

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
ISLE OF PALMS WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
MAY 21, 2025

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Agenda was posted on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at City Hall, the Commission Office, and provided to *The Post and Courier*. The meeting was held on Wednesday, May 21, 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 Jay Leigh, General Manager Chris Jordan, Special Projects Administrator Bill Jenkins, Comptroller Helena Stickles, CPA, Operations Manager Shorty Meade, Engineer Mark Yodice, and Attorney Jennifer Blumenthal. Commissioner Curtis Helfrich, PE, was absent.

Chairman Hooper called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

As there were no corrections offered to the minutes of the regular meeting of April 16, 2025, the minutes were approved as presented.

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

Special Projects Administrator Jenkins began the Manager's Report. He said that staff are still working with Ruby-Collins, Inc. at the Forest Trails/Wild Dunes plant to close out this project. There have been some issues with the SCADA system, but everything else is working well. The Commission is still waiting for final reimbursement from FEMA for the project.

The R/O Concentrate Line Extension project is now complete, and all funds from the RIA have been received.

Eadie's Construction has completed the installation of the pipe for the Forest Trails Effluent Discharge upgrade. Restorations are still being finalized. Staff is waiting for the record drawings to submit for a Permit to Operate.

The bid opening for the Sewer Basin N project was held on May 5, 2025. Only three bids were submitted: Eadie's Construction at \$9.7 million, Moorehead Construction at \$9.1 million, and Triad Engineering at \$5.3 million. The bids will be discussed in Executive Session.

Webb-Harrell has completed the Wild Dunes Wastewater Treatment Plant demolition and left the site. DHEC has visited the site and approved the closeout of the plant.

A total of 322 grinder pumps have been approved on the island and may be in operation.

A study of the cell tower demonstrates that the water tank will need extra work done to accommodate any additional equipment. Staff members have informed the cell phone companies that they do not recommend any additional work on the tank and suggested the companies approach the City regarding the installation of a tower on the island.

General Manager Jordan reported that flows are increasing for the season.

Comptroller Stickles delivered the Financial Report. She stated that the balance in the bond series checking account is \$154.65 after \$23,000.00 was transferred from the checking account, and one check totaling \$23,074.25 was written.

She reported that two employees, one full-time and one part-time, have been hired in the front office.

The Commission earned \$10,551.00 in interest last month at a rate of 4.5%.

Revenues came in over budget by \$70,500.00, and expenses were \$145,700.00 under budget, resulting in a positive net revenue of \$216,000.00. Year-to-date revenues are slightly better than last year.

Under Old Business, General Manager Jordan reported that the two groups interested in the lease of the Wild Dunes property could not meet the minimum of the RFP. Secretary Smith said that he spoke with Ms. Linda Tucker regarding potential use of the property by the City. She suggested a Public Safety substation. Another idea would be to approach the City about a land swap for the land behind the Public Works building for materials storage. Secretary Smith would like a meeting with the Public Safety Committee to discuss the possibilities. General Manager Jordan said that the Commission does need to keep a small part of the land for a pump station.

Chairman Hooper suggested the formation of a subcommittee to review the possibilities for the land.

Vice Chairman Forslund made a motion authorizing Secretary Smith to review possible uses for the property at Wild Dunes. Commissioner Leigh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Under New Business, Commissioner Leigh made a motion to accept the FY26 budget subject to changes of the Commission. Vice Chairman Forslund seconded the motion.

After a brief discussion, the motion and second were withdrawn until after the Executive Session or the June 2025 meeting.


Secretary Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with SC Section 30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss proposed contractual arrangements. Vice Chairman Forslund seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission went into Executive Session at 8:37 a.m.


The Commission returned from Executive Session at 8:54 a.m. Chairman Hooper stated that no action was taken, and no decisions were made.

Secretary Smith made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Finance Council and approve the FY26 budget as presented. Vice Chairman Forslund seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Leigh made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Forslund seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.



Robert W. Hooper, Jr., Chairman



Date