



GreenvilleWater

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS
407 West Broad Street
Commission Room, Level Two
Greenville, South Carolina
February 6, 2018
8:15 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 George Fletcher. A quorum was present.

Greenville Water Staff in attendance:

Chief Executive Officer David H. Bereskin, Chief Financial Officer Phil Robey, Chief Operations Officer Rebecca West, Controller Jondia Berry, Director of Engineering Michael Sharpless, 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.

Other Guests Present:

Save Our Saluda President Melanie Ruhlman; Friends of the Reedy River Executive Director Patricia Carson; Upstate Forever Executive Director Andrea Cooper and Clean Water Director Heather Nix; and The Nature Conservancy Upstate Conservation Director Kristen Austin Gunter

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 January 9, 2018, the Water Resources Report, the Financial Update, New Development, New Annexation Covenants and Strategic Plan Goals Report. There being no questions or comments regarding the consent agenda, the items were deemed approved.

4. SAVE OUR SALUDA PRESENTATION

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Save Our Saluda President Melanie Ruhlman to present a report on a Save Our Saluda watershed-based plan for sediment in the North Saluda River and Saluda Lake. Ms. Ruhlman described a watershed-based plan, explaining the project goal is to develop a watershed plan to help minimize sediment runoff. Sediment is the most common pollutant in streams, rivers, lakes and reservoirs. It threatens downstream drinking water sources, impairs aquatic habitat, impacts recreation and is a pollutant carrier. Ms.

Ruhlman reviewed the 9 key elements of a watershed-based plan, a proposed approach, and schedule as provided in the Commission agenda package.

5. FRIENDS OF THE REEDY RIVER PRESENTATION

Chairman Kilgore opened the floor to Friends of the Reedy River Executive Director Patricia Carson. Ms. Carson announced 2018 is the 25th Anniversary for Friends of the Reedy River and provided an overview of Friends of the Reedy River. The mission is to protect, restore and preserve the Reedy River. Similar to other urban rivers it is characterized by impaired water quality, eroded banks and compromised riverside conditions. Friends of the Reedy has three focus areas: Educating the community, Advocating for improved protection for the river in response to growth and development and Activating the community to support efforts. In 2017 Friends of the Reedy engaged the public in 10 restoration and clean-up events, and partnered with organizations around town to educate the community. Through on-the-ground, grass-roots efforts, the river is being transformed.

6. UPSTATE FOREVER PRESENTATION

Chairman Kilgore invited Upstate Forever Executive Director Andrea Cooper and Clean Water Director Heather Nix to introduce Upstate Forever to the group and present an overview of projects the clean water team is working on: Adopt A Stream, Blueway Maps & Paddle SC. Ms. Nix thanked Greenville Water for being one of the generous funders of the Adopt a Stream program which recently has become a Statewide program.

Ms. Nix added Upstate Forever is also working to improve wetlands and streams through a mitigation program. As the Upstate sees rapid growth, there are numerous impacts to streams and wetlands. These development impacts are being mitigated but often 50 to 100 miles downstream. We believe the mitigation needs to happen where the impacts are felt further upstream. In order to not continue to see degradation of these streams, Upstate Forever is working at a Statewide level to improve the mitigation system and a change in policy to keep the mitigation dollars . where the development is occurring, in the Upstate.

7. THE NATURE CONSERVANCY UPDATE

Chairman Kilgore welcomed The Nature Conservancy Upstate Conservation Director Kristen Austin Gunter to the meeting. Ms. Gunter made a few brief remarks, thanking the Commission for the longstanding relationship between The Nature Conservancy and Greenville Water.

The Nature Conservancy is highly committed both locally and throughout the world to figure out a way to balance natural resources for quality of life and nature. In the Upstate, The Nature Conservancy works closely with Greenville Water through the Conservation Easement which has been in place for 25 years. This Conservation Easement has been a big deal for conservation in the Southeast and Eastern United States because it has been a hallmark of showing how conservation, utilities and cities can work together to provide clean drinking water for a community in demand of it. Ms. Gunter stated The Nature Conservancy has really appreciated this partnership and looks forward to the next 25 years.

At the conclusion of Ms. Gunter's presentation Chairman Kilgore thanked each conservation organization for their presentation and expressed appreciation for the high level of expertise. There is a variety of missions covering areas others are not but also being very collaborative when possible. The Commission conveyed appreciation for the work being done and the opportunities given to Greenville Water to partner in these missions.

8. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Chairman Kilgore recognized Government Liaison Bob Knight to present a Legislative Update. Mr. Knight provided updates on pending Duke Energy rate increases, the V.C. Summer issue, pension reform, the Department of Transportation relocation bill, the Plastic Pipe bill and the Department of Natural Resources water planning work, as provided in the Commission agenda package.

9. RENDERING FOR THE PAINTING OF THE WHAM ROAD TANK

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Facilities Maintenance Fleet Manager Allen White to present renderings for the painting of Greenville Water's Wham Road tank. Mr. White presented options and Commissioners approved the Quality Water Sustainable Future logo option with the recommendation to enlarge the type size.

10. 2017 PRELIMINARY YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT

Chairman Kilgore invited Chief Financial Officer Phil Robey to present the first look at the 2017 yearend financial results. Mr. Robey pointed out these results are unaudited. The Auditors will make a full presentation on the audited results in a couple months.

Mr. Robey described 2017 as a very positive year. The positive result being primarily due to development related revenues, such as meter connections, tap charges and capacity fees which reflect the growth in the area. The expenses were managed very conservatively and were under budget. Mr. Robey reviewed the preliminary unaudited revenues, revenue highlights, preliminary unaudited expenses, expense highlights, Capital outlay items budgeted in 2017 but not purchased and Normal System Improvements. Actual spending on Normal System Improvements was below budget due to projects identified in 2017 being accomplished well within the budgeted allotment and smaller projects shifting to Field Operations to achieve cost savings. Carryover of encumbrances into 2018 totaled \$619,202. A list of these encumbrances was reviewed.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Mr. Bereskin recognized Greenville Water Controller Jondia Berry and Staff for receiving the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

The Water Utility Council Legislative Breakfast will be held in Columbia, SC on Thursday, February 8, 2018.

Staff is working to obtain easements for the big water main improvement project on Rutherford Road. This project will improve pressure in the Pleasantburg Dr/Rutherford Rd area.

Southernside Neighborhood in Action will be holding their annual dinner in the Greenville Water Community Room on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

12. COMMISSION COMMENTS

No comments were presented.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m.



Phillip A. Kilgore, Chairman



Kimberly J. Haulter, Executive Assistant