

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

September 12, 2023

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Members in Attendance:

Timothy Dunkle
John Eckel
Fred Leyda
Caleb Williams
Chad Ellis
Jody Freni

Absent:

Peter O'Polka

Others in Attendance:

Kurt McFadden, City of Franklin
Devin Hines, Water Treatment Plants
Kyle Fritz, The EADS Group
Josh Kalp, The EADS Group
Michael Gorman, Tech Resources Coordinator
Tracy Jamieson, City of Franklin
Harmony Motter, City of Franklin
James Wetzel, City of Franklin
Glenn Brown, Wastewater Treatment Plant
Mike Moore, Wastewater Network
Brian Spaid, Dale Woodard Gent McFate
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary
Alex Spaid, Dale Woodard Gent McFate
Helen Fielding, The Derrick
Terry Schultz, 620 Sibley Avenue
Donna Fletcher, 827 Elk Street

3. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Dunkle requested to add item 6A(2)(c) “Approval to Submit LSA Application for Dam Removal,” and under 7A(1)(a) “Approve Price Increase for Sewer Jet.”

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Williams to adopt the agenda, as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Ellis to approve the minutes of August 8, 2023 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Citizens’ Inquiries –

Terry Schultz, of Sibley Avenue, brought the following issues to the Authority’s attention:

- When Plumer Avenue was closed to vehicular traffic, it was intended to be used as a walking trail; however, it is now badly overgrown and cannot be used. Additionally, the 700 block of Sibley Avenue was cleared out for the waterline replacement project, but was seeded instead of graveled when the contractor was performing site restoration. Mr. Schultz feels that this road could be used as an alternative route to the homes on Wiley Avenue if Wiley Avenue is not able to be used.
- Believes the Wiley Avenue bulkhead on the north side of the bridge was torn out during the waterline replacement project which is allowing stormwater to erode around the bridge.
- He added that the scheduled paving does not include Fountain Lane, which is badly deteriorated.

Mr. Dunkle indicated they would look at any of those concerns to see if any were under the purview of the General Authority.

6. Water

6.A. Operations/Project Reports

1. Staff

Mr. Hines

- The last security camera was installed at the 9th Street plant.
- New computer was purchased for the SCADA system at 9th Street.
- Drayer Electric was in and the new VFD is ready to be installed at Coefield Corners.

1.a. Consider 9th St. Well No. 4 Rehab Work

Mr. Hines presented a quote from Moody's Water Supply for \$19,550 and a quote from Toy Drilling Contractor for \$9,477 to perform the inspections and pump cleaning necessary to bring Well No. 4 to its usual performance. Mr. Hines explained that this is normally the highest producing well and is currently operating at a rate below the lowest producing well. It is believed that the screens are probably plugged and this may have occurred because the customary air testing didn't occur the last time the well was cleaned because of a neighbor's complaint. Mr. Kalp recommended that the bid from Moody's Water Supply be awarded, because they use more advanced technology that what Toy Drilling offered and are familiar with our well system.

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Leyda to accept the proposal from Moody's Water Supply in the amount of \$19,550. The motion passed unanimously.

2. EADS Group

Front Street Waterline and Allegheny Boulevard Waterline

Mr. Kalp reported that the ES permits have been approved for both projects, but are still waiting for the HOP along Allegheny Boulevard which is expected to be issued once the Route 8 Betterment Project is complete. As a follow up to the PENNVEST planning consultation at the August committee meeting, Mr. Kalp reported that if PENNVEST grants the Authority a loan, it could likely be for twenty (20) years with an interest rate of 1% for the first five (5) years, and 1.7% for the next fifteen (15) years. Grant funds may be available as well but that cannot be determined until an application is submitted.

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Williams to submit an application to PENNVEST for the combined work on Front Street and Allegheny Boulevard waterline replacement project. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kalp also informed that the administrative and inspection costs for the engineering of the project would need to be modified to \$50,000 and \$180,000, respectively. He explained that these increases include the paperwork necessary for categorical exclusion under the DEP required environmental review and a year's worth of inspection, which he expects to be an exaggerated cost. Mr. Kalp also advised to include engineering expenses the Authority has incurred from the EADS Group that have not been covered under other projects, as they are reimbursable through PENNVEST.

