



GreenvilleWater

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS
Greenville Water
407 W. Broad Street, Level 2,
Greenville, South Carolina
May 6, 2025
8:30 a.m.**

Commissioners of Public Works in attendance:

Chairman Phillip A. Kilgore, Vice-Chairman James W. Bannister, Debra M. Sofield, Mayor Knox H. White, and John DeWorken. A quorum was present.

Greenville Water Senior Staff in attendance:

Chief Executive Officer Jeff Boss, Chief Operations Officer Jeff Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Bob Schmidt, Chief Technology Officer Kenneth Frazier, Director of Operations and Maintenance Mark Hattendorf, Director of Operational Technical Services Jane Arrington, Director of Water Resources Elizabeth Pierczynski, Director of Business Services Steve Miller, Director of Information Technology Brad Treas, Director of Human Resources Lisa Bryant, Director of Engineering David Niese, Director of Finance Jacob Polson, Director of Procurement & Contracts Will Bettis, and Accounting Manager Brandi Cawthorn.

The Regular Meeting of the Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Greenville, SC was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Kilgore.

1. WELCOME

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were presented.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Kilgore asked for questions pertaining to the consent agenda items. There being none, he called for approval of the items of the Consent Agenda which were the meeting minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting April 1, 2025, the Water Resources Report, New Development, and New Annexations. Commissioner DeWorken moved, seconded by Mayor White, to approve the items of the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Legislative Liaison Bob Knight to present a legislative update. The current legislative session finishes on Thursday, May 8th. Legislators will meet at a later date in May or June to finish the budget.

Two bills were mentioned. Bill H. 3768 Highway system construction, dealing with the five-year renewal of the SC DOT coverage of a portion of utility relocation costs. The bill has passed the House of Representatives but has yet to get a hearing in the Senate. There is no opposition, so it is expected to be taken up at the first of the year. This bill will extend the sunset on the provision to 2031. Bill H.4168 Extension of Water and Sewer Systems, allows a property owner to exempt themselves from connecting to a municipal or county water or

sewer system. There was some opposition from municipal and county associations. Chairman Kilgore asked if this is something the Commission should be concerned about. Chief Executive Officer Jeff Boss shared that staff is opposed to the bill because of the way it is written. Developers have installed well systems in the past and then turned the system over to the homeowner's association (HOA) to maintain. When the systems are not maintained, the homeowners reach out to Greenville Water. The homeowners then have to pay to have water lines installed. Unless the language is changed to only volumetric capacity, Greenville Water is against the bill.

Myra Reece was confirmed as the permanent selection for Director of the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES).

Spartanburg Water Chief Executive Officer Guy Boyle, Mr. Boss, and Mr. Knight visited Columbia to appeal to Senator Ross Turner and Senator Sean Bennett regarding the proposed bill that allows employers to elect to pay all or a portion of the required employee contributions during a fiscal year to the South Carolina Retirement System. Senator Bennett would like to propose a more robust solution for the entire system. Senator Bennett did not schedule a Senate meeting.

5. FIXED ASSET POLICY UPDATE

Chairman Kilgore turned to Director of Finance Jacob Polson to give an update on the fixed asset policy. Mr. Polson explained that in 2024 the federal capitalization threshold increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000. It is standard practice for government entities to align with this federal threshold. This is important to Greenville Water because there are nearly 19,000 fixed assets on the books as of 12/31/2024. This does not include laptops and meters. Approximately 50% of additions in the past two years would have fallen below this new threshold, which means staff has been spending a lot of time on assets of relatively low value. This change will bring greater efficiencies in the accounting department along with reporting.

