

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

November 12, 2024

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members in Attendance:

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

Excused: Peter O'Polka

Others in Attendance:

Kurt McFadden, City of Franklin
Devin Hines, Water Treatment Plant
Clint Hoffman, Water Network
Harmony Motter, City of Franklin
Kyle Fritz, The EADS Group
Josh Kalp, The EADS Group
James Wetzel, City of Franklin
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
Donna Fletcher, 827 Elk Street
Michael Gorman, Tech Resources Assistant

3. Adoption of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Leyda to approve the minutes of October 8, 2024 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Citizens' Inquiries – None

6. Water

6.A. Operations/Project Reports

1. Staff Updates

Mr. Hines

- Fencing at 9th Street Plant is finished.
- Drayer Electrical to install another VFD at Coefield Corners
- Barretts Flats pump work scheduled for November 18. Still waiting on flow meter.
- Received a quote from Spats Mechanical for \$34,000 to make the required repairs to the 9th Street check valve as mandated by DEP. The quote includes materials but not labor, which Mr. Hines believes could be done in house. Mr. Hines will determine if there are enough funds in the operating budget to complete the work or if funds will have to come from another account. He expects to begin in mid-January. DEP is requiring the project to be completed by January 20, 2025, but Mr. Kalp feels that DEP will be satisfied as long as the project is started before the deadline.
- Received numerous concerned phone calls regarding the notices that went to residents notifying them of the lead line inventory. Many residents thought the letter was warning them they may have lead waterlines, but Mr. Hines assured that was not the case.

Mr. Hoffman

- Switching service lines on Hazel Street in Rocky Grove.
- Had to make a repair to the new waterline on Bell Avenue.
- Working on curb boxes
- Dale Avenue project is complete except for milling and paving of the parking lot.

2. *EADS Group*

Front Street Waterline and Allegheny Boulevard Waterline

Mr. Kalp announced that advertisements for bids for both the Front Street and Allegheny Boulevard Waterline Projects were published today. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2024 in Suite 204 of the Professional Building. The bid opening is scheduled December 18, 2024 at The EADS Group office in Johnstown, PA. PENNVEST call No. 2 is scheduled for January 14, 2025, followed by the settlement on March 4, 2025. Construction is slated to begin in April 2025.

Dam Removal

Mr. Kalp reported that a \$600,000 Local Share Account (LSA) Grant was awarded. A DCED grant and Growing Greener grant are still under review.

Barretts Flats Water Treatment Plant

Mr. Kalp is working on obtaining costs for demolition of the old plant.

Miller Hill Pump Failure

Mr. Kalp had nothing new to report.

DEP Public Water Supply Permit Amendment

The permit for the new pump at Miller Hill and all bulk water loading stations has been approved.

DEP Notice of Violation Response

Mr. Kalp reported that once the 9th Street check valve is complete, the required corrections described in the violation will be complete.

Reno Water System

Nothing new to report.

Washington Crossing Control Valve

Mr. Kalp is obtaining site access approval.

Wendy Way Tank – LSA Grant Application Submission

Mr. Kalp proposed to submit a Local Share Account (LSA) grant application in the amount of \$1,000,000 to include the replacement of the existing Moreland Drive Water Storage Tank with a new 417,000-gallon water storage tank next to the existing Wendy Way Water Storage Tank. The General Authority will contribute \$357,000 of its own funds towards the project, which will require a signed Funding Commitment Letter.

Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Eckel to approve the submission of the LSA grant application in the amount of \$1,000,000 as described, and to execute the Funding Commitment Letter reflecting the Authority’s contribution of \$357,000 towards the project. The motion passed unanimously.

6. B. Water Financial Report

Total Unrestricted Water Funds Balance is \$702,427. Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Williams to accept the financial report for November. 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 November	\$ 18,166.67
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Water General Matters	\$ 225.00
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Washington Crossing Control Valve Project	\$ 180.00
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Allegheny Blvd. Waterline Project	\$ 12.50
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Water Tower Leases	\$ 50.00
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Sandycreek Township	\$ 10.00
The EADS Group for 2024 Engineering	\$ 1,866.00
The EADS Group for GAC-2024 DEP Nov. Consultation	\$ 2,138.20
Anthony Parks for October Meeting	\$ 50.00
The EADS Group for GACF Front Street Waterline Project	\$ 9,719.99
The EADS Group for Allegheny Blvd. Water Line	\$ 1,790.44
Vincent Excavating & Gravel for Dale Avenue	\$ 2,030.92

Vincent Excavating & Gravel for Dale Avenue	\$ 2,080.74
IA Construction for Dale Avenue	\$ 1,049.43
IA Construction for Dale Avenue	\$ 3,881.91
IA Construction for Dale Avenue	\$ 1,733.74
Water Fund Monthly Invoices for Approval	\$ 70,436.89
Totals:	\$ 115,422.43

Additional items to be reviewed:

Pre-approved invoice and payroll reimbursements to General Fund

Pre-approved payroll for 10/04/24, and 10/18/24

10/31/24 YTD draft budget including a detail of invoices paid and revenue received.

7. Sewer

8.A. Operations/Project Reports

1. Staff

Mr. Bell

- Cleaned and inspected old primary bypass tank.
- Had to make a repair to the chlorine emission system
- Bar screen flights being installed
- Working with Mr. Kalp on testing a new waste pump
- Working with Summit to find the waste controller from Micromod which was lost during an abrupt power outage and became part of the insurance claim.

Mr. Moore

- Had an issue at 864 15th Street that ended up being the homeowner's responsibility, not the backflow preventer as was originally thought.
- Assisting various departments as needed.

