

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

February 11, 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
Chad Ellis

Excused:

Tracy Jamieson
Peter O'Polka
Jody Freni

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
Alex Spaid, Dale Woodard Gent McFate
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary
Helen Fielding, The Derrick
Brian Riccella, The EADS Group

3. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution No. 27 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Williams to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Leyda noted that page 9, under the Solicitor’s Report, should read, “Still working on letter to Maple Street residents.”

Mr. Eckel noted that page 9, under the Chair’s Report, should not say, “future projects” but rather existing plans and their revision dates.

Resolution No. 28 – Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Ellis to approve the minutes January 14, 2025 as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Citizens’ Inquiries – Mr. Fritz introduced Brian Riccella, who will be serving as the project manager of the A-108 project.

6. Water

6.A. Operations/Project Reports

1. Staff Updates

Mr. Hines

- Ordered first VFD for well pumps, starting with Pump 4.
- A DEP representative will be in on the 18th for a physical inspection of the 9th Street check valve.

Mr. Hoffman

- Ordered the parts needed for the Parker Avenue project
- The backhoe required various repairs but should be back in service once the parts come in.
- Met with National Fuel regarding the gas line on Buffalo Street that was hit.

2. *EADS Group*

Front Street Waterline and Allegheny Boulevard Waterline

Resolution No. 29 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Williams to accept the Request Issue of Agreement with Terra Works, Inc. in the amount of \$1,319,999 for contract No. W05-21. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 30 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Williams to accept the Request Issue of Agreement with Wilson Excavating and Utility Construction in the amount of \$1,003,371.40 for Contract No. W06-21. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kalp reminded everyone of the PENNVEST call on February 20, 2025 at 1 P.M. Closing is scheduled for March 4, 2025 and construction is slated to start in April or May of 2025.

Mr. Spaid presented the Reimbursement Resolution and the Resolution to Borrow, both of which are required by PENNVEST.

Resolution No. 31 – Motion by Mr. Leyda and seconded by Mr. Ellis to adopt the Reimbursement Resolution as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 32 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Williams to adopt the Resolution to Borrow as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Dam Removal

Mr. Kalp announced that the DCED Act 13 and Growing Greener Plus grants were both unsuccessful. The DCED Act 13 application period is currently open until May 31st. He will confirm the deadline for the LSA grant next month, as well as prepare the cost for surveying at the March meeting.

Barrett Flats Water Treatment Plant

Mr. Kalp presented an amendment to the Engineering Agreement for the Barrett Flats Water Treatment Plant replacement project. The amendment includes services to conduct field work associated with collecting asbestos and samples and on-site analysis for lead at the existing Barrett Flats Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$10,000.

Resolution No. 33 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Williams to accept the amendment to the Engineering Agreement as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Washington Crossing Control Valve

Mr. Kalp informed that there were issues with the PNDI but they have been resolved. He has the E&S permit and the Public Water Supply permit to be signed.

Wendy Way Tank

Mr. Kalp reminded the Authority of the Local Share Account grant application that was submitted on November 13th. In light of the recently discovered mine shaft in the heights, Mr. Wetzel added that underground testing would need to be conducted before a new water tank can be installed.

6. B. Water Financial Report

Total Unrestricted Water Funds Balance is \$441,944.

Resolution No. 34 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Williams to accept the financial report for February. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 35 – Motion by Mr. Ellis 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	\$ 762.50
The EADS Group for 2024 Engineering	\$ 50.00
Anthony Parks for January Meeting	\$ 50.00
Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection	\$ 10,000.00
The EADS Group for GACF Barrett Flats WTP	\$ 1,306.19
The EADS Group for Washington Crossing Control Valve	\$ 4,783.40
Water Fund Monthly Invoices for Approval	\$ 14,591.29
Totals:	\$ 49,710.05

Additional items to be reviewed:

Pre-approved invoice and payroll reimbursements to General Fund

Pre-approved payroll for 01/10/25 & 01/24/25

01/31/25 YTD draft budget including a detail of invoices paid and revenue received.

7. Sewer

7.A. Operations/Project Reports

1. Staff

Mr. Bell

- Scheduling repair of the Number 1 thickener pump
- Spoke with Summit earlier today. They are waiting for Co-Stars for the SCADA system and fiber optic repairs that are needed following the power surge.
- Working with EADS on the progression of the emergency generator project.
- Still testing RAS/WAS pump flow rates.

