MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
OCTOBER 12, 2026

THE FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL held a special called meeting on Monday, October 12, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Board Room located at 95 East Main Street Franklin, NC.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stacy J. Guffey called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Vice Mayor Mike Lewis Council Members: Jeff Berry, Joe Collins, Robbie Tompa and Rita Salain.

Vice Mayor Mike Lewis made a motion, seconded by Council Member Robbie Tompa to excuse Council Member Travis Higdon due to a work obligation. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT
No one signed up to speak.

TO CONSIDER A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN INTERIM TOWN MANAGER

Town Attorney John Henning, Jr. explained the process that led to the resolution, citing a commitment to transparency. Attorney Henning explained that, under the statutes governing the council-manager form of government adopted by the Town, the Council must appoint a town manager to serve at its pleasure. While a manager is in place, the manager may name an acting manager in their absence. When the office is vacant, state law requires the Council to designate a qualified person to serve as Interim Town Manager. He noted that the published press release described an amicable parting between the Town and Town Manager Amie Owens, who served in the role for about five years. He offered to answer any questions from the Council.

Attorney Henning stated that the proposed resolution named Sarah Bishop, who serves as Finance Director and Assistant Town Manager, as Interim Town Manager. He advised that she may lawfully hold both the Interim Manager and Finance Director positions at the same time. He acknowledged that this arrangement is probably not an ideal long-term solution and should be reviewed at a later date. He explained that the resolution primarily gives the Interim Manager the same authorities the former manager held. Town Attorney Henning read the Resolution appointing Sarah Bishop as Interim Town Manager.

> ***Vice Mayor Mike Lewis made a motion, seconded by Council Member Jeff Berry accept Ms. Owens' separation from employment with the Town, recognize vacancy in the office of Town Manager, and adopt the Resolution appointing Sarah Bishop as Interim Town Manager. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0.***

Mayor Guffey said the process had not been easy and reiterated that the separation was amicable and that the Council and Ms. Owens remained on good terms. He credited Ms. Owens with formalizing many of the Town's previously informal agreements and processes, leaving the Town's fundamentals much improved since she took the position. He said her greatest accomplishment was assembling what he considered the best team and staff the Town has had, and that she had laid the groundwork for good

work to come.

Mayor Guffey acknowledged public comments about the Council's transparency. He stated that the Council acted on what he believed was sound legal advice and that the matter was conducted as the law requires. He noted that personnel matters cannot be disclosed. He added that, knowing what he knows now, he would handle the release of public information differently following the decision on Ms. Owens' departure, and he took full responsibility for that. He said the Council was sorry to see Ms. Owens go but was excited about the Town's future.

ADJOURNENT

Council Member Joe Collins made a motion, seconded by Council Member Rita Salain to adjourn at the meeting at 5:13 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0.

_____

Stacy J. Guffey, Mayor

_____

Nicole Bradley, Town Clerk