A request was made to update the fixed asset policy to a threshold of \$10,000 to align with the federal capitalization threshold. Commissioner Sofield moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Bannister, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

6. BOND ORDINANCE UPDATE

Mr. Polson presented a request to update Greenville Water's general bond ordinance. The current requirement is to submit audited financial statements 120 days after the calendar year. This requirement stems from the 1997 general bond ordinance. A recommendation was made to change the language of Section 9.02, updating the 120 days to 180 days. This change would bring Greenville Water in line with the current bond holder (State Revolving Fund -SRF) standard and the industry standard. This change would amend only one section of the ordinance and would not authorize additional bond issuance. Changes to the ordinance must go before City Council for approval. Mr. Polson asked the Commission for permission to bring the proposed change before the City of Greenville council members.

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Commissioner DeWorken moved, seconded by Mayor White, to approve reporting the bond ordinance update to the language in Section 9.02 to City Council. The motion passed unanimously.

7. NECESSARY WATERSHED OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

Chairman Kilgore asked Chief Administrative Officer Bob Schmidt to present necessary watershed operational expenses as a result of the Table Rock complex fire. Dr. Schmidt explained there had been increased operational costs and staff wanted to make the Commission aware to keep them informed. Below are some of the causes for the increased costs:

- Increased Need for Improved Security & Surveillance
- Immediate Improvements for Additional Fire Protection at North Saluda
- Reforestation Costs at Table Rock
- Watershed Fire Trained Personnel Safety & Protection Enhancements

Application will be submitted for the Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG), of which Greenville Water will be a subrecipient, as is the City of Greenville, and any entity that had any involvement in the fire. The cost summary was a request for \$1 million. The largest portion of the request were two dozers for \$500,000. One of Greenville Water's two current dozers was a 2007 model which should have been replaced some time ago. Neither of the current two dozers are qualified for working in the forest. There is a standard dozer that is used by the Forest Service and the Forestry Commissions of South Carolina and North Carolina. The current dozers would be replaced with two of this model dozers which is made for this type of terrain. Dr. Schmidt reviewed a cost summary, including this and other necessary expenses.

Mr. Boss added the necessary watershed operational expenses would be covered within the existing budget at this time. The presentation was for information only.

8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Chairman Kilgore called on Mr. Boss to share his executive report. Mr. Boss began by sharing a certificate of appreciation presented to Greenville Water by the South Carolina Forestry Commission recognizing Greenville Water's collaboration as part of the multi-agency effort to contain and ultimately control the Table Rock Fire and the Persimmon Ridge fire in March and April 2025.

The new 60-inch main in the Adkins Parallel main project has been connected to the existing 72-inch main. This is a great accomplishment for the growth of Greenville and Pickens Counties.

Mr. Boss and Dr. Schmidt met with Senator Timothy Moffitt of North Carolina. Senator Moffitt represents North Carolina from Asheville to the South Carolina border. He asked to meet with Greenville Water to discuss how GW works with other utilities such as buy-ins, wholesale, and retail customers. North Carolina is looking into ideas for restructuring.

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The first disaster relief application has been submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Approval has been received for multiple projects as a result of Hurricane Helene damages.

Discussions have begun with Trout Unlimited and the Department of Natural Resources about stream restoration and reforestation. Mr. Boss visited the University of Georgia and met with representatives interested in volunteering to help with these projects.

Dr. Schmidt has contacted Pickens County regarding partnering in the purchase of a fire boat. Chairman Kilgore asked that a study be done, and a recommendation be brought back to the Commission, adding collaboration is a great idea.

Mr. Boss reminded Commissioners of the Greenville Water employee cookout being held Thursday, May 8th at 11:30 am in the Field Operations yard.

9. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Sofield thanked Mr. Boss for speaking to a local business club. Attendees were quite surprised, as many do not know all that Greenville Water does.

Greenville Water was gifted with a piece of artwork by local artist Melinda Hoffman. The gift is a beautiful painting called Water. Commissioners were able to thank Ms. Hoffman for her gift at a recent meeting where she delivered the painting. The piece is hanging in the Customer Service lobby area.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 9:00 a.m.



Phillip A. Kilgore, Chairman



Kimberly Haulter, Executive Assistant