Mr. Moore

- Following the demolition of several houses in the past few months, it has been discovered that the sewer laterals are connected to neighboring houses. When the laterals are capped following demolition, it is causing sewer backup in the neighboring houses.

2. EADS Group

WWTP

Mr. Kalp received a quote from Spatz Mechanical for Jeffery chain for approximately \$121,000, plus \$5,000 for factory start-up. They did not include costs for structural steel items; Mr. Kalp will provide an update once the quote is revised.

The plans and design for the emergency generator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant should be completed and ready for bid by mid-April 2025.

Mr. Fritz stated that the DEP semi-annual report regarding the sewer overflows was submitted and no comments have been received.

A-108 Phase I Sewer Replacement & CSO Elimination Project

Mr. Fritz reminded of the PENNVEST closing scheduled for February 24, 2025 at 2 P.M, with a preconstruction meeting the following day at 10 A.M. Bison Construction submitted shop drawings, which are currently under review; Mortimer Excavating will submit their drawings by the end of the week. He presented the Notices to Proceed for both contracts.

Resolution No. 36 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Williams to issue the Notice to Proceed, dated March 3, 2025, to Bison Construction for Contract 2023-S-1. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 37 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Williams to issue the Notice to Proceed, dated March 3, 2025, to Mortimer Excavating for Contract 2023-S-2. The motion passed unanimously.

8.B. Sewer Financial Report

Total Unrestricted Sewer Funds Balance of \$468,654.

Resolution No. 38 – Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Ellis to accept the sewer financial report for February. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 39 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Williams 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	\$ 250.00
Dale Woodard Gent McFate for Uniontown Heights	\$ 12.50
Dale Woodard Gent McFate for A-108 Sewer Project	\$ 142.04
The EADS Group for 2024 Engineering	\$ 4,095.00
Anthony Parks for January Meeting	\$ 50.00
CSO Flow Monitoring – October, November, December	\$ 3,875.00
The EADS Group for A-108 Phase 1 Sanitary Sewer Replacement and CSO Elimination	\$ 6,179.09
Sewer Fund Monthly Invoices for Approval	\$ 7,563.37
Totals:	\$ 40,333.67

Additional items to be reviewed:

Pre-approved invoice and payroll reimbursements to General Fund

Pre-approved payroll for 01/10/25 & 01/24/25

01/31/25 YTD draft budget including a detail of invoices paid and revenue received.

8. Reports

A. Chair's Report:

Mr. Eckel thanked Mr. Hines for preparing a list of plans as requested at last month's meeting.

Mr. McFadden added that there is a flash drive with additional information.

B. City Manager's Report

Resolution No. 40 – Motion by Mr. Leyda and seconded by Mr. Ellis to adopt the Right to Know policy as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The Tier II reports have been completed and submitted.

Davey Gas was unsuccessful with their hydrogen grant application. They are exploring additional options and would like to continue partnering with the Authority going forward.

Mr. Wetzel will be at a conference in Hershey, PA and will not be able to attend the workshop on February 27th.

Prepared a narrative to put on social media and the City's website regarding the A-108 project details including the reasoning for rate increases.

Timbering is expected on Dr. Virgil's property. The timbering company would like to access the property by using the Authority's easement by way of Waterworks Road. The owner of the timber company found an easement in place from a handwritten deed from 1901. The land has since been subdivided, with part of the easement being on Dr. Virgil's property and the other part on Jason Wible's property.

C. Public Utilities Director's Report:

Mr. Hoffman and Mrs. Power are continuing to document service line inventories. Mr. Fritz added that notices to property owners will continue to go out annually but the amount of notices going out will reduce as responses continue to be received.

D. Mapping Update:

Continuing to promote sign-ups for the Rave Alert.

E. Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Eckel thanked Mr. Spaid for his hard work in managing the legalities of the PENNVEST closings.

Mr. Spaid will begin working on the Moreland Drive water tower lease agreement.

Working with Messrs. Wetzel and Hoffman regarding access to utilities on 7th Street.

There appears to be a partial right of way in place.

Has not received updates from Aqua Pennsylvania.

After speaking with PENNVEST representatives, he does not feel there is concern regarding the federal funding cuts that are currently being imposed as the majority of PENNVEST funding comes from state funds.

10. Executive Session

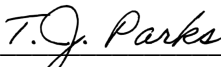
No Executive Session.

Meetings

The committee meeting scheduled for February 27, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.
The next regular meeting is March 11, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall.

10. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 P.M.



Minutes prepared by T.J. Parks