



MINUTES OF FRANKLINVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

May 11, 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: Perry Conner, Laurie Cone, Kevin Franklin, Economic Development Council, Adam Deathe, Chamber of Commerce, Harvey Harman, Living Well Development, Bill Lester and Marc Schaefer, LKC Engineering, Harriet Moulder, Robert Osborne, Shelly Siskin, Leslie Carmen Wood

26-102 7:00 pm: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence/Prayer

26-103 CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Harman opened the consent agenda. Commissioner Goodwin discussed the property tax collections and the sales tax collections. Finance Officer O'Brien discussed the expectations of lower sales tax revenue for the next year and the high costs of fuel for the coming year. **Commissioner Goodwin, motion to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Dunn. Motion adopted, unanimously.**

26-104 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No Public comments

26-105 OLD BUSINESS

LKC Engineering Bill Lester discussed the project he is working on with Arnold Allred. They will meet with a representative of the USDA about possible financing for a project involving the waste treatment plant. One of the issues is cleaning the lagoon at the plant that hasn't been emptied in over 20 years. Commissioner Whatley discussed a river crossing for the water line like the extension of the new sewer line was done this year. General discussion reference funding for the Highway 64 project and the Sewer plant project. The financing of the Highway 64 project will probably have to be a commercial loan because of the speed and timeline of the project, and the Waste Treatment project will be shopped for funding with USDA.

The contract with Garney was discussed and the final cost is \$413,844.00. Bill Lester discussed the contract for the Highway 64 project valve installation and the tees. He offered to discuss with Garney Construction some small changes to the contract involving risk and final payment and warranties or bonds. General

discussion reference the costs and the meetings necessary with the Local Government Commission. Discussion reference the amount of debt the town can comfortably carry and the needed repairs to the waste treatment plant. The town will have to approach a commercial lender for the immediate project for Garney Construction.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem to work with LKC to modify the contract, protect the town, and review the final by the Board. Seconded by Commissioner Goodwin. Motion adopted, unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Farias discussed the needed repairs to the Franklinville Diner floor. The floor was sagging and had to be lifted. The work was bid and Wes King, Elite Renovations, raised the floor joists to match the cooking area floor, however the vinyl tile has cracked in one area and we need to add a large floor mat, or fix the flooring to match to avoid a trip hazard in a high traffic area behind the counter. The sagging floor and posts construction have incurred a cost of \$1850.00 so far. Mayor Pro Tem Farias will work with the owner of the Diner to find a safe and cost-effective solution.

Mayor Pro Tem Farias also discussed directional and safety signs for the Greenway and parking areas. General discussion reference the installation of the signs and whether Mary Joan Pugh the County Trails Coordinator would be able to help with the signage from perhaps the Asheboro sign shop.

26-106 ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Finance Officer O'Brien gave the finance report, see attached. She discussed the proposed budget and schedule for the next month. Ms. O'Brien also discussed the need for a Public Hearing on the Budget, and the EDC suggested contribution after the initial 1st vote and suggested the next meeting on the 8th of June. In the budget discussions she referenced a twenty-three percent increase in the cost of the employee insurance and the comparisons she had done with multiple agencies and insurance companies. General discussion reference the drop in sales tax revenue but the property tax collections have increased. The maintenance fuel costs have doubled, and it is hoped to be temporary. General discussion reference cost increases. **Commissioner Whatley, motion to adopt the proposed 26-27 Budget for the Town of Franklinville and hold a Public Hearing on the Budget and EDC contribution on June 8th before the Regular Board meeting, at 7:00pm. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Farias. Motion adopted, unanimous.** The Clerk will advertise the Public Hearing for June 8th.

Kevin Franklin with the Economic Development Council discussed the programs and positives they have brought to Randolph County in the past and the projects and programs they are working on for the future growth of the area. Of course, The Toyota Plant has been a tremendous asset to the County with an investment of over 4 billion dollars. He discussed messaging and positive plans for the County. Commissioner Whatley asked if the EDC had discussed more about a water extension from Franklinville to the Sapona Universal Fiber plant in Cedar Falls and Mr. Franklin discussed the plant and said he will touch base with the management again.

Commissioner Whatley discussed the plans for the Americas 250 movie and how to collect names from visitors. Mayor Harman discussed the Americas Potluck scheduled for July 5th at the park as part of the 250 Celebrations. He also discussed The Trail Chairman, Perry Conner and the need for a Trail Committee to help with the development of the new section of trail and to suggest improvements such as picnic tables and signage for the trail. Mayor Pro Tem Farias discussed the cost of patching and fixing potholes on Wallace Street instead of a full paving, for now.

26-107 PLANNING and ZONING

Commissioner Whatley discussed not having any applications or requests for zoning changes for this month.

26-108 PUBLIC HEALTH and SAFETY

Mayor Pro Tem Farias discussed the schedule for the assigned Deputies. He anticipates an increase of \$10.00 per hour for the next fiscal year even though the Department had initially told him there would be no scheduled increases. He will discuss this with Sheriff Seabolt.

26-109 LIBRARY and COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Commissioners received the reports contained in their packets for the Library and the Parents as Teachers Program. See attached.

26-110 PUBLIC UTILITIES

Public Director Allred discussed his meeting with LKC Engineering
Director Allred discussed his meter reports and his public works report for the past month. See attached.
Mr. Allred discussed the necessary repairs at the Waste Treatment plant and the lagoon cleanout that will need to be completed. He discussed the State inspection they had recently passed and his efforts to have Waugh Paving submit a price for the patching of areas of Allred Street, Rockie River Street, and Wallace Street.

26-111 NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Pro Tem Farias discussed the mural for the Poole Building could be started by the 18th of May and discussed the rental or use of a man-lift for the project. Commissioner Nieblas discussed the possibility of the use of one from her workplace, if it wasn't too large. Mayor Pro Tem Farias also asked for artistic ideas for the project. Mayor Pro Tem Farias suggested a Memorandum of Understanding with the Poole building owners, Ray and Vickie Caudle for the use and painting of their building.

26-112 MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Harman discussed the Commerce Department visit, the requirements for a grant and the 5-year Strategic Plan, and a committee workgroup to find Grant opportunities. He discussed a request to buy a recycling Bin for the Rail Trail. He had found a reasonably priced one, but the Finance Officer asked to check the State Sourcing contract for a better price first.

Motion by Commissioner Whatley to adjourn.

Mayor Pro Tem Farias, motion Seconded

8:45 pm Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mayor Ben Harman

(seal)

Beverly O'Brien. Town Clerk