



City of Franklin

Mailing Address:
109 3rd Ave S
Franklin, TN 37064
(615) 791-3217

Meeting Agenda

Sustainability Commission

Friday, August 14, 2026

8:00 AM

Interim City Hall, Admin 2B

MEETING LOCATION

740 Columbia Avenue
Franklin, TN 37064

CALL TO ORDER

CITIZEN COMMENTS (Open for citizens to be heard on any issue or concern, including those related to items on the agenda. Please submit a Speaker Card at the beginning of the meeting if you would like to address the Commission. If you would like to speak on an agenda item, the Chair will hold your comment until the public comment period associated with the item. As provided by law, the Commission shall make no decisions or consideration of action of citizen comments for items not on the agenda, except to refer the matter to the Planning Director/Staff for administrative consideration, or to a schedule the matter for consideration at a later date. Those addressing the Commission are requested to come to the microphone and identify themselves by name and address for the official record. The Chair may restrict the period for public comment, including the length of the public comment period, the number of individuals who can speak and the length of time each individual may speak. When time allows, the standard individual public comment time is two minutes.)

Comments on agenda items may be made in person or by emailing PlanningIntake@FranklinTN.gov before noon on the day of the meeting. Emailed comments will be provided to the Commission and included in the minutes, but not read aloud in their entirety during the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Consideration Of Approval Of May Minutes

NEW BUSINESS

2. Announcements:
 - All America City Award
 - 200 kW Expansion and Battery Application
3. Review And Discussion Of The Transportation And Mobility Policy Guide
<https://web.franklintn.gov/FlippingBook/SustainabilityPolicyGuides/>
4. Discussion of Bird Nesting and Habitat Demonstration Project

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

Anyone needing accommodations due to disabilities please contact the ADA Coordinator at 615-791-3277 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.



Meeting Minutes

Sustainability Commission

Friday, May 8, 2026

8:00 AM

Interim City Hall, Admin 2B

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Christina Christiansen called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Commissioners Present: Anna Timme, Chair Christina Christiansen, Keith Gordon, Meredith Zehnder, Beverly Burger, Jim Mahurin

Commissioners Absent: Brian Stone, Alan Pramuk, April Eaton

Staff Present: Andrew Orr, Joel Aguilera, Eric Conner, Katie Walker, Ronda Webb

CITIZEN COMMENTS (Open for citizens to be heard on any issue or concern, including those related to items on the agenda. Please submit a Speaker Card at the beginning of the meeting if you would like to address the Commission. If you would like to speak on an agenda item, the Chair will hold your comment until the public comment period associated with the item. As provided by law, the Commission shall make no decisions or consideration of action of citizen comments for items not on the agenda, except to refer the matter to the Planning Director/Staff for administrative consideration, or to a schedule the matter for consideration at a later date. Those addressing the Commission are requested to come to the microphone and identify themselves by name and address for the official record. The Chair may restrict the period for public comment, including the length of the public comment period, the number of individuals who can speak and the length of time each individual may speak. When time allows, the standard individual public comment time is two minutes.)

Chair Christina Christiansen asked for citizen comments. There were none.

Comments on agenda items may be made in person or by emailing PlanningIntake@FranklinTN.gov before noon on the day of the meeting. Emailed comments will be provided to the Commission and included in the minutes, but not read aloud in their entirety during the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Consideration Of Approval Of Minutes

Sponsors:

A motion was made by Keith Gordon, seconded by Anna Timme to approve the April 10, 2026 meeting minutes. The motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Announcements

Sponsors:

Chair Christina Christianson mentioned that the Mallory Valley Utility District in Cool Springs expressed interest in utilizing the front portion of their property for a Pollinator Garden. Christina was not sure what the next steps would be or if the city would potentially partner with them. After a brief discussion on the best location for the garden, the potential plantings as well as concern regarding the nearby golf course that sprays their property, it was agreed that there needs to be a discussion with Mallory Valley to get more details regarding who would be funding and maintaining the garden. Christina offered to set up a meeting and gather more information.

Andrew Orr reminded attendees that the State of the City is at 7am on May 20th at Rolling Hills Community Church. Doors open at 7am and the Mayor's address begins at about 7:45am.

3. Discussion and Review of the Energy Policy Guide

[-Sustainability Policy Guides](#)

Sponsors:

Andrew Orr gave a brief history of the Sustainability Policy Guides. It was decided that energy, waste reduction and transportation would be the three focuses of the guides. Since it has been a few years since the guides were created, it is time to review each one to determine if any updates are needed.

The Energy Policy Guide is the first one to be reviewed. Andrew stated he would go through the accomplishments of each area as well as what is outstanding and why. When energy usage was first reviewed, it was discovered that the biggest users were the wastewater treatment facility as well as the streetlights. The guide details ten action items for energy conservation.

