



## GreenvilleWater

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS  
407 West Broad Street  
Commission Room, Level Two  
Greenville, South Carolina  
August 1, 2017  
8:15 a.m.**

Commissioners of Public Works in attendance:

Chairman Phillip A. Kilgore, Vice-Chairman James W. Bannister, Debra M. Sofield and J. David Sudduth. Absent: Mayor Knox H. White. A quorum was present.

Greenville Water Staff in attendance:

Chief Executive Officer David H. Bereskin, Chief Financial Officer Phil Robey, Controller Jondia Berry, Director of Engineering Michael Sharpless, Director of Information Technology Joe Beineke, Human Resources Director Richard Posey, Water Resources Director Rick Pfeleiderer, Business Process Analyst Jane Arrington, Manager of Field Operations Wayne Benson, Communications Manager Olivia Vassey, Facilities Maintenance Fleet Manager Allen White and Commission Attorney David Ward.

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The Regular Meeting of the Commissioners of Public Works was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Chairman Kilgore.

### **1. WELCOME**

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments were presented at this time.

### **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Kilgore listed the items of the Consent Agenda which were the meeting minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting July 11, 2017, the Water Resources Report, the Financial Update, New Development and New Annexation Covenants. There being no questions or comments regarding the consent agenda, Commissioner Sofield moved, seconded by Commissioner Bannister to approve the items. The motion passed unanimously. The items were deemed approved.

### **4. LONG RIDGE PETROGLYPH ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT UPDATE**

Chairman Kilgore welcomed local historian and writer for South Carolina Wildlife Magazine Dennis Chastain to open up the presentation on the Long Ridge Petroglyph Archaeological Project Update and to make introductions of his colleagues. Mr. Chastain briefly reviewed the general findings of the 250 circle type petroglyphs on the Slicker Falls outcropping reported to the Commission in 2016. He described Long Ridge as a ridge that parallels Highway 11 which was the focus of the most recent study. Mr. Chastain provided a map putting Slicker Falls into perspective as being in the epicenter of a concentration that totals about 2,000 circle petroglyphs on 15 different sites.

Mr. Chastain introduced Archaeologist Dr. Jannie Loubser who was asked to do an extensive study of the Long Ridge petroglyphs which represents the first complete documentary report done on a petroglyph site in South Carolina. Dr. Loubser explained the petroglyphs include various shapes and sizes such as circles, triangles, squares, and chain links. The circles are the

central theme. Two things that came about as a result of the study that are specific to Slicken Falls site were: 1. The Slicken Falls site is the second most densely carved circle site known in South Carolina with an estimated 250 circles. 2. Most densely carved petroglyph sites were either adjacent to or in close proximity to an old Indian trail. The Emory Gap Toll Road, originally the Sassafras Gap Toll Road chartered in 1858, was also known as the Buncombe Trail, an old Indian Trail. This Trail/Toll Road is immediately adjacent to the Long Ridge site.

Additional petroglyphs have been found as a result of the undergrowth and tree debris that burned away during the Pinnacle Mountain Fire. Mr. Chastain recommended educating Greenville Water Watershed Staff on what these circle petroglyphs look like, so they may become familiar with what to look for as they are patrolling the watersheds. Dr. Loubser reviewed a depiction of the range and variation of the shapes, as provided in the Commission agenda package.

## **5. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN AND WILD FIRE RESPONSE PLAN REVISIONS**

Chairman Kilgore invited Water Resources Director Rick Pfleiderer to present the previously recommended revisions to the Watershed Management Plan and the Wild Fire Response Plan. The changes included:

### **Watershed Management Plan**

- Updated Appendix E
- Updated Law Enforcement Policy
- Fire Retardant

### **Wildfire Response Plan**

- Planned Map Updates – 2017
- Updated Contacts
- Added an Appendix H
- New Gates
- Stream Crossings
- New Staging Area
- New Procedures for Dip Site and Pump Site
- Fire Retardant
- Updated Shelter Deployment Areas & Safety Zones
- Updated Appendix E
- Updated Appendix F
- Trammell Gap Structures

Commissioner Bannister moved, seconded by Commissioner Sofield, to approve the recommended changes to the Watershed Management Plan and Wildfire Response Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

## **6. 2017 LOOK BACK AT GROWTH AND LOOK FORWARD TO MAIN REPLACEMENTS**

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Director of Engineering Michael Sharpless to present on growth and main replacements. Mr. Sharpless reviewed information prepared on six months of new projects in the system, totaling 64 projects with 11 being in the City of Greenville. The majority of the list was subdivisions totaling 3,000 lots. Maps were provided showing the construction categories of Apartment/Condo, Commercial and Single Family within the City of Greenville, Northern



Greenville County, Mauldin, Simpsonville, Fountain Inn, and Southwest Greenville County inside Greenville Water's service area.

Mr. Sharpless provided a chart looking back at growth from 2002 to present. Explaining it seemed there has been a lot of growth recently however the average has been 2,000 or so new meters a year. In the early 2000s there were close to 4,000 new meters a year. The recession flattened out the occurrence of new meters, but Greenville Water never hit zero which is good news because there was never a complete downturn in growth which some communities did experience. Greenville has always grown. It was surprising to see the results show there were times of greater growth than what has occurred recently.

Water main replacements in 2016 amounted to almost \$2 million in the City of Greenville and \$4 million outside the City. The largest category driving main replacements is resurfacing projects. The other categories are main breaks, water quality and the pipe scoring system. Mr. Sharpless reviewed the main replacement projects for 2017 and the projected projects for 2018, as well as the Capital Improvement Projects which are mains 12-inches and over, as provided in the Commission Agenda package.

## **7. MERCHANT FEES**

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Controller Jondia Berry to open up discussion and to receive direction on credit card fees. Ms. Berry began by reviewing the Customer payment options available at Greenville Water, stating as Customers are encouraged to use the most convenient payment options, increased use of credit cards has significantly increased credit card fees. These fees are not captured in the billing rate charges for the entities Greenville Water bills and collects for. Ms. Berry reviewed the description of expenses included in the billing rate charges.

Credit card fees are determined by card type, card presentation and amount of the transaction. The average blended rate fee is \$1.13 per credit card transaction. Ms. Berry reviewed charts illustrating the steadily increasing trends for number of transactions, total dollar amount of the transactions and the total cost to Greenville Water. Ms. Berry proposed two cost share options for discussion. After a brief discussion, the Commission requested additional cost share options be brought back for consideration at a later date.

## **8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Commissioner Bannister moved, seconded by Commissioner Sofield, to amend the Agenda to include the Chief Executive Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Kilgore, Mr. Bereskin and Communications Manager Olivia Vassey visited with members of Pickens County Council to discuss synergies and partnerships for future water allocation. Chairman Kilgore described the meeting as mostly informational, laying out the big picture, reviewing what has happened and what can happen.

Mr. Bereskin and Government Liaison Bob Knight met with Senator Bennett from Summerville, South Carolina to discuss the South Carolina Retirement System. There will be more legislation in 2017. Senator Bennett is serving on the House-Senate Committee studying pension reform which will be responsible for working on solutions to fix the Retirement System.

Mr. Bereskin requested Commission approval to temporarily close Greenville Water's Main Office from 2:15 to 3:00 p.m. on Monday, August 21, 2017 for all Greenville Water employees to witness the solar eclipse. Commissioners approved the request unanimously.

**9. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Commissioner Sofield thanked Staff for the information provided in the monthly CEO update and asked for clarification on a couple items of interest.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

  
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Phillip A. Kilgore, Chairman  
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Kimberly J. Haulter, Executive Assistant