

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

November 14, 2023

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  
Peter O'Polka  
Jody Freni

Excused:

Caleb Williams  
Timothy Dunkle

Others in Attendance:

Kurt McFadden, City of Franklin  
Scott Stoltenberg, Water Network  
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  
Alex Spaid, Dale Woodard Gent McFate  
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary  
Helen Fielding, The Derick  
Donna Fletcher, 827 Elk Street

3. Adoption of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Leyda to approve the minutes of October 10, 2023 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Citizens' Inquiries – None

6. Water

6.A. Operations/Project Reports

1. Staff

**Mr. Stoltenberg**

- Three service and mainline leaks have been fixed.
- Discussion ensued regarding relocating the fire hydrant on Allegheny Boulevard that is currently located in front of the Pepsi warehouse to the water main across the road. The valve connecting the waterline to the hydrant is leaking and will need to be replaced. Moving it across the street will avoid digging into the new sidewalk that was installed as part of the Route 8 Multimodal Recreational Trail Project and would be of better service for a potential fire at the Pepsi plant. Mr. Leyda expressed concern about relying on a mere 4 inch pipe to feed the hydrant from across the road, to which Mr. Eckel responded that it has been done in the past without any issues. Mr. Wetzel affirmed Mr. Eckel's response and said that the 4 inch pipe would be a temporary fix until the new waterline planned for Allegheny Boulevard was installed.

- Motion by Mr. Freni and seconded by Mr. O'Polka to relocate the fire hydrant across the road and make any necessary repairs to relocate the hydrant. The motion passed unanimously.

**Mr. McFadden**

- Plumbing updates were completed at the Oak Hill booster station.
- A check valve at the 7<sup>th</sup> Street booster station needs replaced. A new one has been ordered.
- The Kenworth truck was built on November 5<sup>th</sup> and will be a 2024 model.
- The F550 truck is expected to be delivered at the end of November.
- Groff Tractor completed warranty repairs to the Case backhoe.

2. *EADS Group*

**Front Street Waterline and Allegheny Boulevard Waterline**

Mr. Kalp reported that the PENNVEST application, in the amount of \$3,680,000, was submitted on October 19, 2023. Additional information was submitted today, but he is still waiting for a response from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

**Dam Removal**

Mr. Kalp informed that the Local Share Account (LSA) grant application for \$952,520 is currently being reviewed by the City and General Authority. It is due for submission on November 30, 2023. A meeting with USG was held on October 6 to get a cost estimate to clean out the drain pipes.

**15<sup>th</sup> Street Pump Station**

Mr. Fritz announced that the new pump station is scheduled to be delivered on November 22. The following were submitted for approval:

- Change Order No. 2 which would increase the contract amount by \$19,870 and includes work to demo the existing pump station and cap off water lines;
- Terra Works, Inc. Payment Application No. 4 in the amount of \$250,466;

Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. O'Polka to approve Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$19,870 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. O'Polka and seconded by Mr. Leyda to approve Terra Works, Inc. Payment Application No. 4 in the amount of \$250,466. The motion passed unanimously.

**Miller Hill Waterline**

Mr. Fritz reported that Mortimer's scope of work has been determined to be substantially complete as of August 18 with only a few punch list items remaining; \$15,000 retainage is being withheld until all punch items are completed satisfactorily. The following were submitted for approval:

- Mortimer's Excavating Payment Application No. 8 in the amount of \$90,818.20;
- Certificate of Substantial Completion for Mortimer's Excavating, Inc., with a substantially complete date of August 18, 2023.

Motion by Mr. O’Polka and seconded by Mr. Ellis to approve Mortimer’s Excavating Payment Application No. 8 in the amount of \$90,818.20. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. O’Polka to approve the Certificate of Substantial Completion for Mortimer’s Excavating, dated August 18, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fritz then provided a breakdown of the contract amount as follows:

- Current contract amount, including all change orders - \$1,386,026
- Installed to date - \$1,266,019 (\$726,594.64 – Water; \$175,004.22 – Sewer; \$364,420.14 – City)
- Remaining budget \$120,007

*6. B. Water Financial Report*

Total Unrestricted Water Funds Balance is \$1,130,961. Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Freni to accept the financial report for November. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by O’Polka to pay the following bills. Motion passed unanimously.

City of Franklin General Services Fee for October	\$ 18,166.67
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Water General Matters	\$ 160.00
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Allegheny Blvd. Water Line Project	\$ 340.00
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Inclined Conveyor Damage Claim	\$ 10.00
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for PFAS Contamination Class Action Settlement	\$ 180.00
The EADS Group for 2023 Engineering	\$ 150.00
Anthony Parks for October Meeting	\$ 50.00

The EADS Group for 15 <sup>th</sup> Street Pump Station	\$ 867.74
Terra Works for 15 <sup>th</sup> Street Pump Station	\$ 250,466.00
Mortimer’s Excavating for 15 <sup>th</sup> Street Pump Station	\$ 90,818.20
The EADS Group for GACF Allegheny Blvd. Water Line	\$ 10,823.10
Water Fund Monthly Invoices for Approval	\$ 21,818.63
Totals:	\$ 393,850.34

Additional items to be reviewed:

Pre-approved invoice and payroll reimbursements to General Fund

Pre-approved payroll for 10/6/23 and 10/20/23

10/31/23 YTD draft budget including a detail of invoices paid and revenue received.