1. Reduce streetlight energy usage by converting all streetlights to LEDs. Require LEDs for any new streetlight the City pays for on a monthly basis. Prioritize fixtures that reduce light pollution.

New construction has strict standards on utilizing fixtures that reduce light pollution. During the 2025 update to the Zoning Ordinance, staff worked with Middle Tennessee Electric to update the fixture types in their catalog that were offered to developers.

Discussion ensued around the fact that the city cannot require the developers to choose a certain fixture. It is strongly encouraged but the choice is between the developer and Middle Tennessee Electric. A question was asked about retrofitting existing fixtures to be in compliance. Andrew stated that the city would have to foot the bill for this and it's best to have the developers install them.

Alderman Burger requested a policy be created for light pollution and spillage that she would sponsor.

Andrew stated that he would suggest this to Kelly while she is still sourcing topics for the next Zoning Ordinance Update.

2. Evaluate renewable energy and energy saving measures for the New City Hall

Andrew stated that Ken Scalf was the consultant for City Hall, and he visited the commission several times to go over the scorecard. They are not pursuing LEED certification, but there are numerous considerations for the whole building. This item has been achieved.

3. Complete comprehensive energy audits for all city-owned buildings with a focus on energy cost reduction.

This item has not been addressed. It still could be, but it hasn't risen to a top priority. Some power companies could potentially provide this service at a high level.

Alderman Burger suggested that instead of auditing everything, identify the city-owned buildings that could be the bigger offenders and focus on 2 or 3 and see how we can address reduction.

Andrew briefly went through the different buildings and was unsure of the potential to make any significant usage improvements. The Police HQ is fairly new and is a 24/7 building and the old city hall has been torn down.

4. Evaluate future uses for the 200 kW solar project

We have an amended contract with Energy Resource Partners to enlarge the system and add batteries. At a future meeting, Ron Merville will visit and discuss the decision to use Flow batteries and the challenges they are facing. He would like to switch to a different battery.

Discussion ensued about potential replacements being lithium ion. It was stated that Flow batteries are a great technology, just too expensive. General agreement that a better option would be something cheaper and more proven.

5. Complete a comprehensive study of the municipal fleet with a focus on cost reduction

Andrew explained that this would be a large undertaking and has not been started.

6. Perform community-wide electric vehicle readiness analysis.

The Building and Neighborhood department reviews about 10 permit applications per month for home EV chargers. Within the community, there are a few Tesla chargers by the interstate and most of the multi-family apartment projects are programming them in. There are not a lot of commercial businesses installing new charging stations.

7. Evaluate the use and costs of LED sports lighting. Prioritize fixtures that reduce light pollution.

Eric Conner worked on a project using Department of Energy money to install LED lighting at Liberty Park. The lights are also installed at Jim Warren Park and the ball fields for the Franklin Special School District. The Parks department has made this standard practice.

8. Consider updating the residential energy code to 2018 IECC.

The city is currently enforcing the 2009 IECC for residential occupancies along with the State's adopted IECC code. This is the city standard but builders and homeowners can choose to exceed the adopted codes and this is encouraged whenever possible.

9. Utilize social media and conventional media channels to inform the public about the City's energy efforts

There is always room for improvement in public messaging and awareness. Andrew recommended that this action item remain as it is still relevant.

10. Act as advocate to the State legislature for energy related policies.

The Commission has not done this yet.

4. Discussion of Future Topics

-Review of Waste Reduction and Transportation Policy Guides

-Disaster Preparedness

-5/12 BOMA Work Session Briefing

Sponsors:

There will be continued review of the policy guides at upcoming meetings. Review of waste reduction and transportation policy guides will be next.

April Easton previously brought up opportunities around disaster preparedness. We will meet with the emergency manager to discuss this. Christina proposed that this could be an additional policy guide.

Christina and Andrew will be attending the 5/12 BOMA work session to give an update on commission activities.

Anna Timme requested to continue looking at ways to scale the commission's efforts.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Christina Christiansen asked if there was any further business. There was none.

ADJOURN

Alderman Burger motion to adjourn, seconded by Keith Gordon. The motion carried with all in favor. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 09:00 AM.

Chair

Date



City of Franklin

109 3rd Ave S.
Franklin, TN 37064
(615) 791-3217

File #: 26-0988

DATE: 8/14/2026

TO: Sustainability Commission

FROM:

SUBJECT:

Discussion of Bird Nesting and Habitat Demonstration Project

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information to the Sustainability Commission concerning

BACKGROUND/STAFF COMMENTS:

(Brief description of the history and supporting information regarding the item, including an explanation of why staff is recommending the action.)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

(Include the cost of the item, how the item will be funded, which fund it will come from, if there are grants or loans involved and whether the item is included in the current approved budget.)

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that (item name) be (action)