



PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, July 21, 2025 at 4:30 PM

1 Benjamin Franklin Way Franklin, Ohio 45005

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CLERK'S JOURNAL

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Denny Centers called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairman Denny Centers

Matt Wilcher

Paul Ruppert

Staff: Mr. Westendorf, Ms. Steed, Ms. Trice, Ms. Dunn, Mr. Miller, Mr. Damian

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

A. April 17, 2025

Motion made by Wilcher, Seconded by Chairman Centers.

Voting Yea: Chairman Centers, Wilcher

Voting Abstaining: Ruppert

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Franklin Area Wastewater Treatment Plant

Since 1995, Veolia Water has owned and operated the Franklin Area Wastewater Treatment Plant under a long-term agreement with the City. That agreement was renegotiated in 2015 and is set to expire at the end of this year (2025). At that time, ownership of the plant will formally transfer to the Cities of Franklin, Germantown, and Carlisle. The current operating structure—through the Franklin Regional Wastewater Treatment Corporation—was established as a non-profit corporation under an Intergovernmental Agreement, but not as a governmental entity. As a result, the Corporation has not qualified for State or Federal funding opportunities. Recent capital improvements at the plant were financed through a bond issued by the Warren County Port Authority. In order to qualify for future public funding and ensure long-term sustainability of the wastewater facilities, the participating municipalities must create a new governmental entity via a Joint Venture Agreement. While the existing Corporation will remain in place until the outstanding bonds are satisfied, a new entity—the Great Miami Wastewater Authority—is being created through the Second Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement. This new Agreement outlines the framework for the continued collaboration between the Cities while enabling access to public funding.

The Committee was in favor of recommending the agreement to Council.

B. Tree City USA

During the RAISE/BUILD grant process, it was found that the City could received up to \$100,000 in a federal grant for trees. We are one of two communities in Ohio that are not designated as Tree City USA. The cost to participate is an expenditure of \$2 per capita, per year, an Arbor Day event, and planting at least one tree a year. This could be the last year that we could enter to receive the grant funds. An Ordinance would also need to be passed.

The committee was in favor of moving forward with the process and grant application.

Ms. Trice and Mr. Inman also gave an update on the Water Meter upgrade process. September is the target date for the project to begin.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Ruppert, Seconded by Wilcher.

Voting Yea: Chairman Centers, Wilcher, Ruppert

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:02pm.

Chair