7. Sewer

7.A. Operations/Project Reports

1. Staff

**Mr. Brown**

- The primary tank baffle that collapsed is fixed with no damage to the drive unit.
- The new SCADA PC was installed and is running properly.
- There is a water leak but not sure of its exact location. It may require digging into the cement in the garage or the control building. This water line feeds the boiler.
- Mr. Brown presented quotes received in September to repair one of the two RAS pumps. The 2 RAS pumps and the 1 WAS pump are now obsolete and availability for replacement parts is limited. The pumps are currently acting as a backup. Estimated cost for the repair is \$21,000 and the parts are at least 6 weeks out.
  - Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Freni to make necessary repairs to the pump provided that the parts are available. It was also requested that Mr. Brown seek quotes on replacing them with new for future budget purposes.

**Mr. Moore**

Still has not received any information on the new sewer jet.

2. EADS Group

**WWTP**

Mr. Kalp stated that he made additional testing and adjustments to the influent pumps on September 19<sup>th</sup>. He is waiting for a storm event to be able to adequately verify their performance.

The clarifier baffle was repaired by Whalen Contracting, and the digester will need to be cleaned in the spring.

**A-108 Phase I Sewer Replacement & CSO Elimination Project**

Mr. Fritz reported that he received a second round of comments from the Venango County Conservation District regarding the E&S and NPDES permits. DEP Part II permit is ready for the Authority's approval to submit. Mr. Fritz added that the permit must be approved by DEP before it can be submitted to PENNVEST. He does not anticipate it being ready for the February 2024 application deadline so he is striving for May 2024 to receive a response by July 2024. The drawings are permit ready but not bid ready.

Motion by Mr. O'Polka and seconded by Mr. Ellis to submit DEP Part II as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

7.B. Sewer Financial Report

Total Unrestricted Sewer Funds Balance of (\$336,597).

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

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

City of Franklin General Services Fee for October	\$ 18,166.67
Dale Woodard Gent McFate for Sewer General Matters	\$ 160.00
The EADS Group for 2023 Engineering	\$ 750.00
Anthony Parks for October meeting	\$ 50.00
The EADS Group for Flow Monitoring 5 CSO Sites	\$ 3,875.00
The EADS Group for A-108 Planning S03-21	\$ 18,588.79

Sewer Fund Monthly Invoices for Approval	\$ 7,339.13
Labor and Materials to Repair Clarifier Baffles	\$ 8,911.00
Totals:	\$ 57,840.59

Additional items to be reviewed:

Pre-approved invoice and payroll reimbursements to General Fund

Pre-approved payroll for 10/6/23 and 10/20/23

10/31/23 YTD draft budget including a detail of invoices paid and revenue received.

8. Reports

A. Chair's Report:

In Mr. Dunkle's absence, Mr. Eckel advised the Authority to look over the 2024 Budget carefully and noted the proposed cost increase for water and sewer services. It will be presented at the December meeting for action.

B. City Manager's Report:

- Mrs. Jamieson presented the only quote received for a three year sludge removal contract from Tri-County Industries. The current price per ton is \$73. Tri-County's bid included a cost increase over the three year contract period, starting at \$116 per ton in 2024, and increasing to \$119 per ton and \$122 per ton in years 2025 and 2026 respectively.
  - Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. O'Polka to accept the bid from Tri-County Industries as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- Requested time in Executive Session for the purposes of negotiations and potential litigation.

C. Public Utilities Director's Report:

Mr. McFadden reported that the operator from PA Aqua was in town last week to take samples from Barrett Flats and 9<sup>th</sup> Street water plants, and informed that they have started the right of way process with PennDOT to connect the Village of Reno to the Franklin Water System.

D. Mapping Update:

- Mr. Gorman is working to promote sign-ups for the Rave Alert program and would like to train additional staff to set up alerts.
- Became a certified Permit Technician through the International Code Council.

E. Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Spaid requested time in Executive Session for the purposes of litigation and negotiations.

9. Executive Session

The Authority entered into Executive Session at 7:15 P.M, which ended at 7:50 P.M.

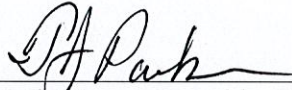
Meetings

Motion was made by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. O'Polka to cancel the next committee meeting, scheduled for November 16, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting is December 12, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall.

10. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 P.M.



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Minutes prepared by T.J. Parks