



GreenvilleWater

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS
407 West Broad Street
Commission Room, Level Two
Greenville, South Carolina
October 1, 2019
8:15 a.m.**

Commissioners of Public Works in attendance:

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

Greenville Water Staff in attendance:

Chief Executive Officer David H. Bereskin, Chief Financial Officer Phil Robey, Chief Operations Officer Jeff Boss, Controller Jondia Berry, Director of I.T. Joe Beineke, Director of Water Resources Jeff Phillips, Director of Strategic Initiatives Jane Arrington, Human Resources Director Richard Posey, Director of Engineering Mark Hattendorf, Director of Business Services Gary VerDouw, Manager of Field Operations Wayne Benson, Facilities Maintenance and Fleet Manager Allen White, Business Process Analyst Heather Nix, and Public Relations Specialist Emerald Clark and 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

Chairman Kilgore welcomed special guest Isabelle Barnes, a student at Furman University, from Louisiana. Ms. Barnes is interested in learning about the water industry.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Powdersville Water General Manager Dyke Spencer thanked Greenville Water staff for assistance with a meter upgrade.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Kilgore listed the items of the Consent Agenda which were the meeting minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting August 6, 2019, the minutes of the Strategic Planning Workshop September 11, 2019, the Water Resources Report, the Finance Update, New Development, and New Annexation Covenants. The items of the consent agenda were unanimously approved.

4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Chairman Kilgore invited Chief Executive Officer David Bereskin to stand in for Legislative Liaison Bob Knight to provide a Legislative update as Mr. Knight was not able to attend the meeting. Mr. Bereskin shared highlights from a meeting in Columbia, SC with Spartanburg Water pertaining to recent bills regarding utilities.

5. LEAK DETECTION

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Chief Operations Officer Jeff Boss to present on Greenville Water's Leak Detection program. Nationwide around \$2.8 Billion is lost on non-revenue and unaccounted for water. There are several leak detection technologies water utilities can use to address lost water. Greenville Water currently uses several methods to reduce water loss, but there is new technology that Staff would like to implement in 2020-2021. Mr. Boss reviewed Greenville Water's leak detection cycle, hardware and software presently in use.

Greenville Water started leak detection in 2011, beginning with inspection of mains for leaks prior to SC Department of Transportation and Greenville County paving projects. This was not efficient use of time because minimal leaks were detected, but it was comforting to know we were paving over good infrastructure. The next phase was for the leak detection crew to follow the valve maintenance crew, which worked for a while until the leak detection crew caught up with valve maintenance crew. At this point a strategy was developed for leak detection by scoring pipes based on pressure, consequence of failure, main diameter, break history and age. These scores were used to produce a leak detection map showing areas of low mean leak detection scores up to areas of high mean leak detection scores. The high leak areas were marked in red and addressed first. Mr. Boss provided a map showing the areas where leak detection has been completed. Staff has been looking at newer permanent, real time technology that can be used to predict and locate leaks before catastrophic consequences. Mr. Boss provided examples of these technologies and reviewed how Greenville Water will make use of some of these.

Commissioner Fletcher asked where most leaks occur. Mr. Boss responded over 700 leaks per year are on inlet service lines, mainly in older subdivisions, and about 300 leaks a year on 2-inch galvanized lines. Greenville Water has an effective galvanized line replacement program funded in the Normal System Improvements and is implementing a new inlet service replacement program. Mr. Bereskin added Greenville Water is above industry standards on the number of service line leaks and below industry standards on the number of water main leaks

6. 2020 and 2021 BIENNIUM OPERATING BUDGET

Chairman Kilgore invited Chief Financial Officer Phil Robey to present the 2020-2021 biennium operating budget for consideration to approve. Mr. Robey explained this will be the third cycle of presenting a biennium budget. Budgets are developed with a focus on the strategic plan. Fundamentally the budget is built on improving system reliability, reinvesting in system infrastructure, maintaining a competitive pay and benefit package for employees, expanding training opportunities for employees, investing in technology and making sure Greenville Water remains a visible, active and engaged member of the community. Mr. Robey reviewed the budgeted revenue highlights, new programs and initiatives, expense highlights, capital outlay, normal system improvements, 2020 debt service, and annual debt service requirements.

Commissioner Sofield moved, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, to approve the 2020-2021 Biennium Budget as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

7. 2020-2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Mr. Robey to present the proposed 2020-2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget. Mr. Robey reviewed the 2020 proposed capital projects with revisions recommended during the 2019 Strategic Planning Workshop. The greatest commitment of dollars in the CIP is to water mains, with treatment being the second largest commitment. Mr. Robey presented the financing plan for the proposed CIP, the annual debt service requirements, and the forecasted days cash on hand. Staff requested approval of the 2020 portion of the proposed capital budget.

Commissioner Sofield moved, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, to approve the 2020 Capital Improvement Program Budget as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Mr. Bereskin asked Human Resources Director Richard Posey to present on the 2020 Renewal of the Retiree Medicare Advantage Plan. Medicare Advantage has been offered to Greenville Water Retirees and it is now time for renewal. Mr. Posey reviewed traditional Medicare Parts A & B and explained Medicare Part C or Medicare Advantage Plans are plans provided through private insurers. These plans include Part A, Part B, and typically Part D coverage, as well as additional benefits, all in one plan.

The United Healthcare (UHC) Medicare Advantage program was first offered effective January 1, 2015, and it is now time to look around to make sure the current rate is competitive. Mr. Posey reviewed the program rules, plan comparisons and the option to switch from UHC to Humana for Commission information.

Public Relations Specialist Emerald Clark reviewed upcoming activities involving sponsorships.

Mr. Bereskin shared details of two hikers that were lost in the Table Rock watershed over the weekend. Both hikers were recovered safely Sunday morning. Commissioner Sofield requested a debriefing of events with Watersheds Manager Henry Poole, once the police report has been received.

Greenville Water Staff is working with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to relocate some of the brook trout. DNR first approached Commissioner Bannister about this opportunity. Mr. Poole has also been in communication with Dan Rankin (DNR) to work on the details of this project and a possible collaboration on reworking the mouth of the North Saluda river, across the road from the plant site.

State Water Planning will close on Thursday. Mr. Bereskin stated it was a well-managed process and the Planning and Process Advisory Committee will vote on the final document at the meeting in Columbia on Thursday. Once the document is voted on and accepted the next step is to move into the Edisto where the Legislature has funded a study of the basin.

9. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Sofield thanked the Accounting Team for their hard work in preparing the budget documents. Mr. Bereskin added the entire Team did a great job in preparing the documents and working through the zero-based budget process.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.



Phillip A. Kilgore, Chairman



Kimberly J. Haulter, Executive Assistant