

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

July 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 (arrived at 6:03 P.M.)
Peter O'Polka
Tracy Jamieson

Excused: Chad Ellis

Absent: Jody Freni

Others in Attendance:

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

3. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution No. 93 – Motion by Mr. O’Polka and seconded by Mrs. Jamieson to accept the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Resolution No. 94 – Motion by Mr. Leyda and seconded by Mr. O’Polka to approve the minutes June 10, 2025 as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Citizens’ Inquiries – None

6. Water

6.A. Operations/Project Reports

1. Staff Updates

Mr. Hines

- VFDs are working properly
- Laser line to be done on pump 1 at 9th Street and pump 3 at Coefield Corners
- The SCADA system at the 15th Street booster station keeps losing communication. Possibly caused by tree canopy coverage. Mr. Hines will obtain quotes for either limbing or total tree removal.

Mr. Hoffman

- Fixing leaks and catching up on blacktopping
- IA Construction plans to finish paving at 1 Dale Avenue by the end of July however they have not started yet. Mr. Wetzel interjected that liquidated damages will be assessed if the project is not finished by July 31st, as per the contract

2. EADS Group

Front Street Waterline and Allegheny Boulevard Waterline

Mr. Kalp announced that the fourth progress meeting will be on July 24, 2025, at 12 P.M. but will likely be canceled. The main line and service lines along Front Street are complete, with final paving remaining.

Mr. Kalp presented Change Order No. 2 for Terra Works’s contract W05-21 for approval. He explained that unmarked electric utilities caused a conflict when the contractor was scheduled to complete two (2) connections in nighttime hours. Additionally, Terra Works is requesting compensation for a night shift variant for two (2)

night shifts as no night work was proposed in the contract documents. The Authority determined night work to be necessary to maintain water service to businesses on Allegheny Boulevard during hours of operation. The Change Order increases the contract amount by \$7,951.20.

Resolution No. 95 – Motion by Mrs. Jamieson and seconded by Mr. Leyda to accept the cost increase of Change Order No. 2 for contract W05-21 in the amount of \$7,951.20 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Trenching and drilling on Allegheny Boulevard began on June 16. Progress is slow due to existing utilities and unforeseen conditions. A 6 (six) inch waterline near Rural King was hit. They also recently discovered contaminated soils when installing a fire hydrant in front of A. Crivelli car dealership.

Mr. Kalp presented Change Order No. 1 for Wilson Excavating's contract W06-21 for approval. This increase Change Order, in the amount of \$11,905.00, includes using closed-circuit television to locate unmarked sanitary sewer laterals to avoid hitting them with the drill. Due to an abundance of utilities located in front of Conair Group, an adjustment from directional drilling to open cutting for approximately 450 feet of waterline must be made, as there is no feasible path to drill through without causing damage to the various utilities.

Resolution No. 96 – Motion by Mr. O'Polka and seconded by Mr. Williams to accept the cost increase of Change Order No. 1 for contract W06-21 in the amount of \$11,905.00 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kalp informed that due to the relocation of the waterline in front of the Pepsi plant, two (2) hydrants will need to be placed on the property. He presented an easement agreement for the solicitor's review; Mr. Spaid is working with the corporate officials to execute the easement.

Lastly, Mr. Kalp presented PENNVEST Payment Request No. 4 in the amount of \$368,157.87, which includes the following:

- Wilson Excavating Payment Application No. 1 - \$183,609.90
- Terra Works, Inc. Payment Application No. 4 - \$166,718.83
- Engineering invoices totaling \$17,829.14

Resolution No. 97 – Motion by Mrs. Jamieson and seconded by Mr. Williams to accept Payment Request No. 4 in the amount of \$368,157.87 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Dam Removal

Mr. Kalp informed that the survey field work is nearly complete with base mapping to follow. An Act 13 grant application was submitted on May 30th.

Barrett Flats Water Treatment Plant

Mr. Kalp stated that a preliminary design meeting with the Authority was held on June 24. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission approved the Environmental Review; he is currently working on PNDI clearance. He hopes to have the permit submitted by August of this year, then submit the PENNVEST request in August of 2026.

Washington Crossing Control Valve

Mr. Kalp informed that the preliminary design is complete; electric design is ongoing. A PennDOT permit cannot be issued until all easements are procured. Dan Heath has given preliminary approval, still waiting on the county.

Water Miscellaneous

- **Wendy Way Tank** – No change.
- **City Pressure District Control Valve** – PA Small Water and Sewer grant application was submitted on April 9, 2025.

6. B. Water Financial Report

Total Unrestricted Water Funds Balance is \$915,736.

Resolution No. 98 – Motion by Mr. O’Polka and seconded by Mr. Williams to accept the financial report for July. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 99 – Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Leyda to pay the following bills. Motion passed unanimously.

