GreenvilleWater

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS
Greenville Water
407 W. Broad Street, Level 2,
Greenville, South Carolina
August 4, 2026
8:30 a.m.

Commissioners of Public Works in attendance:
Chairman James W. Bannister, Vice-Chairman Phillip Kilgore, Debra M. Sofield, and Mayor Knox H. White. Absent: John DeWorken. A quorum was present.

Greenville Water Senior Staff in attendance:
Chief Executive Officer Jeff Boss, Chief Operations Officer Jeff Phillips, Chief Technology Officer Kenneth Frazier, Chief Human Resources Officer Lisa Bryant, Director of Operations and Maintenance Mark Hattnedorf, Director of I.T. Brad Treas, Director of Water Resources Elizabeth Pierczynski, Director of Business Services Steve Miller, Director of Finance Jacob Polson, Director of Procurement and Contracts Will Bettis, Director of Engineering Dr. Keri Cantrell, Director of Watersheds Drew Langston, Director of Operational Technology Vincent Aikema, Controller Brandi Cawthorn, and Attorney Adam Bach.

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

1. WELCOME

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were presented.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Bannister 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 for June 2, 2026 and the special meeting for June 16, 2026, the Water Resources Report, New Development, and New Annexations. Commissioner Kilgore moved, seconded by Commissioner Sofield, to approve the items of the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

4. METER MADNESS NATIONAL CHAMPION RESOLUTION

Staff reintroduced Craig Dalton, the two-time AWWA Meter Madness national champion, and invited him to demonstrate the meter assembly challenge for the Commission. After the components were emptied onto the table and the timer began, Craig completed the assembly in 30.85 seconds.

Chairman Bannister presented Craig with a resolution from the Commission honoring his outstanding performance in the 2026 AWWA Meter Madness Challenge and congratulated him on becoming a two-time national champion. A banner previously displayed in recognition of his achievement was also presented, and the Commissioners joined Craig for a group photograph.

Staff noted that Craig will compete in the upcoming South Carolina Environmental Conference Meter Madness competition and has already qualified for the national competition in San Diego next year. The Commission expressed its pride in his accomplishments and wished him success in pursuing a third national championship. Rob McManus, Greenville Water's other Meter Madness competitor, was also recognized for placing third at the South Carolina Environmental Conference and recording a time that surpassed many competitors at the national level.

5. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislative Liaison Bob Knight reported that the General Assembly had passed a limited "skinny budget" and was scheduled to reconvene on August 11 to consider the budget on the floors of the House and Senate. He noted that community investment funding was not included and cautioned that the prospects for securing such funding during the current year were uncertain.

Mr. Knight further reported that the utility reimbursement legislation had passed, while proposed pension changes did not advance before the legislative session expired and may be reconsidered next year. He also noted that the American Steel and Pipe bill was signed by the Governor on June 30 and requires the use of American-made steel and iron. No questions were presented.

6. RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES

Director of Engineering Dr. Keri Cantrell presented proposed changes to Greenville Water's Rules and Regulations concerning water main extensions on private streets and private property. She explained that streets must comply with applicable local development requirements and that, although specialty roadway construction may be permitted, Greenville Water would not be responsible for full restoration of specialty materials such as decorative pavers. Required easements would be provided at no cost to Greenville Water, and unrestricted access to water infrastructure, including meters, must be maintained. Private mains would remain the developer's responsibility, must be installed at the developer's expense in accordance with Greenville Water specifications, and could be accepted only after all requirements were satisfied.

Dr. Cantrell reviewed a new section establishing requirements for Greenville Water to consider taking ownership of existing private water mains. Systems proposed for conveyance would be required to meet current standards, be inspected and fully operational, and have all necessary conveyance documents properly completed and recorded. The owner, which could include a homeowners or property owners

association, would be financially responsible for inspections, repairs, and upgrades needed before acceptance.

The proposed approach includes an inspection and condition assessment fee to recover staff and field inspection costs, including return visits needed to verify repairs. A separate private water main takeover fee would be calculated using the system's length and weighted average age, based on Greenville Water's distribution-system maintenance costs. Staff stated that all required fees would be paid in full before Greenville Water accepted the deed; installment payments or loans would not be offered. Specific fee amounts will be presented for consideration with the fee schedule in November.

