



# CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Monday, July 29, 2024 at 5:00 PM

1 Benjamin Franklin Way Franklin, Ohio 45005

[www.FranklinOhio.org](http://www.FranklinOhio.org)

## CLERK'S JOURNAL

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Matt Wilcher called the meeting to order at 5:59pm.

### 2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairman Matt Wilcher

Denny Centers

Paul Ruppert

Mr. Westendorf, Mr. Inman, Mr. Conway, Ms. Steed, Mr. Miller, Ms. Dunn were also present. There was one guest in attendance.

### 3. APPROVE THE CLERK'S JOURNAL AND ACCEPT THE TAPES AS THE OFFICIAL MINUTES

A. November 7, 2022

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Centers.

Voting Yea: Chairman Wilcher, Centers, Ruppert

Motion passed.

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Automatic Meter Reading Project

Mr. Inman gave an update on the project. Current meters are being tested. Mr. Inman presented meters for replacement. All meters proposed have a 20-year warranty. Current meters had a 10-year warranty and have been in place for 15 years. There are 5,136 meters to be replaced.

The accurate benefit summary estimated that we are losing \$250,000 per year due to accuracy of the current water meters. The total meter benefit over 20 years is projected at \$8.8 million.

A loan for the meters would be \$600,000 per year. Staff reported that we cannot afford this project at this time. Mr. Inman proposed using upcoming tap fees to save for this project.

The lead project developer with Johnson Controls was in attendance. The committee was in favor of the project but said it was cost prohibitive. The developer said he would look into some creative options to help with the financing. There are grant options that the developer can explore to reduce costs by up to \$1 million. The committee didn't see how it was possible to move forward at this point. If we do not move forward, there will be \$235,000 in engineering fees that will be paid.

B. Downtown Development

Mr. Westendorf gave an update on the Downtown Development project. It was anticipated that Second Street and Main would open the following week and that Main Street, between Third and Fourth Street, would open by the end of the current week. Water and storm work was complete from Sixth to First Street. The focus was shifting to Fourth Street, which will necessitate some closures.

Crane assembly was scheduled to begin following National Night Out at Community Park for the ground level storage tank. This will cause some closures at the park entrance.

These upgrades need to be linked. The next phase of water main replacement will occur on Sixth, Fifth, Fourth, Third, Riley & Anderson Streets. The cost is \$2.9 million, \$950,000 of that is funded by Congressman Landsman, and the remaining \$1.95 million will be funded through a loan awarded in April. The loan payment is \$100,000 per year for 25 years, paid out of the water fund. The project could potentially start in March 2025. It will begin on Sixth Street, with several months of construction.

The RAISE grant application will be open October 15 through January 13. This grant period will still be under Biden's Justice 40 initiative, which could mean no local match for the project. Changes will need to occur to this application due to the progression of projects. Staff and the grant writing team will apply feedback that will be received from the Department of Transportation on last year's application.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Centers, Seconded by Ruppert.  
Voting Yea: Chairman Wilcher, Centers, Ruppert  
Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:55pm

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Matt Wilcher, Chair