City of Franklin General Services Fee for July	\$ 18,166.67
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Water General Matters	\$ 160.00

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Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Allegheny Boulevard Water Line Project	\$ 450.00
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Bankruptcy Tower Lease Rejection (Everstream)	\$ 350.00
MaherDuessel for 2024 Financial Statement Audit Billing	\$ 1,250.00
The EADS Group for 2025 Engineering	\$ 700.00
Anthony Parks for June Meeting	\$ 50.00
Svetz Energy Services for Natural Gas Procurement Services for 2025	\$ 445.00
The EADS Group for Barrett Flats WTP	\$ 5,546.00
Terra Works for GACF Front Street Waterline	\$ 166,718.83
Wilson Excavating & Utility Construction for GACF Allegheny Blvd. Waterline	\$ 183,609.90
The EADS Group for GACF Front Street Waterline	\$ 2,646.00
The EADS Group for Allegheny Blvd. Waterline Project	\$ 15,183.14
The EADS Group for Dam Removal Project	\$ 2,658.90
The EADS Group for GACF Washinton Crossing Control Valve	\$ 6,880.00
Vincent Excavating and Gravel for Parker Avenue	\$ 1,545.60
Cooperstown Sand & Gravel for Parker Avenue	\$ 139.72
Water Fund Monthly Invoices for Approval	\$ 48,561.11
Totals:	\$ 455,060.87

Additional items to be reviewed:

Pre-approved invoice and payroll reimbursements to General Fund

Pre-approved payroll for 06/13/25, 05/16/25 & 06/27/25

06/30/25 YTD draft budget including a detail of invoices paid and revenue received.

7. Sewer

7.A. Operations/Project Reports

1. Staff

Mr. Bell

- RAS/WAS SCADA upgrade is complete
- New upgrade to the chlorine system is complete. Heritage Environmental did a great job. Very user-friendly.
- Hawk installed new dissolved oxygen probes
- Received a quote from Ace Viking to rebuild the RAS/WAS pumps in the amount of \$19,762 for each, compared to \$300,000 to replace all pumps. Rebuilding them will allow them to last another 20 years; Mr. Bell feels it would be more advantageous to rebuild rather than replace.
- Cleaned and inspected thickener tank. There is a noticeable improvement now that septic haulers are no longer allowed to unload into the tank.
- Phase 2 of the SCADA upgrade, which consists of the affluent chlorine/storm chlorine was started yesterday and is almost complete. About 40% complete with the transition away from Micromod.
- Mr. Eckel interjected that there will be a training session for the new system on Thursday, July 10 from 12:30 P.M. to 1 P.M.

Mr. Moore

- Working with the various contractors.
- Cleaning and scoping lines as needed
- Mrs. Jamieson asked if the baskets on Howard Street are still being cleaned out. Mr. Moore said no and does not expect to have to do it again.
- Mrs. Jamieson asked if there have been any overflow issues on 15th Street. There have been no issues.
- Abandoned manhole at 6th and Elk Streets will be removed next week.

2. EADS Group

WWTP Emergency Generator

Mr. Kalp presented the agreement between the Authority and the awarded contractor, Right Electric, in the amount of \$555,555 for approval. Right Electric has already furnished the submittal for the generator, as there is a six (6) to nine (9) month lead time.

Resolution No. 100 – Motion by Mrs. Jamieson and seconded by Mr. O’Polka to approve the agreement with Right Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$555,555 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous

- WWTP Improvements – PA Small Water and Sewer grant application submitted on April 9, 2025. Expects to hear back within the next six (6) months.
- URMS Conflicts – EADS met with staff on June 25th to discuss conflicts utility conflicts in relation to the PennDOT Route 62 Betterment Project. In the next week, Mr. Ricella will submit responses to the conflicts, indicating that it shall be PennDOT’s responsibility to make any corrections to the identified conflicts.
- Notice of Violation Semi-Annual Report – Submitted today, July 8, 2025. Mr. Fritz stated upon completion of Phase 1 of the A-108 project, he will meter the results; if results are favorable, Phases 2 and 3 could be delayed slightly.

A-108 Phase I Sewer Replacement & CSO Elimination Project

Mr. Fritz indicated that work is moving slower than expected. Once both contractors are able to move away from French Creek, digging should not be as deep and the pipe diameters will get smaller, which will hopefully allow operations to move more smoothly. Bison Construction is currently working on Orchard Street, moving towards Grant Street, then they will move east towards 13th Street. Bison provided a quote to install 650 feet of waterline on Grant Street between Orchard Street and a fire hydrant in front of Franklin Service and Supply in the amount of \$184,300, which excludes stones and asphalt. Mr. Fritz does not feel that the waterline will need to be installed at this time, but provided the quote for future reference, should the Authority decide to replace waterlines on Grant Street next year.