Staff reported receiving approximately five to six private-system takeover inquiries annually, with recent demand increasing as fire departments identify nonfunctioning valves and hydrants. Many older private systems have not been adequately maintained and include two-inch galvanized or other aging mains that do not meet current standards. A geographic information system review identified more than 200 miles of private water mains within the service area, representing a potentially significant future operational and financial impact. Staff anticipates that requests will increase as systems installed during the 1970s and 1980s reach the end of their useful lives. It was confirmed that the same technical requirements and fee methodology would apply consistently to all applicants. Dr. Cantrell also presented expanded criteria for requiring a separate meter. Under the proposed language, a separate meter would generally be required when a structure contains a complete bathroom facility consisting of a sink, toilet, and shower or bathtub. Greenville Water would retain discretion for accessory structures that are expected to remain part of the primary property and may appropriately be served from the existing domestic meter.

The Commission was asked to review the proposed revisions and submit comments or edits to staff. The item will return for consideration at the September meeting; no formal action was taken.

7. UPDATE TO PAID TIME OFF POLICY

Chief Human Resources Officer Lisa Bryant presented an update to Greenville Water's Paid Time Off policy. She explained that employees will continue to accrue PTO and receive payment for unused accrued leave at the end of employment; however, employees who resign will be required to work the standard two-week notice period to remain eligible for the payout. The change is intended to discourage employees from leaving without notice and aligns the policy with common industry practice.

In response to a question regarding terminated employees, Ms. Bryant stated that payout decisions would remain discretionary based on the circumstances of the separation and noted that unused PTO is generally not paid when an employee is terminated. The update was provided for informational purposes and did not require Commission approval; no formal action was taken.

8. RESERVOIR UPDATE

Director of Watersheds Drew Langston presented an update on conditions at the Table Rock and North Saluda reservoirs, including current capacity, historical drought trends, minimum annual reservoir levels since 2000, and ongoing hydrology initiatives. He reported that current storage remains strong despite drought conditions. Table Rock had an estimated 4.4 billion gallons available above the lower intake, while North Saluda had approximately 9.6 billion gallons available. Historical data showed that even during the severe 2007 drought, both reservoirs retained substantial usable volume.

Mr. Langston explained that the Table Rock and North Saluda watersheds respond differently to rainfall because of their respective catchment characteristics. Table Rock generally responds more quickly to rainfall, while North Saluda's response is more gradual. Staff noted that reservoir levels have trended more steadily during the past 15 years and that drought conditions were not materially affecting Greenville Water's supply. Based on current demand and available storage, staff estimated that the reservoirs could continue supplying water for approximately two years without additional rainfall, although this was presented only as an illustration of system resilience.

Ongoing hydrology work includes refining stream-discharge measurements and rating curves across varying flow conditions, continuing U.S. Geological Survey monitoring, improving telemetry and instrumentation, and pairing flow data with additional water-quality information. Staff is also evaluating an update to the watershed model to improve projections of reservoir response to future climate and flow conditions. Trained personnel monitor watershed gauges daily, supported by consultant expertise.

The Commission discussed wildfire risk and emergency preparedness within both watersheds. Mr. Langston reported that prescribed burns are used to reduce fuel loads, including a planned burn of approximately 500 acres, and that Greenville Water coordinates closely with the South Carolina Forestry Commission, local fire districts, and other response partners. Following the recent wildfire and hurricane impacts, fire lines and hydrant access were extended to protect structures at Table Rock, reservoir pumping and pressure-boosting capabilities were installed, and a watershed-capable brush truck is anticipated through a fire grant.

Staff further reported that fallen trees and other blockages have been cleared from roads and firebreaks in both watersheds, restoring emergency access for heavy equipment. Gravel and additional road restoration remain pending FEMA funding. Greenville Water continues joint training with neighboring fire districts and maintains equipment and access plans to support coordinated wildfire response.

9. DRONE AND TOWER PROGRAM UPDATE

Director of I.T. Brad Treas presented an update on Greenville Water's autonomous drone and tower program. He explained that the system is operated through computer-based, preplanned missions rather than continuous manual control. The drone can complete a

mission, return to its base, autonomously exchange its battery, and resume operations. The system also permits a pilot to interrupt or modify a mission when necessary.

Mr. Treas reported that regulatory planning began in 2025, including applications for Federal Aviation Administration waivers and pilot licensing. The drone was delivered in June, training was completed in July, and staff has begun developing initial operational missions. Test flights were scheduled to begin the following week with support from American Robotics.

To support flights beyond the pilot's visual line of sight, Greenville Water will install radar equipment at the Corbin Mountain tower to provide airspace awareness over the southern portion of the watershed. A future radar station at Hogback Mountain is planned to extend coverage across the remainder of the reservoir area. Tower equipment has begun arriving, with construction expected to start in October and additional installation anticipated later in the fall or winter.

