

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
ISLE OF PALMS WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 21, 2024

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Agenda was posted on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at City Hall, the Commission Office, and provided to *The Post and Courier*. The meeting was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 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 (via phone), General Manager Chris Jordan, Operations Manager Shorty Meade, Special Projects Administrator Bill Jenkins, Comptroller Helena Stickles, CPA, Engineer Mark Yodice, and Attorney Jennifer Blumenthal.

Chairman Leigh called the meeting to order at 8:26 a.m.

Secretary Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2024 Commission meeting as presented. Vice Chairman Hooper 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. He reported that the electricians are working diligently at the Wild Dunes Pump Station to get everything ready for start-up testing. The contractor at the Forest Trails plant is working to complete the equipment installation. As the equipment is being installed, Atlantic Electric is running feeder cables to it to prepare for the electricity to be turned on. Staff is being trained to learn how to maintain and operate the equipment as it goes online. Special Projects Administrator Jenkins anticipates clearwater testing to occur in late March. Seeding and start-up will begin in early April.

Staff has received correspondence from DHEC regarding the R/O concentrate line. Special Projects Administrator Jenkins said that the construction permit will not be issued until the required modifications to the NPDES permit are reviewed and approved. The draft permit was placed on public notice, which ends on February 24, 2024.

The contractors are working again on the City's stormwater project near PS 19. They will repair the driveway by the end of next week.

Staff is working with the City on securing the easement needed for the effluent line. Permitting work has also begun for this project.

Special Projects Administrator Jenkins shared that Thomas & Hutton continues to work on the plans for Sewer Basin N. He is meeting with homeowners in the area on Thursday, February 22 to review the plans for the pump station. It will have a 25' x 25' footprint.

Special Projects Administrator Jenkins reported that staff has been working with Dewees Island on a water main installation at its dock. He said that the water main will be deeded over to the Commission upon completion. This water main will serve Dewees Island's docks, but it will also be used to serve the IOP Marina docks. The existing water line that serves the IOP Marina docks will be abandoned.

General Manager Jordan reported that the past month has been quiet.

Comptroller Stickles delivered the Financial Report. She said that the balance in the bond account as of January 31, 2024, is \$12,305.00. She transferred \$870,000.00 into the account on January 17, 2024, to cover checks totaling \$875,914.00.

The Commission received a check for the sale of the Toyota Tundra.

The debt service on the bond has increased by \$82,915.00. The Commission earned \$28,269.00 in interest at a rate of 5.6%. Revenues were \$45,588.00 under last month (as expected), and expenses were under \$107,299.00, resulting in a positive net revenue of \$61,711.00, which is slightly higher than January 2023.

General Manager Jordan said that water loss has trended down over the year but stays at about 8-9%. Staff will send out another mailing to customers reminding them to sign up for the customer portal, which tracks their water usage.

There was no Correspondence.

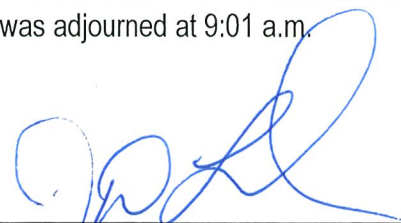
Under Old Business, General Manager Jordan reported that he and Engineer Yodice attended the City's Public Services & Facilities Committee meeting and the City Council Workshop last week to present the Commission's request for an easement for the installation of the effluent line. The request will be on the City Council Meeting agenda for February 27, 2024. Director Kerr added that Dominion Energy will be installing underground electric lines in the same easement, but there will not be any conflicts between the two utilities. This information has been sent to the City Attorney with instructions to contact Attorney Blumenthal. Attorney Blumenthal has sent documents to the City Attorney.

The Commissioners then discussed potential uses of the lot inside Wild Dunes that will become available when the new plant becomes operational. Director Kerr said that there are allowable uses for the property based on its zoning, but anything done there will need approval of the resort and Wild Dunes Community Association. After further discussion regarding concerns in allowing others to use the property, the Commissioners decided to maintain the property for internal use at this time.


Under New Business, Vice Chairman Hooper made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Finance Committee to accept the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. Secretary Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

General Manager Jordan reminded the Commissioners to file their Statement of Economic Interest with the State by March 30, 2024.

Commissioner Helfrich made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Hooper seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 a.m.



Jay D. Leigh, Chairman



Date