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Ellis to amend EADS Group contract to add administration and inspection costs, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Dam Removal

Mr. Kalp reminded everyone of the Growing Greener Grant application that was submitted on June 22. He suggested submitting a Local Share Account grant to supplement funds that the Growing Green Grant will not cover. There has been no DEP interaction with their firm since the phone conference call with them on August 17.

Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Eckel to approve submitting a Local Share Account grant application in coordination with the City of Franklin. The motion passed unanimously.

15th Street Pump Station & Miller Hill Waterline

Mr. Fritz reported that Terra Works has completed all the waterline work associated with the pump station, which is planned to be installed in September.

All utilities are installed for the Miller Hill Waterline project. Milling and paving began on Old Mercer Road yesterday, but had to stop due to mechanical issues; they hope to finish tomorrow and pave Old Mercer Road on Thursday and Plumer and Sibley Avenues on Friday. In response to Mr. Schultz's concern regarding the Wiley Avenue bridge, Mr. Fritz added that the wedge curb that was there prior to the work beginning will be reinstalled to deter water runoff from causing erosion. Mrs. Jamieson added that the City plans to tar and chip the road surfaces next year in lieu of a top coat of asphalt to reduce paving costs. She added that this can be bid out in conjunction with the Council of Governments at a better price.

Mr. Fritz presented Change Order 5 for Mortimer's scope of work which includes the installation of 225 feet of 12-inch storm sewer pipe, three (3) inlets, 440 square yards of asphalt paving and all associated labor, equipment and materials. This will add \$49,830 to the contract, of which the City will pay for its allocated costs.

Motion by Mr. Freni and seconded by Mr. Eckel to approve Change Order No. 5 in the amount of \$49,830 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Finally, Mr. Fritz presented Mortimer's Construction Payment Application No. 6 in the amount of \$99,855.45 for approval.

Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Eckel to approve Payment Application No. 6 as presented. The Motion passed unanimously.

Misc. Water Items

Mr. Fritz reported that Phase 2 of the Legacy Lead Waterline project, which includes 17,000 lineal feet of waterline, is on hold due to new funding requirements that may make applying for funds problematic.

6. B. Water Financial Report

Total Unrestricted Water Funds Balance is \$833,825. Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Williams to accept the financial report for September. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Ellis to pay the following bills. Motion passed unanimously.

City of Franklin General Services Fee for September	\$ 18,166.67
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Water General Matters	\$ 230.00
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Uniontown Heights	\$ 90.00
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Allegheny Blvd. Water Line Project	\$ 60.00
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Warranty Dispute	\$ 10.00
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Miller Hill Easements	\$ 580.00
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Drought Contingency Plan	\$ 105.00
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Reno Water Crisis	\$ 40.00
The EADS Group for 2023 Engineering	\$ 4,964.45
Anthony Parks for August Meeting	\$ 50.00

The EADS Group for 15 th Street Pump Station	\$ 11,931.93
Sugarcreek Borough for ½ of Prospect Ave. Paving Cost	\$ 17,058.82
Water Fund Monthly Invoices for Approval	\$ 30,104.11
Totals:	\$ 83,390.98

Additional items to be reviewed:

Pre-approved invoice and payroll reimbursements to General Fund

Pre-approved payroll for 8/11/23 and 8/25/23

8/31/23 YTD draft budget including a detail of invoices paid and revenue received.

7. Sewer

7.A. Operations/Project Reports

1. Staff

Mr. Brown

- Mr. Brown reported that a return pump used to circulate the sludge blanket is in the shop.
- Storm pumps were installed but there were some complications. They hope to be able to have it resolved. They will continue to be monitored.

Mr. Moore

Nothing to report except for the price increase on the sewer jet.

- (a) Mr. Dunkle explained the reasoning for the price increase is because the trade-in for the vehicle was withdrawn, due to it no longer working properly. The new price the sewer jet is \$615,212. Mrs. Motter suggested taking the additional funds from the Major Equipment Reserve account. Mr. Moore added that the truck should be available by November.

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Williams to approve the price increase for the sewer jet as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2. EADS Group

WWTP

Mr. Kalp stated that construction for the influent pumps was completed on August 31st and start up is being scheduled.

