

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE GENERAL AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN

February 10, 2026

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members in Attendance:

John Eckel
Fred Leyda
Caleb Williams
Chad Ellis
Tracy Jamieson
Peter O'Polka

Excused: None

Absent: Jody Freni

Others in Attendance:

Kurt McFadden, City of Franklin
Devin Hines, Water Treatment Plant
Josh Kalp, The EADS Group
Brian Ricella, The EADS Group
James Wetzell, City of Franklin
Harmony Motter, Deputy Manager
Michael Gorman, Tech Resources Assistant
Nathan Bell, Waste Water Treatment Plant
Mike Moore, Waste Water Network
Brian Spaid, Dale Woodard Gent McFate
Alex Spaid, Dale Woodard Gent McFate
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary
Jim Speth, Sugarcreek Borough
Craig Westover, Sugarcreek Borough
Helen Fielding, The Derrick
Nick Sigelakis, Spartan Hydrants (virtual)

3. Adoption of Agenda

Mrs. Jamieson requested to add, “Approval of Beran Environmental Services Agreement”, under the discussion of the the 3rd Street Reservoir remediation project.

Resolution No. 19 – Motion by Mrs. Jamieson and seconded by Mr. Ellis to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Resolution No. 20 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. O’Polka to approve the minutes of January 13, 2026 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Citizens’ Inquiries – Nick Sigelakis, of Spartan Hydrants, provided a virtual presentation of the Spartan Fire Hydrant, which is made in Franklin, PA. The hydrant requires special tools to open and close so it cannot be tampered with and provides greater waterflow. All parts are rust proof and reduces leakage. Maintenance costs are proposed to be cheaper than the traditional style fire hydrants and includes a twenty-five (25) year warranty.

7. Water

7.A. Operations/Project Reports

1. Staff Updates

Mr. Hines

- Ordered two (2) motors for Coefield Corners to keep on hand
- Working with PA Rural Water to finalize the CCR Report
- Chapter 110 Report submitted and completed

Mr. McFadden

- Reported on a few minor leaks. Fortunately no major leaks during the extremely cold weather
- Working with the Street Department to clear snow
- Switching out curb boxes
- Kennedy Valve providing a two (2) hour training seminar and lunch at the Fire Department on February 11, 2026 starting at 11 A.M.
- Maple Street – pipe has been delivered, still waiting on other materials. Plan to start in April, weather permitting. Jim Speth and Craig Westover, of Sugarcreek Borough, were present to find out when the project is scheduled to start, the length of the project, the number of laterals being replaced, and if there are future plans to replace other lines.

- Messrs. Eckel, McFadden, and Wetzel estimate about three (3) weeks to complete; however, as the project is being conducted in-house, it could take slightly longer depending on what issues may arise that would pull the crews off of the worksite. There are eight (8) or ten (10) laterals that are scheduled for replacement. The cost of blacktopping is to be shared between Sugarcreek Borough and the Authority. Mr. Eckel explained that there are other areas within the Borough where lines need to be relocated but are not expected to occur within the next year.
- Mr. Westover asked if water rates are expected to remain consistent over the next couple of years. Mr. Eckel stated he could not guarantee that.

2. *EADS Group*

Dam Removal

Mr. Kalp stated that Beran Environmental Services plans to have all of the permits submitted by the end of the year and begin construction next year, pending the Authority's approval of the engineering agreement. Beran estimates the construction and engineering cost to total approximately \$750,000. Mr. Kalp reminded the Authority of its \$600,000 Local Share Account grant award. He further explained that DEP is requesting that a bypass channel on the right side of the dam be re-routed to disallow further water and sediment from going into the dam making the construction of the project easier.

Resolution No. 21 – Motion by Mrs. Jamieson and seconded by Mr. Leyda to approve the engineering agreement with Beran Environmental Services in the amount of \$76,249 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Barrett Flats Water Treatment Plant

Mr. Kalp informed that the environmental permits have been received and the subdivision plan is nearly complete pending the Authority's review and the Planning Commission's approval. Pump testing will be completed when funding for the project is more concrete. A PENNVEST application will be submitted on April 29th.

Washington Crossing Control Valve

Mr. Kalp did not have any updates but advised that all be on the lookout for potential grant opportunities.

City Pressure District Control Valve

Mr. Kalp reminded of the \$400,000 PA Small Water and Sewer grant award and the approximately \$86,000 match requirement. He is waiting for the Commonwealth to execute a grant agreement before continuing with the project.

Wendy Way Tank

Mr. Kalp had no updates to provide.

Miscellaneous

- **Lead and Copper Service Line Inventory** - Mr. Ricella informed that an updated inventory was sent to DEP on February 6th and addressed questions that DEP had on a handful of street segments.

Grant Street Waterline Replacement

Mr. Ricella confirmed that Bison Construction is still holding the pricing on the quote previously received.

7. B. Water Financial Report

Total Unrestricted Water Funds Balance is \$437,766.

Resolution No. 22 – Motion by Mrs. Jamieson and seconded by Mr. Ellis to accept the financial report for February. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 23 – Motion by Mrs. Jamieson and seconded by Mr. Williams to pay the following bills. Motion passed unanimously.

