

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
ISLE OF PALMS WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
JULY 16, 2025

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Agenda was posted on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at City Hall, the Commission Office, and provided to *The Post and Courier*. The meeting was held on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at the Commission Office, 1300 Palm Boulevard on the Isle of Palms, SC.

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

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

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

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

Special Projects Administrator Jenkins began the Manager's Report. He said that Ruby-Collins, Inc., and MR Systems have resolved the SCADA issue at the new water plant. There is still one alarm issue to be addressed.

The work at the Forest Trails Effluent Discharge outfall is now complete, and the project is operational. Final payment has been issued to Eadie's Construction. The Commission is awaiting SCIP reimbursement.

The project at Sewer Basin N was rebid at a reduced scope. Eadie's Construction submitted the only bid, which is approximately \$7.3 million. Staff has spoken with RIA about additional funding for the project, but a definitive answer cannot be provided at this time.

Thomas & Hutton has completed the survey portion of the Duneridge Lane water main replacement project. Thomas & Hutton is working on plans that staff hopes to review in several weeks.

General Manager Jordan stated that all other operations are normal.

Comptroller Stickles delivered the Financial Report. She said that there has been no activity in the bond series checking account. The balance remains at \$247.15. The Commission received a check from AT&T in the amount of \$28,930.00 for tower rental.

On July 7, 2025, the Commission received the final FEMA grant money reimbursement for the consolidation of the Forest Trails Wastewater Treatment Plant. The total grant money received was \$4,357,472.85. General Manager Jordan thanked Ms. Tucker for assistance in procuring the final payment.

Commission deposits earned \$10,511.00 at an interest rate of 4.6% last month.

Revenues were over by \$336,000.00 in June, which was anticipated. Expenses were \$184,000.00 over budget, resulting in a positive net revenue of \$151,000.00. Year-to-date revenues are outperforming last year by approximately \$225,000.00.

General Manager Jordan reported that staff has submitted a request to RIA for additional funding for the Sewer Basin N project. He said that there is some concern about the ability to satisfy the requirement of project completion by June 2026. He said, "The original grant was for just roughly \$4.5 million, and we've requested for just a little bit under 8 [million] total funding. Now, that is for all three of the projects. We've already been reimbursed for the R/O concentrate line. We are getting ready to submit reimbursement for the Forest Trails Effluent Outfall Line."

If the Commission is not granted additional funds, the project will not go forward without a different direction from the Commissioners. Should the Commission receive positive news about additional funding, a special meeting may be called to vote on the matter.

Commissioner Leigh made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the agreement with Thorn Run Partners. Commissioner Helfrich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission went into Executive Session at 8:21 a.m.

The Commission returned from Executive Session at 8:30 a.m. Vice Chairman Forslund stated that no decisions were made.

Vice Chairman Forslund mentioned a recent conversation with former Isle of Palms Mayor Jimmy Carroll about the Plant-A-Palm project for the municipal parking lot. The City will have more trees than the lot can accommodate and is inquiring if the Commission would like the surplus trees planted on the triangle lot at 7th Avenue. The matter will be discussed further at the August meeting.

Commissioner Leigh made a motion to approve the contract with Thorn Run Partners for lobbying services. Commissioner Helfrich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners briefly discussed processing PFAS in the water.

Commissioner Leigh made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Helfrich seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 a.m.



Jeffery A. Forslund, Vice Chairman

Aug 20 2025
Date