

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

February 13, 2024

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
Chad Ellis
Jody Freni
Caleb Williams
Timothy Dunkle

Excused: Peter O'Polka

Others in Attendance:

Kurt McFadden, City of Franklin
Clint Hoffman, Water Network
Kyle Fritz, The EADS Group
Josh Kalp, The EADS Group
Michael Gorman, Tech Resources Coordinator
James Wetzel, City of Franklin
Mike Moore, Wastewater Network
Brian Spaid, Dale Woodard Gent McFate
Alex Spaid, Dale Woodard Gent McFate
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary
Helen Fielding, The Derick
Nick Sigelakis, Spartan-Sigelock Fire Hydrant
Mark Lynn, LB Water

3. Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Leyda to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Eckel to approve the minutes of January 9, 2023 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Citizens' Inquiries – None

6. Spartan-Sigelock Fire Hydrant Presentation

Nick Sigelakis presented 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.

Mr. Dunkle asked Mr. Sigelakis to provide a price for a hydrant, four 4'-5' deep, 6"-8" steamer in yellow with 5" storz. Mr. Sigelakis stated that a 3 ½' deep hydrant is roughly \$2,800, with another \$200-\$300 update for a storz.

Mr. Wetzel expressed concern about the long lead time for the hydrants and difficulty finding replacement parts. Mr. Sigelakis replied that the need for replacement parts is very rare as long as it was installed properly.

Following the presentation, Mark from LB Water stated that repairs are complex when they are needed.

7. Adoption of the Fee Schedule

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Leyda to adopt the City of Franklin General Authority Fee Schedule as presented, effective March 1, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Water

8.A. Operations/Project Reports

1. Staff Updates

Mr. McFadden

- CCR was completed today
- Rotating assembly for pump 1 at the 9th Street plant is being assembled
- Moody is going to clean well 3 in the next week or so
- Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Leyda to ratify approval of the F550 dump truck bed price increase of \$3,700. The motion passed unanimously.
- Kenworth truck was delivered, but in the color of white, not blue as requested. They offered a \$4,500 credit.
 - Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Williams to accept the credit of \$4,500. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hoffman

- Will be starting the waterline tie-in on Pin Oak and Moreland Drive tomorrow, then move onto Wintergreen Drive
- Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Ellis to approve the expense of approximately \$148,000 for waterline replacement on Bell Avenue, Pin Oak Drive, Wintergreen Drive, and Woodland Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

2. *EADS Group*

Front Street Waterline and Allegheny Boulevard Waterline

Mr. Kalp reported that on January 20, 2024, PENNVEST awarded the Authority a loan in the amount of \$3,680,000 and presented the PENNVEST Funding Offer. The Authority is not eligible to receive a grant because the monthly rate to customers is considered to be too low by PENNVEST standards. The interest rate would 1% for the first five (5) years and increase to 1.743% for years six (6) through maturity, with monthly payments of \$16,924.11 and \$17,864.30, respectively. It is expected to be amortized over twenty (20) years. Payments would begin three (3) months after project completion. Mrs. Motter advised that monthly water and sewer rates should be increased by \$6.00 over the next two (2) years to offset the cost to the Authority.

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Leyda to accept the PENNVEST loan proposal as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fritz presented the Subsurface Utility Engineering Amendment. He explained that there are different levels of Subsurface Underground Engineering Quality Levels: A, B, C, and D. EADS currently designs at level C and D, which includes plotting visible above-ground features and usage of existing records and drawings, respectively.

Motion by Mr. Leyda and seconded by Mr. Eckel to maintain the current Subsurface Utility Engineering Quality at C and D levels. The motion passed unanimously.

Dam Removal

Mr. Kalp reported that they are coordinating when USG will begin drain line cleaning. He also advised of a \$300,000 Watershed Restoration and Protection grant through DCED. EADS would prepare and submit the application. There is a \$100.00 application fee.

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Williams to allow The EADS Group to prepare and submit the application and accept the \$100.00 application fee. The motion passed unanimously.

Reno Water System

Mr. Kalp stated that The EADS Group is working with the solicitor as needed to develop an appropriate agreement with Aqua Pennsylvania. Drawings of connections have been submitted.

15th Street Pump Station

Mr. Fritz reported that Penelec will begin services this week. The electric subcontractor met with Penelec who recommended installing a new electrical pole. There will be no change orders as a result.

Terra Works is scheduling SCADA/Telemetry and start-up with the manufacturer in the next few weeks.

Barrett Flats WTP

Mr. Fritz reported that The EADS Group will provide a draft engineering agreement at the February workshop and discuss further at the March Authority meeting. The agreement would prepare plans that will enable the Authority to submit a request for funding to PENNVEST for a new water treatment plant by the August 2026 deadline.

8. B. Water Financial Report

Total Unrestricted Water Funds Balance is \$647,637. Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Freni to accept the financial report for February. Motion passed unanimously.

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	\$ 200.00
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Water Agreement (Aqua Pennsylvania)	\$ 140.00
Anthony Parks for January Meeting	\$ 50.00
Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection for Chapter 109 – Safe Drinking Water Annual Fee	\$ 10,000.00
The Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association for 2024 Membership Dues	\$ 1,350.00
The EADS Group for 15 th Street Pump Station	\$ 1,280.20
The EADS Group for GACF Allegheny Blvd. Water Line	\$ 450.00
Water Fund Monthly Invoices for Approval	\$ 29,020.55
Totals:	\$ 60,657.42

Additional items to be reviewed:

Pre-approved invoice and payroll reimbursements to General Fund

Pre-approved payroll for 1/12/24 and 1/26/24

1/31/24 YTD draft budget including a detail of invoices paid and revenue received.