The system includes two drones that will rotate between operations and maintenance, a battery charging and exchange station, weather monitoring equipment, dedicated electrical service, and climate control. Each battery provides approximately 40 minutes of flight time, and the automated turnaround process takes approximately six minutes. The drone can carry different payloads, including optical and thermal cameras, and can operate in varied weather conditions within manufacturer limits.

Staff reported that the current system is electronically isolated from Greenville Water's network and secured within two fenced perimeters, with individual equipment locks and camera surveillance. Future remote access may be considered through a secure cloud-based platform, subject to further cybersecurity review.

Potential uses include watershed monitoring and inspections that currently require significant staff travel and time. As an example, the drone could reach remote wildlife traps within minutes, improving operational efficiency while reducing the need for lengthy field trips. The Commission viewed a demonstration of the automated battery exchange, launch, flight monitoring, and landing sequence and expressed support for the program. No formal action was taken.

10. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Chief Executive Officer Jeff Boss reported that Greenville Water was gaining traction with FEMA on reimbursement for watershed recovery work. Debris obstructing roads and trails has been mulched in place, and staff is pursuing a Section 428 lump-sum award to manage the North Saluda watershed recovery as a consolidated effort rather than approximately 120 individual projects. Following discussions with the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, staff anticipated that reimbursement could begin by the end of October. Greenville Water has advanced approximately $4 million in budgeted funds for debris clearing. Of the approximately $200 million in estimated damage, roughly $70 million located upslope from roadways is not expected to qualify for reimbursement.

Some damaged roads will require alternate alignments rather than reconstruction in their original locations. Table Rock recovery will continue through separate project applications.

Mr. Boss also reported that staff is working with public and private partners on reforestation of approximately 1,200 acres where the tree canopy was lost. Stream-shading efforts have shown positive results, with fish observed in affected streams. Staff continues to evaluate improvements to the fish hatchery and plans to exchange watershed management practices with the Chattanooga Aquarium and Seattle-area watershed professionals during an October visit held in conjunction with the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies conference.

Regarding capital projects and financing, Phase I of the 60-inch pipeline project is complete except for final closeout documentation, and the remaining pipe for Phase II has been installed. Staff anticipates closing Phase II by year-end and plans a project celebration and ribbon cutting with local officials, Commissioners, delegation members, and other project partners. The date has not been scheduled. Greenville Water also closed a State Revolving Fund loan for the St. Francis galvanized-line project at 2.6 percent and is pursuing two additional SRF applications for galvanized-line work and a new downtown pump station. The pump station application is expected to seek approximately $13 million, with the potential for partial loan forgiveness.

Mr. Boss stated that the previously approved bond issue was scheduled for City consideration on August 10. He further reported that employee meetings supporting development of the strategic plan were progressing well and were expected to conclude during August, allowing the plan to move into full implementation.

In response to a question, staff provided an update on the recent Rutherford Road water-main break. An eight-inch cast-iron main cracked during significant temperature fluctuations, resulting in Greenville Water's largest main break of the year. Service was restored in approximately three hours, and roadway repaving was underway. Staff noted that the annual number of major main breaks remains below historical levels.

11. COMMISSION COMMENTS

No comments presented.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

James Bannister, Chairman

Kimberly Hauter, Executive Assistant

RESOLUTION HONORING CRAIG DALTON FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN THE 2026 AWWA METER MADNESS CHALLENGE

WHEREAS, Greenville Water is committed to excellence in public service and recognizes the outstanding achievements of its employees who exemplify skill, dedication, and professionalism in their roles; and

WHEREAS, Craig Dalton, Field Services Specialist, demonstrated exceptional technical expertise and composure under pressure to earn first place in the South Carolina American Water Works Association (SCAWWA) Meter Madness Challenge in March 2026 at the South Carolina Environmental Conference (SCEC), continuing his reign as state champion for the second year in a row; and

WHEREAS, by securing the state title, Mr. Dalton earned the honor of representing the state of South Carolina at the American Water Works Association (AWWA) National Meter Madness Challenge during the Annual Conference & Expo (ACE); and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2026, in Washington, DC, Mr. Dalton achieved national recognition by winning the AWWA Meter Madness Challenge, outperforming other state champions from across the country. Mr. Dalton's winning time of 34.60 seconds positioned him in first place, securing his national champion title for a second year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dalton's achievement brings pride and distinction to Greenville Water and reflects the high level of professionalism and skill upheld by our team;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commissioners of Greenville Water do hereby commend and congratulate Craig Dalton for his outstanding accomplishments in both the state and national Meter Madness competitions, and express sincere appreciation for his dedication, representation, and contribution to the continued excellence of Greenville Water.

Respectfully submitted this fourth day of August, 2026

The Commissioners of Greenville Water