 NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Harman discussed with Commissioners Whatley and Goodwin the development of a tourism tour or handout for the Franklinville walking tour. Commissioner Whatley and Mayor Harman showed and reviewed a sample brochure. Mayor Harman also read a proclamation sponsored by Randolph County Tourism Development Authority making May 3-9th National Travel and Tourism Week.

26-101 MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Harman discussed possible grants to have fruit trees donated for planting in the park and the availability of a grant for that purpose as well. Laurie Cone asked about the ability to water the trees. General discussion reference the care and maintenance of the trees.

Mayor Harman discussed a 250-year celebration in conjunction with the Fourth of July and a July 5th America's potluck dinner. Commissioner Farias offered to supply the music for the event. July fifth will be a Sunday afternoon.

Mayor Harman also discussed his upcoming May 5th meeting with the Commerce Department about grant opportunities. General discussion reference the installation of the 250 celebration banners and how many brackets need to be replaced.

Randolph County has approved an interlocal water supply agreement for the Highway 64 corridor.

Commissioner Whatley, motion to have the mayor negotiate the agreement with the County. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Farias. Motion adopted, Unanimously.

General discussion reference the new Agriculture Center and buying local or at least regional.

Mayor Pro Tem Farias, motion to adjourn.

Seconded by Commissioner Whatley.

8:35 pm Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

_____ Mayor Ben Harman

(seal)

_____ Beverly O'Brien. Town Clerk