City of Franklin General Services Fee for February	\$ 18,166.67
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Water General Matters	\$ 187.50
The EADS Group for 2025 Engineering	\$ 1,028.16
Anthony Parks for January Meeting	\$ 50.00
The EADS Group for GACF Barrett Flats WTP	\$ 889.60
The EADS Group for Allegheny Blvd. Waterline Project	\$ 2,676.58
LB Water for Pacific Street	\$ 23,571.85
Totals:	\$ 46,570.36

Additional items to be reviewed:

Pre-approved invoice and payroll reimbursements to General Fund

Pre-approved payroll for 1/09/26 & 1/23/26

1/31/26 YTD draft budget including a detail of invoices paid and revenue received.

8. Sewer

8.A. Operations/Project Reports

1. Staff

Mr. Bell

- Blower room portion of SCADA upgrades is complete. Digester portion is scheduled for March 16th
- Reinstalling sump pump that burnt out during a power failure. Miller Pump was able to repair and will be installed on February 17th
- Generator was delivered and installed today. A meeting to discuss transfer of power techniques will be held at 9 A.M. on Tuesday February 17th
- Would like to discuss issues with the recirculation pump at the next committee meeting on February 26th

Mr. Moore

- Responding to sewer calls
- Assisting the Street Department with snow removal
- Working with A-108 contractors

2. EADS Group

WWTP – Emergency Generator

Mr. Kalp announced that the survey for the access road is complete and permit submission was completed on January 30th. Design drawings for the access road were given to the contractor to prepare the change order. He presented Right Electric's Payment Application No. 4 in the amount of \$62,820 for approval.

Resolution No. 24 – Motion by Mr. O'Polka and seconded by Mr. Ellis to approve Payment Application No. 4 from Right Electric in the amount of \$62,820 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

A-108 Phase I Sewer Replacement & CSO Elimination Project

Mr. Ricella reported that Bison Construction is currently working on the 200 block of Pacific Street, and a second crew is working on Spring Street near Center and Wood Streets. He advised holding off on the grinder pump to be installed at the Hand-In-Hand Counseling center as they may have to upgrade their electrical panel to accommodate the pump.

Mortimer Excavating is currently boring on New Street, heading towards 14th Street between Chestnut and Eagle Streets. Guyer Brothers will be scoping on Liberty Street at the end of the month.

Mr. Ricella presented PENNVEST Payment Requisition No. 12 for construction costs in the amount of \$399,141.99 for approval. This includes Bison Construction's Payment Application No. 11 in the amount of \$152,332.29 and Mortimer Excavating's Payment Application No. 10 in the amount of \$246,809.70.

Resolution No. 25 – Motion by Mrs. Jamieson and seconded by Mr. Ellis to approve PENNVEST Payment Requisition No. 12 for construction costs in the amount of \$399,141.99 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ricella then presented PENNVEST Payment Requisition No. 12 for engineering costs in the amount of \$36,736.14 for approval.

Resolution No. 26 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mrs. Jamieson to approve PENNVEST Payment Requisition No. 12 for engineering costs in the amount of \$36,736.14 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous

- **Liberty Street Betterment Project (URMS)** – Mr. Ricella reported that the fully executed agreements have been received.
- **WWTP NPDES Permit** – Mr. Kalp provided the signature page of the permit to be signed. It will be submitted at the end of the month.

8.B. Sewer Financial Report

Total Unrestricted Sewer Funds Balance of \$187,293.

Resolution No. – Motion by Mr. O'Polka and seconded by Mr. Williams to accept the sewer financial report for February. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. – Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Ellis to pay the following bills. The motion passed unanimously.

City of Franklin General Services Fee for February	\$ 18,166.67
Dale Woodard Gent McFate for Sewer General Matters	\$ 187.50
Dale Woodard Gent McFate for A-108 Sewer Project	\$ 150.00

The EADS Group for 2025 Engineering	\$ 2,935.09
Anthony Parks for January Meeting	\$ 50.00
The EADS Group for CSO Flow Monitoring – December 2025	\$ 3,875.00
The EADS Group for WWTP Emergency Generator	\$ 1,406.63
The EADS Group for Ph. 1 Sanitary Sewer Repl & CSO Elimination	\$ 36,736.14
Mortimer’s Excavating for A-108 CSO Elimination Project – Ph. 1	\$ 246,809.70
Bison Construction, Inc. for CSO Elimination Project	\$ 152,332.29
Sewer Fund Monthly Invoices for Approval	\$ 24,338.77
Totals:	\$ 486,987.79

Additional items to be reviewed:

Pre-approved invoice and payroll reimbursements to General Fund

Pre-approved payroll for 1/09/26 & 1/23/26

1/31/26 YTD draft budget including a detail of invoices paid and revenue received.

8. Reports

A. Chair’s Report:

Mr. Eckel shared a grant agreement that was signed.

B. City Manager’s Report

Mr. Wetzel reported that the Tier II reports have been submitted.

C. Public Utilities Director’s Report:

Mr. McFadden is grateful for the few water leaks that occurred during the cold weather.

D. Mapping Update:

Mr. Gorman reported that the cyber hygiene report discovered two (2) security vulnerabilities to be addressed in addition to the three (3) previously identified vulnerabilities that were identified and addressed previously.

E. Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Spaid had nothing to report but announced that he has a Spartan fire hydrant in front of his house and offered anyone interested to take a look at it.

10. Executive Session

No need for an Executive Session.


Meetings

The committee meeting scheduled for February 26, 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

The next regular meeting is March 10, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall.

10. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 P.M.



Minutes prepared by T.J. Parks