

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
ISLE OF PALMS WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
JULY 19, 2023

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Agenda was posted on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at City Hall, the Commission Office, and provided to *The Post and Courier*. The meeting was held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at the Commission Office, 1300 Palm Boulevard on the Isle of Palms, SC.

Attending were Chairman Jay Leigh, Vice Chairman Bob Hooper, Secretary Donald Smith, Commissioner Curtis Helfrich, PE, Commissioner Jeff Forslund, General Manager Chris Jordan, Special Projects Administrator Bill Jenkins, Comptroller Helena Stickles, CPA, Operations Manager Shorty Meade, Engineer Mark Yodice, and Attorney Jennifer Blumenthal.

Secretary Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of June 21, 2023. Commissioner Forslund seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman Hooper made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular Commission meeting on June 21, 2023. Commissioner Forslund seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

As there were no citizens present, Chairman Leigh dispensed with the reading of the Chairman's Statement.

Special Projects Administrator Jenkins began the Manager's Report with an update on the capital projects. Ruby-Collins, Inc. is working on the biofilter pad and piping in the wet well at the Wild Dunes Pump Station. Dunright Services will be in this week to coat the wet well and manhole structure with a protective coating. The roofing system at the Forest Trails Biosolids building has been installed. Work on the truss systems at the operations building is happening now, and piping work and control systems are also being installed. He reported that the work is on schedule.

Special Projects Administrator Jenkins shared that staff is working with DHEC on the permits for the R/O Concentrate Line.

He added that two customers will be extending the collection systems in the areas of 5th and 6th Avenues.

General Manager Jordan reported that the lead time on the electrical systems has not changed, and the systems are still expected to arrive in late August. He said that flows were busy as anticipated through the July 4th weekend. He reported that 398 customers have signed up for the customer portal to monitor their water flows.

Comptroller Stickles delivered the Financial Report. She stated that the balance in the bond account is \$15,640.00, which is after a transfer in of \$550,000.00 to make payments to Ruby-Collins, Inc., Thomas & Hutton, S&ME, and Pinnacle Construction & Directional Boring.

She stated that the Commission received checks from the City of Isle of Palms for an overpayment in the amount of \$175.00 and AT&T for tower rental in the amount of \$28,930.00. Ruby-Collins, Inc. has been paid the fifth and sixth installments for the Wild Dunes Pump Station in the amounts of \$124,000.00 and \$202,000.00, respectively, contributing to the decrease in operating cash. The semi-annual debt service payment was also made in June 2023.

The Commission earned approximately \$41,000.00 in interest in June 2023.

Revenues were \$178,000.00 over budget, and expenses were \$447,493.00 over budget, resulting in a negative net revenue of \$269,000.00. She said that overall this year, the Commission is in the positive by \$1.5 million.

General Manager Jordan said that he will follow up regarding the monies to be awarded from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant.

There was no Correspondence.

Under New Business, Chairman Leigh thanked Chief Oliverius and Fire Marshall Stafford for attending a meeting with him and residents of Goat Island. Chief Oliverius said that he will be putting the action items from that meeting, specifically, information about residential fire sprinkler systems and water supply systems, in writing to that community in attempt to create more awareness regarding fire protection. He thanked Chairman Leigh for his attendance at the meeting. Chairman Leigh noted that Goat Island residents are not interested in any additional services at this time. Mr. Yodice suggested that they may want to apply for an RIA grant.

General Manager Jordan thanked Director Kerr for the information he provided from the State's building codes to assist in the draft of the policy regarding dual-purpose fire systems. He explained that this draft is mirrored after other utilities' policies, and Attorney Blumenthal has reviewed it.

Attorney Blumenthal said that she added language at the end of the policy regarding releasing the Commission from any liability where these systems are concerned in the event of water being shut off due to non-payment. She does not think that having the homeowner who installs the system sign a release would be enforceable when that owner no longer resides at the property, and it is not feasible to have future owners sign a release.

General Manager Jordan added, "Allowing the dual-purpose system, it mirrors the existing dedicated fire line to where the homeowner, the engineer, or fire sprinkler designer is the one who designs the system and tells us what size service they need. So, there is no liability on us for sizing anything. I think it gets the Water & Sewer Commission what we need and the City and the Fire Department what you all need to allow these systems."

Commissioner Helfrich made a motion to approve the draft policy as presented, and Secretary Smith seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Hooper expressed concern about a homeowner retrofitting his own house for such a system without getting a permit. Attorney Blumenthal pointed out that it would be a homeowner's liability if something happened because he or she installed a system without a permit.

A vote was taken, with all in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Helfrich mentioned a recent article that stated 45% of water systems have "forever chemicals" in them. General Manager Jordan replied that acceptable limits for these chemicals have not been set yet. Secretary Smith added that some utilities that had been selling their dried sludge are no longer doing so due to the presence of these chemicals.

Director Kerr reported that the City's Environmental Advisory Committee is considering asking the Commission to allow it to plant a temporary garden display of native plants and grasses at the property at 7th Avenue and Palm Boulevard. The Committee hopes to encourage more use of these native plantings across the island. He said that the matter is still being discussed, but he believes it will be a small area (400 square feet), which will be there only for a couple of years. Attorney Blumenthal suggested a temporary lease agreement could be executed to release the Commission of any liability, should damage be done to the plantings.

Vice Chairman Hooper made a motion to adjourn. Secretary Smith seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.



Jay D. Leigh, Chairman

8-16-23

Date