

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
ISLE OF PALMS WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 15, 2023

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Agenda was posted on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at City Hall, the Commission Office, and provided to *The Post and Courier*. The meeting was held on Wednesday, November 15, 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, Operations Manager Shorty Meade, Special Projects Administrator Bill Jenkins, Comptroller Helena Stickles, CPA, Engineer Mark Yodice, and Attorney Jennifer Blumenthal. General Manager Chris Jordan and Engineer Mark Yodice were absent.

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

Vice Chairman Bob Hooper made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular Commission meeting of October 18, 2023. Commissioner Forslund seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

As there was a citizen present, Chairman Leigh read the Chairman's Statement.

Mr. James Raih, of 3904 Cameron Boulevard, expressed concern about the new pump station at the end of 40th Avenue and Cameron Boulevard. He said that the driveway has been used for boat parking for many years. He asked if the Wild Dunes golf course gets free water. Special Projects Administrator Jenkins said that the Commission is under an agreement "for them to take the wastewater from our treatment plant in exchange for well water when they need it." Mr. Raih would like to see the Commission seek grant money to study abandoned septic tanks. He asked about the master plan for the old treatment plant. He believes the space is good for boat and RV storage and that this could be a source of income for the Commission to help keep rates down.

Special Projects Administrator Jenkins began the Manager's Report. He said that all the interior piping at the Wild Dunes Pump Station has been done, and contractors are currently working on the exterior piping. The roofing system at the Forest Trails Plant is being installed on the process building and should be completed today. Basins are being covered and coated. Electrical work is ongoing, and the equipment is being installed. The project is still on schedule, but teams are working weekends to catch up.

Staff is still waiting for the permit from SCDHEC for the R/O Concentrate Line Extension. The Phase 3 Stormwater project is on hold until after Thanksgiving. The water main had to be offset for the pipes to be installed. It was lowered approximately one foot.

Plans for the Forest Trails Effluent Discharge Upgrade are in progress right now. Staff members are speaking with the City about providing some penetrations in the outfall structure for the line.

Thomas & Hutton's surveying group is completing the survey of Sewer Basin N. The Commission is in negotiations with the Beach Company for a quick claim for the parcel off Cameron Boulevard. Staff asked Thomas & Hutton to provide a conceptual drawing of the pump station so that Special Projects Administrator Jenkins can speak to the customers in that area. It will have a 25' x 25' footprint. There will be no generator within this footprint, but one will be provided should it be needed. Landscaping and a driveway will be installed.

Comptroller Stickles delivered the Financial Report. She said that the balance in the revenue bond account as of October 31, 2023, is \$397,815.72 after five checks were written totaling \$1,983,447.46. The Commission received the FEMA grant monies in the amount of \$2,363,181.75 on October 2, 2023. On November 6, 2023, the Commission was notified that payment for additional FEMA grant monies in the amounts of \$21,317.62 and \$272,022.69 have been approved. A check for \$40,227.00 was received from T-Mobile for tower rental.

She reported that she has begun work with Ralph Swindall on the FY23 audit.

Comptroller Stickles stated that the Commission earned \$33,923.00 in interest at a rate of 5.6% last month. No additional monies were transferred out of investments in October 2023.

October revenues were \$120,538.00 over budget, and expenditures were \$123,376.00 under budget, resulting in a positive net revenue of \$243,913.00.

Commissioner Helfrich asked why there has been an increase in unaccounted water loss. Operations Manager Meade said he would investigate the matter and have an answer for him by midday.

There was no Correspondence.

Secretary Smith mentioned a program in Florence, SC, through which water and sewer customers can opt to round up their bill payment, allowing the extra funds to be used to help those customers who may have problems paying their bills. Special Projects Administrator Jenkins said Mt. Pleasant's water and sewer commission has such a program. Chairman Leigh suggested that staff examine Mt. Pleasant's program to see how it works.

Comptroller Stickles reported that the final FEMA payment will be received after the project is complete.

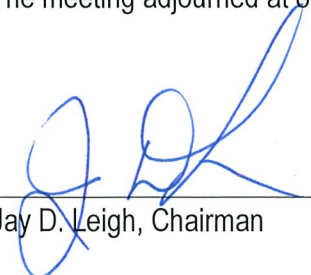
Chairman Leigh stated that other water and sewer commissions are testing for fentanyl in wastewater. Operations Manager Meade said that General Manager Jordan has reached out to the company that performed the COVID testing, Biobot Analytics, and it is working on a proposal for the Commission currently. Attorney Blumenthal said that testing outcomes would need to be kept in-house, as increased amounts of fentanyl in wastewater do not necessarily mean there is illegal activity.

Vice Chairman Hooper made a motion to move into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Helfrich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 8:31 a.m.

The Commissioners returned from Executive Session at 8:36 a.m.

Vice Chairman Hooper made a motion to approve holiday bonuses to Commission personnel as discussed. Secretary Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Forslund made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Hooper and seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 a.m.



Jay D. Leigh, Chairman

12.20.23

Date