9. Sewer

7.A. Operations/Project Reports

1. Staff

Mr. Brown

- RAS pump installed yesterday
- SCADA PC has been down for over a month. Was recommended to buy a new one for \$2,600, which requires a 2 (two) day install. Total cost, with installation is about \$4,200.
- Still waiting for expansion tank for boiler

Mr. Moore

- Sewer jet finally delivered yesterday

2. EADS Group

WWTP

Mr. Kalp announced that AM Stabilizers submitted a request to discharge 4,200 gallons per month of industrial waste into the Franklin sewage collection system. He reached out to AM Stabilizers for more information and DEP for their input. It was noted that the EPA must approve this, since we don't have a pre-treatment discharge program, but Mr. Kalp has not received a response from DEP. He recommends not allowing any more industrial discharge.

Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Freni to deny the request by AM Stabilizers to discharge industrial waste in the City's sewer system. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kalp presented a proposal to perform engineering services for the Wastewater Treatment Plant RAS and WAS pump replacements. The cost for performing the work is \$15,000 and includes conducting field testing, working with vendors, obtaining pricing, permit requirements and construction consultation. Pump size could be changed to save costs but requires DEP permit.

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Ellis to accept the engineering services proposal for the wastewater treatment plant RAS and WAS pump replacement as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kalp also presented an engineering services proposal for the Chapter 94 Report and CSO Supplemental Report. In addition to completing the reports, the proposal includes providing the Authority with a list of necessary data to complete the report and submit a draft report for the Authority's review by March 22, 2024. The cost to perform the work is \$3,500.

Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Eckel to accept the engineering services proposal to complete the Chapter 94 and CSO Supplemental Reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kalp announced that the H2O PA Grant in the amount of \$585,333 was awarded to the Authority for the purchase of an emergency generator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The required match amount is \$296,667.

Mr. Kalp advised of four (4) items that were budgeted for at the Wastewater Treatment Plant: 1) Sludge removal from one of the digesters; 2) Replace the main gate where sewage enters the treatment plant; 3) Replace chains on the mechanical drive chain; 4) Replace mechanical chains on the roughing screens. Mr. Dunkle authorized EADS to prepare an engineering agreement to put these items out for bid.

A-108 Phase I Sewer Replacement & CSO Elimination Project

Mr. Fritz provided the current cost estimates for the project. There is expected to be 55,400 linear feet of sewer lines, 37,400 of which will be open cut and the remaining 18,000 will be trenchless. The preliminary construction estimate is \$17,000,000.

During the consultation with PENNVEST and DEP on January 25, 2024, it was discussed to submit a PENNVEST funding application for the May 2024 deadline. Mr. Fritz added that PENNVEST did not provide financial data regarding grant eligibility. He started submitting the required documents to request Categorical Exclusion under the Environmental Review. The E&S, GP and NPDES permits were approved, and the DEP Part II and Railroad Permits were submitted in early February. All permits are required to be approved and in hand prior to applying for funding.

9.B. Sewer Financial Report

Total Unrestricted Sewer Funds Balance of (\$6,476).

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

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Leyda 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	\$ 200.00
Dale Woodard Gent McFate for Uniontown Heights	\$ 10.00
Dale Woodard Gent McFate for A-108 Project	\$ 480.00

The EADS Group for 2024 Engineering	\$ 1,040.25
Anthony Parks for January Meeting	\$ 50.00
Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association for 2024 Membership Dues	\$ 1,350.00
The EADS Group for A-108 Planning S03-21	\$ 16,521.53
Sewer Fund Monthly Invoices for Approval	\$ 3,474.43
Totals:	\$ 41,292.88

Additional items to be reviewed:

Pre-approved invoice and payroll reimbursements to General Fund

Pre-approved payroll for 1/12/24 1/26/24

1/31/24 YTD draft budget including a detail of invoices paid and revenue received.

10. Reports

A. Chair's Report:

Mr. Dunkle presented a notice from Dale, Woodard, Gent, McFate Law Firm that lays out hourly rate increases for legal services.

Motion by Mr. Leyda and seconded by Mr. Eckel to approve the rate increases as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dunkle is working with Mrs. Motter to determine the number of EDUs for Sandycreek Township to finalize the Emergency Water Distribution Plan.

B. City Manager's Report:

Mr. Wetzel advised that PENNVEST is offering a series to educate the public on funding opportunities and requirements. One will be in Erie and the other will be in Clarion.

Met with Reeves to discuss cybersecurity concerns.

C. Public Utilities Director's Report:

Mr. McFadden reported that the roller for the water network has been ordered and expected in early May. Tilt deck trailer was purchased and on site at the 3rd Street plant.

D. Mapping Update:

Mr. Gorman stated that the internet infrastructure at the 3rd Street water plant is very outdated and running insufficiently.

E. Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Spaid advised that the PENNVEST loan requires bond council. He suggested getting a quote from Clark Hill Law Firm in Pittsburgh, as the Authority has used them in the past.

He also reached out to Uniontown Heights on the sewer agreement and has not heard back.

Suggested looking into the cable franchise agreement to connect the 3rd Street water plant to Spectrum internet.

11. Executive Session

None.

Meetings

The next committee meeting is February 22, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

The next regular meeting is March 12, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall.

12. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 P.M.



Minutes prepared by T.J. Parks