



GreenvilleWater

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS
407 West Broad Street
Commission Room, Level Two
Greenville, South Carolina
May 1, 2018
8:15 a.m.**

Commissioners of Public Works in attendance:

Chairman Phillip A. Kilgore, Debra M. Sofield, and George Fletcher. Absent: Vice-Chairman James W. Bannister and Mayor Knox H. White. 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, I.T. Director Joe Beineke, Human Resources Director Richard Posey, Water Resources Director Rick Pfeleiderer, Business Process Analyst Jane Arrington, Communications Manager Olivia Sloan, Facilities Maintenance Fleet Manager Allen White, and Commission Attorney David Ward.

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 April 10, 2018, the Water Resources Report, the Financial Update, New Development, and New Annexation Covenants. There being no questions or comments regarding the consent agenda, the items were deemed approved.

4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Legislative Liaison Bob Knight to give an update on goings on in Columbia, SC. Mr. Knight provided updates on the Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) Relocation Bill, the V.C. Summer Nuclear Project, and the South Carolina Retirement Fund issue.

The Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA) agreed to provide language that would allow for employers to pay part of employee portion of State Retirement. This will have to be changed in State Law, which will not pass this year. There is some movement in the Budget on the one percent for the employee portion received last year. As the proviso is currently written, it will afford whatever dollars were provided last year to go to State, County and City employees only.

Mr. Knight left the meeting to attend sessions in Columbia.

5. STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Chairman Kilgore invited Chief Operations Officer Rebecca West to provide a Strategic Plan update. Ms. West explained new focus areas have been developed based on how financial institutions and investors look at the strength of a company or organization. A sustainable utility is the target for the focus areas. The six focus areas are very similar to the eight attributes identified for a sustainable utility by the American Water Works Association and the Water Environment Federation. This strategic plan adopts the eight attributes with supportive initiatives that tie back to the six focus areas. Staff has identified Greenville Water as being strong or in good condition in terms of the Financial, Manufactured and Natural Resource focus areas. Extra time will be focused on the Social Relational, Human and Intellectual Resources in the Strategic Plan going forward. This year's Strategic Plan are future state items carrying Greenville Water into the future, these items should be accomplished within a year to three year window of time. Those items moving Greenville Water to a sustainable state will take much longer to accomplish as the company moves to a more strategic organization. These sustainable items may also involve several steps along the way.

Ms. West provided an update on progress with the future state and sustainable state items identified for 2018 as provided in the Agenda package.

6. G.E.A.R. PROGRAM UPDATE

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Chief Financial Officer Phil Robey to present an update on the Government Enterprise Accounts Receivable (GEAR) program through the South Carolina Department of Revenue (SCDOR). Mr. Robey reviewed the program, presented updates and revisited concepts.

SCDOR has made changes to its program. In the past businesses were eligible to be collected from with the program, but this is no longer the case. There are no plans in the immediate future to bring this part of the program back. The program is a collection program geared towards individuals. In prior meetings Commissioners directed Staff to participate in the program with the exception of wage garnishments. As garnishments serve as a valuable collection tool for those individuals that do not receive State income tax refunds, Staff wants to confirm that wage garnishments are "off the table." Mr. Robey reviewed collection data over the last five years and projection data as provided in the Agenda package. Greenville Water would like to narrow the gap between setoff debt submissions and collections through the use of the tools available with the GEAR program for the benefit of Greenville Water and its billing partners.

Mr. Robey reviewed the programming cost to administer GEAR. GEAR will result in a higher volume and a greater frequency of collections. Programming will enable Greenville Water to track a customer's collection history and to properly account for collections and collection fees on customer accounts. Participation in the GEAR program will allow Greenville Water to participate in the setoff debt program directly with SCDOR, eliminating the cost of using the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) to manage the setoff program and saving MASC's fee per setoff.

Commissioners asked for guidelines regarding the garnishment portion of the program. Mr. Bereskin recapped stating, Greenville Water will move forward with programming the SCDOR GEAR interface using the options of setoff of individual state income tax refunds, payment plans and bank account levies. This change would eliminate the need for participation in the MASC program. The use of wage garnishments was not approved at this time. More information on this option including due process, checks and balances and a survey of other water utilities using the program will be provided at a later date.

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Mr. Bereskin reminded Commissioners the Greenville Water History Project draft was available on TeamUp for review and comments, asking the comments be sent directly to Upcountry History Museum Project Manager/Writer Meg Hunt.

National Drinking Water Week is May 6th through the 12th. Greenville Water will be advertising online, on social media, and through radio ads. Commissioners requested social media information to share.

Ms. West and Mr. Bereskin attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for Anderson Joint Regional Water System's new Advanced Oxidation (Ozone) Facility. The facility was built to address taste and odor issues along with other emerging threats to water quality in Lake Hartwell.

8. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Sofield requested an update on the South Carolina Chamber Best Places to Work satisfaction survey program in place at Greenville Water. Human Resources Director Richard Posey reviewed the participation improvement since year one and added the survey was ongoing at the moment with a completion date of May 11, 2018.

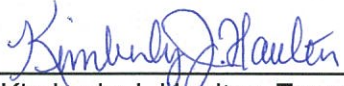
Commissioner Sofield thanked Greenville Water for sponsoring LEAD Greenville during Law Enforcement Appreciation Week, May 14 – 18, 2018.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.



Phillip A. Kilgore, Chairman



Kimberly J. Haulter, Executive Assistant