A-108 Phase I Sewer Replacement & CSO Elimination Project

Mr. Fritz reported that he received all environmental clearances and submitted the E&S, General Permit and NPDES, while the DEP Part II, HOP and Railroad permits are expected to be submitted later in the year. A final field investigation took place at 12th and Otter Streets. An easement is being drafted with the First Alliance Church. The line, which runs from Otter Street to the creek, through the church parking lot, appears to be in bad shape, which may affect the amount of repair work that will be necessary to their parking lot.

Misc. Sewer Items

Mr. Fritz informed that USG completed the interceptor CCTV work and was able to televise the 12th and Otter area. Work was completed under budget by about fifty (50) hours.

7.B. Sewer Financial Report

Total Unrestricted Sewer Funds Balance of (\$142,597).

Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Eckel to accept the sewer financial report for September. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Freni to pay the following bills. The motion passed unanimously.

City of Franklin General Services Fee for September	\$ 18,166.67
Summit for Micromod Controller	\$ 539.78
Dale Woodard Gent McFate for Sewer General Matters	\$ 150.00
Dale Woodard Gent McFate for Uniontown Heights	\$ 20.00
The EADS Group for 2023 Engineering	\$ 4,546.58
Anthony Parks for August meeting	\$ 50.00

The EADS Group for Flow Monitoring 5 CSO Sites (August)	\$ 3,875.00
The EADS Group for A-108 Planning S03-21	\$ 16,092.79
Sewer Fund Monthly Invoices for Approval	\$ 20,471.72
Totals:	\$ 63,912.54

Additional items to be reviewed:

Pre-approved invoice and payroll reimbursements to General Fund

Pre-approved payroll for 8/11/23 and 8/25/23

8/31/23 YTD draft budget including a detail of invoices paid and revenue received.

8. Reports

A. Chair's Report:

- Mr. Dunkle reported that the Drought Contingency Plan was submitted to DEP on September 2 and is awaiting review.
- He distributed the Emergency Water Rationing Plan to the Authority members and explained that it is only issued during a drought emergency. He requested that the Authority proactively approve the content of the plan so it can be submitted directly to DEP should such an emergency occur.
 - Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Ellis to approve the plan as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Dunkle is still drafting an Emergency Water Distribution Plan.

B. City Manager's Report:

- Mrs. Jamieson stated that she will be reaching out to Authority members later this week to schedule times to discuss the 2024 budget.
- Requested time in Executive Session for negotiations and potential litigation.

C. Public Utilities Director's Report:

- Mr. McFadden reported that the F550 truck from McCandless Ford should be delivered at the end of November and will be gray. The color had to be changed in order to receive a timely delivery.

- He is waiting to hear what the price increase will be for the 2024 model of the Kenworth T480 truck.
- Groff Tractor is waiting on parts before they can repair the hydraulic coupler on the Case backhoe.
- No issues with hydrant flushing.

D. Mapping Update:

- Mr. Gorman reported the Rave Alert system is live. He will work with each department to train whomever will be the designated individuals to issue alerts and would like to set up times in council chambers to help City residents sign up to receive alerts.
- Mr. Gorman will be starting training in Auto CAD next week.

E. Solicitor's Report:

- Mr. Spaid presented a resolution for approval for an Offer of Just Compensation in the amount of \$500 in order to proceed with obtaining Eminent Domain for the Right of Way along Allegheny Boulevard.
 - Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Freni to approve the Offer of Just Compensation of \$500 with Pioneer Electric. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Requested time in Executive Session for matters of potential litigation and negotiations

9. Executive Session

Mr. Dunkle asked to enter into Executive Session at 7:10 P.M., which concluded at 8:37 P.M.

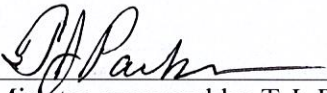
- Motion was made by Mr. Leyda and seconded by Mr. Eckel to authorize DEP to transfer Dam Permit for the Third St. Dam, to be put in the name of the General Authority of the City of Franklin (along with the City of Franklin). The motion passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Ellis to waive ½ the fee for late penalty payment by the Uniontown Heights Authority for its water bill. The reason for waiving only half the fee was due to the Authority bearing the cost of a new meter when their pit flooded. The motion passed unanimously.

Meetings

The next committee meeting is September 28, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.
The next regular meeting is October 10, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall.

10. Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Leyda to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 P.M.
Motion passed unanimously.



Minutes prepared by T.J. Parks