

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
ISLE OF PALMS WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
MARCH 19, 2025

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Agenda was posted on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at City Hall, the Commission Office, and provided to *The Post and Courier*. The meeting was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at the Commission Office, 1300 Palm Boulevard on the Isle of Palms, SC.

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

Chairman Hooper called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

As there were no corrections offered to the minutes of the Finance Committee or regular meetings from February 19, 2025, the minutes were approved as presented.

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

General Manager Jordan began the Manager's Report by stating that the contractor's work at the Forest Trails/Wild Dunes plant is nearly done. When the punch list items are completed, staff will pursue final reimbursement for the grant. Similarly, the R/O Concentrate Line Extension project is also being closed out, and staff is applying for reimbursement.

Eadie's Construction is installing the discharge line at the intersection of Waterway Boulevard and 41st Avenue. Temporary road closures are anticipated.

Advertisements for bids for the Sewer Basin N project were placed in *The Post and Courier* over the weekend. Bids will be opened on May 6, 2025.

Demolition of the Wild Dunes plant should be completed by the end of March.

The installation of the sewer system at 605 and 608 Carolina Boulevard is now complete.

Comptroller Stickles delivered the Financial Report. She reported that the balance of the bond series checking account is \$633.96, following transfers totaling \$24,500.00 and the payment of two checks in February. The Commission received a \$26,450.00 check from Verizon for the annual tower rental.

Investments earned \$9,856.00 last month at a rate of 4.5%.

She noted that the grants now appear as received on the balance sheet as required. The grants have not yet been received but must appear as if they have been.

Revenues for February 2025 were \$37,679.00 under budget, and expenses were \$83,201.00 under budget, resulting in a positive net revenue of \$46,145.00. Year-to-date revenues are \$130,000.00 better than this time last year.

Under Old Business, General Manager Jordan reported that he and Ms. Tucker, along with the City's Administration Committee, interviewed two federal lobbyist firms. The Isle of Palms City Council will vote on the selection of Thorn Run Partners at their March 25 meeting. The \$96,000.00 cost will be split between the City and the Commission the first year and then revisited based upon the amount received in grants. Director Kerr stated that the lobbyist anticipates a 10:1 return after two years.

General Manager Jordan reminded the Commissioners to complete their ethics filing by the end of the month.

Chairman Hooper clarified that the separate committees do not need to have actual meetings once a year. Committee chairs only need to communicate with the appropriate staff member as to whether a meeting is needed.

Engineer Yodice presented Thomas & Hutton's plan for Sewer Basin N. He said that the funds awarded for the project by the SCIIIP grant must be spent by July 2026. He reviewed the project status and schedule. He confirmed that all permits are in hand. He anticipates presenting the recommended bid to the Commissioners at their May meeting after bids are opened on May 6. The goal would be to issue a Notice to Proceed by June 23, allowing a year for the project to be completed. He will be meeting with the City to discuss its drainage project along Palm Boulevard and coordinate work where possible. The project's small pump station will have a wooden fence surrounding it. All neighbors have been notified, and odor control will be installed while being built. Engineer Yodice also explained the criteria for road cuts.

General Manager Jordan added that per the grinder pump agreement, customers will need to tie into the new gravity system within 90 days of the project's completion. This affects about 14 homes.

Commissioner Leigh made a motion to name the new plant after former Commission Chairman Dana Love. Commissioner Helfrich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Love responded that he and his wife are honored by this gesture. General Manager Jordan will have a plaque made and suggest ideas for its placement to the Commissioners.

Discussion ensued regarding the proper extent of notification and publicity needed for the project at Sewer Basin N. Chairman Hooper asked General Manager Jordan to bring ideas to the Commission's next meeting.

Vice Chairman Forslund made a motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with SC Section 30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss negotiations incident to a proposed contractual arrangement for the lease of land. Commissioner Helfrich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission went into Executive Session at 8:54 a.m.

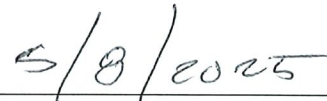
The Commission returned from Executive Session at 9:22 a.m. Chairman Hooper stated that no action was taken.

Secretary Smith made a motion to authorize the General Manager to prepare an RFP for the proposed lease of the former Wild Dunes Wastewater Treatment Plant land to be used for parking or other permitted uses with the advice and review of legal counsel and the advice of tax counsel. Vice Chairman Forslund seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Helfrich made a motion to adjourn. Secretary Smith seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.



Robert W. Hooper Jr., Chairman



Date