

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION  
ISLE OF PALMS WATER & SEWER COMMISSION  
AUGUST 16, 2023

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In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Agenda was posted on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at City Hall, the Commission Office, and provided to *The Post and Courier*. The meeting was held on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at the Commission Office, 1300 Palm Boulevard on the Isle of Palms, SC.

Attending were Chairman Jay Leigh, Vice Chairman Bob Hooper, 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 Donald Smith was absent.

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

Commissioner Forslund made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular Commission meeting on July 19, 2023. Vice Chairman Hooper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

As there were citizens present, Chairman Leigh read the Chairman's Statement.

Attorney William Smoak and John Holden spoke briefly to the Commissioners about their interest in purchasing and developing Little Goat Island. They are not clear on their plans to develop the island but wanted to come before the Commission as part of their due diligence prior to any purchase. They are exploring options to see if the purchase and development is feasible, as it will likely cost over \$800,000.00 to bring water and sewer to the island. Chairman Leigh asked them to keep the Commission apprised of their plans.

Special Projects Administrator Jenkins began the Manager's Report. He said that Ruby-Collins, Inc. has been working on the foundations of the electrical building and the biofilter at the Wild Dunes Pump Station. The wet well is complete, and all the piping is in place. Force mains still need to be connected to the system to allow the new pump station to pump sewer from Wild Dunes to Forest Trails.

The Forest Trails Plant Consolidation project remains on schedule. The electrical equipment should arrive around August 25. Painting and electrical work continues inside the building.

The Army Corps of Engineers has approved the permit for the R/O concentrate line. DHEC is reviewing the plans for the project.

The City's stormwater project at 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue will resume after Labor Day, causing the closing of a section of Waterway Blvd and creating a detour. The project at 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue is out for bid. This project is being paid for by the SC Office of Resiliency.

The Commission signed a task order with Thomas & Hutton to develop sewer basin N, which is from 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue, including Palm Blvd, Cameron Blvd, and a small part of Hartnett Blvd. Another task order was signed for the replacement and upgrade for the outfall for Forest Trails. Thomas & Hutton will try to coordinate this work with the City's project at 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

Special Projects Administrator Jenkins reported that he is building a new Commission website that he hopes will go live by the end of the month. He believes that the new site will allow staff to post new information easily.

He continues to work on the lead service line inventory. He reported that the State is issuing a check for \$38,000.00 due to the lightning strike.

Comptroller Stickles delivered the Financial Report. She stated that the balance of the revenue bond account is \$23,409.25 after a \$700,000.00 transfer from the checking account to cover four checks totaling \$692,231.63 last month.

Operating cash increased by \$78,000.00 in July 2023. The Commission earned \$41,888.00 in interest at approximately 5.39% last month.

July revenues were \$209,000.00 over budget, and expenditures were \$19,690.00 over budget, resulting in a positive \$229,000.00 net revenue. She noted that all expenses are up due to inflation.

General Manager Jordan will be making calls to FEMA regarding the grant money.

Chairman Leigh shared that island resident Larry Barrett sends his thanks to staff for their help with a recent leak at his home.

General Manager Jordan referenced two pieces of correspondence from the Boy Scouts of America and the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

Director Kerr reported that no further conversation has occurred within the Environmental Advisory Committee regarding a native plants garden on the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue lot. He said that committee members are still formulating their plan.

Vice Chairman Hooper discussed a recent article, which revealed that Zoom's new user agreement states that Zoom owns anything that happens on its platform.

Vice Chairman Hooper made a motion to stop using Zoom and only use telephonic call-ins for future Commission meetings. Commissioner Helfrich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman Hooper made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Forslund seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 a.m.

  
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Jay D. Leigh, Chairman

5-20-23  
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Date