Mortimer’s Construction is currently working near the former armory building, around 13th Street and Franklin Avenue. They will then move across 13th Street to the intersection of Otter and 13th to bore in that intersection. Pro-Tech will begin paving 12th Street at the latter part of next week, starting at Otter Street and working towards Buffalo.

Mr. Fritz added that PENNVEST approved the change orders associated with waterline materials.

Mr. Fritz presented PENNVEST Payment Application No. 5 for approval, which consists of Payment Application Nos. 4 and 3 for Bison Construction in the amount of

\$148,734.90 and Mortimer’s Excavating in the amount of \$109,959.30, respectively, for a total of \$258,694.20.

Resolution No. 101 – Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. O’Polka to approve the construction costs outlined in PENNVEST Payment Application No. 5 totaling \$258,694.20 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Also included in PENNVEST Payment Application No. 5 are engineering costs totaling \$48,041.93.

Resolution No. 102 – Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mrs. Jamieson to approve the engineering costs outlined in PENNVEST Payment Application No. 5 in the amount of \$48,041.20 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

8.B. Sewer Financial Report

Total Unrestricted Sewer Funds Balance of \$625,720.

Resolution No. 103 – Motion by Mr. Leyda and seconded by Mr. Williams to accept the sewer financial report for July. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 104 – Motion by Mrs. Jamieson and seconded by Mr. Williams to pay the following bills. The motion passed unanimously.

City of Franklin General Services Fee for July	\$ 18,166.67
Summit Electrical Solutions, LLC for RAS/WAS Upgrade	\$ 32,605.60
Dale Woodard Gent McFate for Sewer General Matters	\$ 227.50
Dale Woodard Gent McFate for A-108 Sewer Project	\$ 75.00
MaherDuessel for 2024 Financial Statement Audit Billing	\$ 1,250.00
The EADS Group for 2025 Engineering	\$ 3,525.34
Anthony Parks for June Meeting	\$ 50.00
The EADS Group for CSO Flow Monitoring	\$ 3,875.00
Svetz Energy Services for Natural Gas Procurement Services for 2025	\$ 1,466.00

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The EADS Group for 2024 WWTP Emergency Generator	\$ 4,468.16
The EADS Group for A-108 Planning S03-21	\$ 38,220.78
Bison Construction, Inc. 2023-S-01 CSO Elimination Project	\$ 148,734.90
Mortimer's Excavating for A-108 Planning S03-21	\$ 109,959.30
Sewer Fund Monthly Invoices for Approval	\$ 34,790.50
Totals:	\$ 397,414.75

Additional items to be reviewed:

Pre-approved invoice and payroll reimbursements to General Fund

Pre-approved payroll for 06/13/25 & 06/27/25

06/30/25 YTD draft budget including a detail of invoices paid and revenue received.

8. Reports

A. Chair's Report:

- Mr. Eckel asked if anyone had questions regarding the audit. Mrs. Jamieson asked if it will be presented. Mrs. Motter said she will contact the auditor to provide a presentation.
- Congratulated Helen Fielding for her journalism award

B. City Manager's Report

- Mr. Wetzel stated that the new tamper and hammer has been received and seems to be working properly. He will proceed with placing the old hammer and tamper for auction on Municibid.
- Asked if the Authority would like to put the old roller up for auction as well. There were no objections.
- Presented a proposed draft of the updated Fee Schedule and provided the current Fee Schedule for comparison. Mr. Leyda feels that the turn on and off fee for water is too low at \$20; he would prefer to change it to \$30. Mr. Wetzel will make the change and present the updated Fee Schedule for approval at next month's meeting.
- Reminded that the City employee picnic is Friday, August 1, 2025 from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Miller-Sibley pavilion.

C. Public Utilities Director's Report:

- Mr. McFadden reported that the new jack hammer for the Case Backhoe was delivered to the Water Network on June 23 and is working well.
- Had a conversation with a representative from PA Rural Water regarding an EPA-issued template for Risk and Resiliency Plan updates. Being unfamiliar with the template, PA Rural Water offered to work with staff to complete and submit to EPA to see how efficient the template is, free of charge. All present Authority members agreed to move forward.
- New hire at the Water Network, Chase Reed.

D. Mapping Update:

- Mr. Gorman is working with Sarah at EADS to make mapping updates as construction continues.
- Continuing to receive signups for the Rave Alert system.

E. Solicitor's Report:

- Mr. Spaid provided an update on Everstream Solution's bankruptcy filing. The filing listed about 200 leases that the company wanted to reject, but decided to remove the one on Moreland Drive from the rejection list. While the Authority will not be paid for any outstanding lease payments that may have been missed since filing for bankruptcy, the Authority should continue to receive regularly scheduled payments moving forward.

10. Executive Session

None

Meetings

The committee meeting scheduled for July 24, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.
The next regular meeting is August 12, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall.

10. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 P.M.



Minutes prepared by T.J. Parks