2. EADS Group

WWTP

Mr. Kalp is looking into operational modifications at the Wastewater Treatment Plant before proceeding.

He received pricing for the main gate and roughing screen. These costs have been worked into the 2025 budget.

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

A-108 Phase I Sewer Replacement & CSO Elimination Project

Notices of Award were sent to both contractors, Bison Construction and Mortimer’s Excavating.

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Leyda to enter into contract with Bison Construction in the amount of \$9,414,808 for Contract No. 2023-S-1, subject to the solicitor’s review. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Elliss to enter into contract with Mortimer’s Excavating in the amount of \$10,513,895 for Contract No. 2023-S-2, subject to the solicitor’s review. The motion passed unanimously.

At the PENNVEST call on October 15th, it was decided to apply for an additional \$1.5 million to cover the increased construction costs. If the project comes at or under budget, then the additional amount being requested drops off and will only have to repay the originally established principle and interest.

Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Leyda to purchase two (2) properties located on Spring Street, owned by Roy E. Ewing, Jr. and further identified as parcel numbers 10,337.-019.-000 and 10,337.-020.-000 for a total amount of \$8,000. Mr. Freni voted in opposition. The motion to approve passed 5-6.

Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Eckel to authorize the General Authority officials to execute real estate transfer documents in relation to the sale of the aforementioned properties. Mr. Freni voted in opposition. The motion to approve passed 5-6.

7.B. Sewer Financial Report

Total Unrestricted Sewer Funds Balance of \$415,783.

Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Ellis to accept the sewer financial report for November. 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 November	\$ 18,166.67
Dale Woodard Gent McFate for Sewer General Matters	\$ 250.00

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Dale Woodard Gent McFate for A-108 Project	\$ 2,140.50
Dale Woodard Gent McFate for Real Estate Buyer (Ewing, Jr.)	\$ 100.00
The EADS Group for 2024 Engineering	\$ 3,336.00
Anthony Parks for October Meeting	\$ 50.00
The EADS Group for CSO Flow Monitoring	\$ 2,500.00
The EADS Group for WWTP Emergency Generator	\$ 1,266.98
The EADS Group for A-108 Ph 1 Sanitary Sewer Repl. & CSO Elimination	\$ 22,939.44
Roy E. Ewing, Jr. for Parcel 10,337.-019..-000 and 10,337.-020..-000	\$ 8,000.00
Sewer Fund Monthly Invoices for Approval	\$ 9,356.91
Totals:	\$ 71,981.50

Additional items to be reviewed:

Pre-approved invoice and payroll reimbursements to General Fund

Pre-approved payroll for 10/04/24 & 10/18/24

10/31/24 YTD draft budget including a detail of invoices paid and revenue received.

8. Reports

A. Chair's Report:

Mr. Dunkle made all the requested changes to the Source Water Protection Plan, and submitted to DEP for final review.

B. City Manager's Report

- Mr. Wetzel presented the proposed 2025 General Authority meeting dates which shall occur on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 P.M., and the workshop meetings to be held on the fourth Thursday at 10 A.M.
 - Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Ellis to approve the proposed 2025 meeting dates as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- City Council approved the first reading of the budget at their November meeting. This includes the Authority's operating budget.
- Nathan Bell and Mike Moore were promoted to supervisor at the Waste Water Plant and Waste Water Network, respectively.
- PennDOT representatives requested to be at the December City Council meeting to briefly remind them of the plans for the Betterment Project. Mr. Wetzel invited Messrs. Fritz and Kalp if they need clarification on the project as it relates to the A-108 project. Mr. Wetzel reminded everyone that the Betterment Project has been pushed back to 2026.
- Mr. Eckel asked about the boom mower that Sugarcreek Borough had offered to sell to the City as mentioned at the October meeting. Mr. Wetzel replied that the motor was making noise. As a result, Sugarcreek Borough said to make an offer. Jeff Reed, Street Department Supervisor, is looking at the cost of a new motor before making any commitments.
- Mr. Wetzel recommended considering any repairs to lines within the Betterment Project area prior to the project beginning in 2026.

C. Public Utilities Director's Report:

Service line inventory letters went out and residents have been calling concerned they may harmful water lines. Mr. McFadden reiterated that the letters are for the purpose of collecting information only and do not infer that residents have lead or galvanized waterlines.

D. Mapping Update:

- Mr. Gorman completed mapping out the new waterlines at Dale Avenue.
- He is setting up new computers for various staff at the Water and Waste Water departments.
- Mr. Eckel suggested making the Rave Alert signup easier to find on the City's website.

E. Solicitor's Report:

- Mr. Spaid reported that all Easement Agreements have been signed; however, a property owner was hesitant to sign at first and was served with a Declaration of Taking. Upon receipt of this notice, the property owner met with Mr. Spaid and signed the Easement Agreement. A Declaration of Relinquishment will now need to be filed in order to remove the Declaration of Taking.
- Mr. Spaid presented a sales agreement and deed to be executed for the purchase of the Roy Ewing properties.
- The PENNVEST engagement letter will be presented to the Authority at the December meeting.
- The Sandycreek Water Agreement for the Allegheny Boulevard project and the Uniontown Heights Sewer Agreement will hopefully be ready next month as well.
- Will review the Bison and Mortimer contracts for the A-108 project.

- Will work on letters to landowners regarding the cell tower lease.

9. Executive Session

There was no need for an Executive Session.

Meetings

The next committee meeting is canceled.

The next regular meeting is December 10, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at 150 Prospect Avenue.

10. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 P.M.



Minutes prepared by T.J. Parks