NEW FRANKLIN MAYOR INTRODUCES WATER PROJECT FOR PORTIONS OF CITY

NEW FRANKLIN, OH-

The 25-square mile City of New Franklin is home to nearly 15,000 residents. There is presently no water service anywhere in the city, and Mayor Paul Adamson is hoping to change this in order to improve environmental issues, infrastructure, and business opportunities.

Currently, New Franklin businesses and residents are served by wells and very limited sanitary sewer service. The vast majority of city businesses and residents rely on septic systems for waste disposal. Recent studies indicated less than 1% of the land in the city has soils which are suited for septic. As a result, long term degradation of current water sources is a real concern. In addition, some areas of the City are still in EPA remediation as the result of a benzene contamination issue several years ago.

Aqua Ohio Inc. (AQUA) has an agreement with the City for provision of water services to New Franklin. Currently there are AQUA lines in the City of Green, which borders New Franklin. To initiate the regionalization of service by extending those lines into New Franklin, making water available in the future to our citizens as an alternative to wells, and to bring water to numerous businesses presently designated as Public Water Systems (PWS’s) which currently require periodic EPA quality testing, New Franklin has agreed to cooperate with AQUA in the infrastructure costs necessary for those purposes.

According to Mayor Adamson, the initial project will involve extension of the AQUA lines along South Main Street to West Caston Road, west to Coleman Drive, north to Catalina Drive, west to Renninger Road, north to State Route 93 (Manchester Road), then north and south on S.R. 93 approximately 1 ½ miles. This line will not only provide direct access to the thirteen PWS’s, it will also pass directly through high density residential neighborhoods and provide the framework for eventual extension of service to the most densely populated areas of the City. Summit County has announced plans for the extension of sanitary sewer to these same neighborhoods and the availability of water service could also reduce the monthly fees for the sewer services.

“This project will open the door to water service in the City of New Franklin, advance regionalization in the area, and eliminate thirteen Public Water Systems, setting the stage for future expansion to eliminate all remaining Public Water Systems,” states Adamson. “It is important to emphasize that the decision to become water customers and bear
whatever expense may be involved will be entirely voluntary for residents and businesses. There will be no involuntary assessments and no mandatory tie-in requirements,” he emphasizes.

Initial inquiries have indicated a strong interest in water service from both businesses and residents. To meet those needs New Franklin will participate with AQUA in an application for funding through the Ohio EPA’s Drinking Water Assistance Fund. The application is due March 2nd and a final decision is anticipated by July of this year. If successful, construction would begin in late 2020 / early 2021 and service should be available in the initial areas by Summer 2021. Specific information regarding costs to tie-in and obtain water service will be made available once initial installation costs are determined and the decision on the funding application is received.

“We are excited to finally bring the opportunity for water service to the businesses and residents of New Franklin, and we are hopeful our application to the Ohio EPA will be well received,” Adamson adds. Inquiries in this regard may be directed to the City Administration Department at (330) 882-4324 or directly to Mayor Adamson by email to mayor@newfranklin.org.

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