

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

April 8, 2025

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 (via teleconference)
Chad Ellis
Peter O'Polka
Jody Freni
Tracy Jamieson

Excused:

Others in Attendance:

Kurt McFadden, City of Franklin
Devin Hines, Water Treatment Plant
Clint Hoffman, Water Network
Kyle Fritz, The EADS Group
Josh Kalp, The EADS Group
James Wetzel, 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
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary
Helen Fielding, The Derrick

Resolution No. 54 – Motion by Mrs. Jamieson and seconded by Mr. O’Polka to accept the bid from IA Construction in the amount of \$38,620 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2. *EADS Group*

Front Street Waterline and Allegheny Boulevard Waterline

Mr. Kalp informed announced there will be a progress meeting on April 24, 2025 at 1 P.M. to discuss work that has been completed since the start date of March 18th. Construction is ahead of schedule. Once the main line is finished and tested, crews will begin hooking up service lines. Manor Drive was originally designed to tie into the line under the culvert, which would have resulted in a 16 feet deep connection. Instead, a spur was installed to connect to a shallower portion of line.

Mr. Kalp presented Change Order 1 from Terra Works in the amount of \$12,150 to add a 1.5 inch service line to the Grace Church in Rocky Grove and the addition 80 linear feet of HDPE water service line via trenching, and remove and reinstall hydrants in a new location.

Resolution No. 55 – Motion by Mrs. Jamieson and seconded by Mr. O’Polka to accept the Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$12,150 for contract No. W05-21. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kalp presented Payment Requisition No. 1 in the amount of \$444,595.02, which includes Terra Works’ Payment Request No. 1 in the amount of \$199,481.22.

Resolution No. 56 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mrs. Jamieson to accept PENNVEST Payment Requisition No. 1 in the amount of \$444,595.02 for Contract No. W05-21. The motion passed unanimously.

Dam Removal

Mr. Kalp informed that surveying started on March 24, 2024. He will present a resolution to submit a DCED Act 13 grant application to the May meeting.

Mr. Wetzel noted that the City and the Authority submitted an LSA grant application which was successful, but the award made to the City. The Commonwealth Financing Authority advised making a motion to transfer the grant contract from the City to the Authority. At their meeting last evening, City Council approved the transfer; Mr. Wetzel, therefore asked the Authority to accept the transfer.

Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Washington Crossing Control Valve Project	\$ 12.50
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Washington Crossing Control Valve Project	\$ 125.00
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Salem Hardwoods Easement Issue	\$ 965.00
The EADS Group for 2025 Engineering (February)	\$ 526.50
The EADS Group for 2025 Engineering (March)	\$ 3,073.80
Anthony Parks for March Meeting	\$ 50.00
Svetz Energy Services for Deman Response program set-up 2025-2026 season	\$ 225.00
The EADS Group for Barrett Flats WTP	\$ 17,358.50
Terra Works for GACF Front Street Waterline	\$ 199,481.22
The EADS Group for GACF Front Street Waterline	\$ 1,764.00
The EADS Group for Allegheny Blvd. Waterline Project	\$ 3,789.33
The EADS Group for Washington Crossing Control Valve	\$ 4,602.00
Venango Newspapers for Dale Ave. Paving	\$ 805.24
Water Fund Monthly Invoices for Approval	\$ 48,077.42
Totals:	\$ 299,669.68

Additional items to be reviewed:

Pre-approved invoice and payroll reimbursements to General Fund

Pre-approved payroll for 03/07/25 & 03/21/25

03/31/25 YTD draft budget including a detail of invoices paid and revenue received.

Improvements Project. The grant requires matching funds in the amount of \$74,440.80 with a match of \$74,440.80.

Resolution No. 62 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Freni to accept the resolution as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

EADS Engineering Retainer Agreement

Mr. Fritz presented an agreement between EADS and the Authority in the event that engineering services are needed regarding utility coordination with PennDOT when the Route 62 Betterment Project commences. The agreement does not specify a cost, but will bill the Authority either monthly or quarterly based on the current hourly rate for miscellaneous services provided.

Resolution No. 63 – Motion by Mrs. Jamieson and Mr. O’Polka to accept the Engineering Retainer as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

A-108 Phase I Sewer Replacement & CSO Elimination Project

Mr. Fritz presented PENNVEST Payment Requisition No. 2 which includes Payment Application No. 1 from Bison Construction in the amount of \$201,390.30, and a payment request from The EADS Group for engineering services in the amount of \$10,149.48 for a total payment request of \$211,539.78.

Bison Construction began excavating on Pacific Street on March 24 and will continue east towards Norman Street. They intend to start the bore pit on Atlantic Avenue on April 21.

Mortimer’s Excavating is continuing work on 12th Street and coordinating with property owners and any solicitors involved. A new manhole was set on the interceptor pipe without any issues.

PennDOT approved the installation of new water lines on Grant Street at Reisenman Avenue and Missouri Street, and on 12th Street between Elk and Liberty Streets.

Resolution No. 64 – Motion by Mr. O’Polka and seconded by Mrs. Jamieson to approve PENNVEST Payment Requisition No. 2 for services provided by Bison Construction for Contract No. 2023-S-1 in the amount of \$201,390.30. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 65 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mrs. Jamieson to approve PENNVEST Payment Requisition No. 2 for engineering services provided by The EADS Group in the amount of \$10,149.48. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Reports

A. Chair's Report:

Mr. Eckel discussed Senate Bill 225 regarding Eminent Domain which was introduced to protect and financially compensate targeted property owners against Eminent Domain abuse.

House Bill 921 was introduced through the Public Welfare and Human Services department to establish a Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program.

Provided safety trenching manuals from an OSHA training.

B. City Manager's Report

One of the contractors fixing the water leak at the Joy plant ran a telehandler into the side of Mr. Hoffman's truck. Received an estimate from Lowry's Autobody in the amount of \$4,045.95. The contractor asked to pay the cost of the repairs outright instead of going through insurance which Mr. Wetzel approved.

Asked how the Authority would like to dispose of Mr. Hoffman's old truck. The Authority decided to try Municibid, then 422 Auction Sales if the bids from Municibid are not favorable.

Will begin updating the Fee Schedule due to changes in the Sewer Regulations.

PennDOT is considering fixing the eroding hillside on Bully Hill which would result in closure of Bully Hill Road for four (4) to six (6) weeks.

The Housing Authority remitted their PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) Payment, from which they deducted \$2,800. In 2024, the Housing Authority requested reimbursement for miscellaneous damages caused by sludge build-up in their water lines. The reimbursement request was denied because the issue occurred within the facility which, according to the Water and Sewer Regulations, is the property owner's responsibility.

Requested time in Executive Session for purposes of negotiations and potential litigation.

C. Public Utilities Director's Report:

Thankful that all of the A-108 work is going well, including communication.

Issues with the backhoe continue. Trying to get issues worked out before the warranty expires. Warranty expires April 30, 2026 or at 4,000 hours.

D. Mapping Update:

Continuing to promote Rave Alert. There are 327 signed up.

E. Solicitor's Report:

Nothing to report.

10. Executive Session

The Authority entered into Executive Session at 7:18 P.M. Executive Session ended at 7:28 P.M. with no additional action.