



GreenvilleWater

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS**
407 West Broad Street
Commission Room, Level Two
Greenville, South Carolina
March 3, 2020
8:15 a.m.

Commissioners of Public Works in attendance:

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

Greenville Water Senior Staff in attendance:

Chief Executive Officer David H. Bereskin, Chief Financial Officer Phil Robey, Chief Operations Officer Jeff Boss, Controller Jondia Berry, Director of Strategic Initiatives Jane Arrington, Human Resources Director Richard Posey, Director of Engineering Mark Hattendorf, Director of Business Services Gary VerDouw, Director of Water Resources Jeff Phillips, Manager of Field Operations Wayne Benson, Facilities Maintenance Fleet Manager Allen White, 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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were presented.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Kilgore listed the items of the Consent Agenda which were the meeting minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting February 4, 2020, the Water Resources Report, the Finance Update, and New Development. Commissioner Sofield moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Bannister, to approve the consent agenda items. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Executive Officer David Bereskin offered to have Staff provide a brief presentation on the consent agenda items due to an interest in rainfall amounts for 2020 to-date. Director of Water Resources Jeff Phillips explained the Greenville Water coverage area is at Stage 0 for the Keowee Toxaway Low Inflow Protocol. The current drought level is D0, and the fire danger level is 0. The excessive rainfall is hindering the plan for prescribed burns at North Saluda. The month of February held record rainfall for all three areas of Adkins, North Saluda and Table Rock.

Rainfall Totals

*Through February 27, 2020

| | Table Rock | North Saluda | Adkins |
|--|------------|--------------|--------|
| Monthly Rainfall | 14.22 | 13.77 | 12.75 |
| Average Monthly Rainfall: (10 Yr Average) | 7.16 | 5.65 | 5.58 |
| YTD Rainfall: | 24.52 | 21.34 | 21.45 |
| Average Rainfall through February (10 Year Average) | 14.34 | 10.77 | 10.95 |

4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Legislative Liaison Bob Knight to provide a legislative update. Mr. Knight drew attention to two items of legislation. Lexington County, South Carolina has some continuing concerns regarding Blue Granite Water Company, so a group of Legislators submitted a Bill to put before the Public Service Commission, to eliminate some of the issues regarding the rate base. Aiken and Barnwell Counties have had issues with water quality, and therefore presented a bill requiring water purification levels be required on monthly bills.

A PFAS bill has been introduced as a result of contamination around military bases. An attempt is being made to establish a State level for PFAS contamination and institute SC DHEC to promulgate rules and regulations with any contaminants adopted by two other states. This would be getting in front of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and their scientific process of setting MCLs and contaminate levels for different constituents that maybe found in water. There are over 2,000 PFOS, PFAS chemicals in existence. This is just the tip of the iceberg on how to regulate them.

The South Carolina Retirement bill that Greenville Water has been pushing should be up for a hearing in the Senate in April, as soon as the budget is finished. In order to have a plan B, a request has been made to add an amendment to the budget to attach the bill to the State budget. State Representative Jeff Bradley from Beaufort has put in a more comprehensive bill for the retirement system. He has been a leader in trying to get the system dealt with.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE – ACCOUNTING AND PURCHASING

Chairman Kilgore called upon Controller Jondia Berry and Purchasing Manager Will Bettis to provide a strategic plan update. Ms. Berry explained the purpose of the goals is to maintain financial stability by efficiently recovering costs due to operating, maintaining, improving and expanding the water system. The Accounting goals for 2020 include the timely reconciliation of accounts, timely release of financial reports, insurance claims process efficiencies, ensure available payment discount terms are taken, and efficient and profitable management of funds. Ms. Berry provided the progress of each goal to-date.

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Mr. Bettis, new to Greenville Water as of July 2019, introduced himself to the Commission, and reviewed the 2020 goals for the purchasing department. The goals included development of supplier agreements, processing 95% of approved purchasing portal requisitions within one business day, release of 90% of CIP bids within five business days upon receipt of an approved bid package from Engineering, and maintain a monthly 2% or less inventory variance for the shop and truck inventories. Mr. Bettis also included the progress to-date for each goal.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Kilgore asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Vice-Chairman Bannister moved, seconded by Commissioner Sofield, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing legal issues. The motion passed unanimously.

(Executive Session)

Commissioner Sofield moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Bannister, to go out of Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously. No action was taken.

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Mr. Bereskin asked Commissioners their thoughts on outfitting the Water Treatment Operators with proper protective masks in the wake of COVID-19. Chairman Kilgore asked if the American Water Works Association had issued any guidance. Mr. Bereskin answered some warning statements had been issued about the virus, and that it would become a pandemic, but that it is not spread by water. Vice-Chairman Bannister and Commissioner Sofield voiced their pleasure in running through a practice session of existing pandemic plans to strengthen the process. Commissioner Brasington asked how long it had been since a practice exercise had been completed. Mr. Bereskin stated a simulation had never been practiced. Vice-Chairman Bannister also recommended an annual hand wash training and flu vaccination for Staff to help prevent the spread of the influenza virus each year.

There will be another State Water Planning Process Advisory Committee (PPAC) meeting in April. The committee for the Pee Dee Basin, has not really started planning. This has been a slow process for the State to be able to get the funds released for the consultants needed to help with the planning. There is a big movement throughout the water utility sector to try to fund the whole state at once.

Chairman Kilgore mentioned a news report about a broken water line in east Houston, Texas where a 96-inch pipe broke, and asked if there were any lessons learned for Greenville Water from this incident. Mr. Bereskin responded a redundant line to the 72-inch is being engineered and hopefully there will be an entire 72-inch flow capability from Adkins all the way into Greenville. Valves are being exercised once a year. A thorough inspection has been completed and sections of the prestressed concrete cylinder pipe (PCCP) have been repaired. Pure Technologies has been contracted to run their "See Snake" through the 72-inch pipe to make sure there are no leaks, and possibly even check for wire breaks.

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8. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Sofield complimented and thanked the team of Greenville Water staff that participated in Fork Shoals Elementary STEM Family Night on February 7th. There was a great response from those of the community in attendance.

Chairman Kilgore asked Public Relations Specialist Emerald Clark if there were any opportunities for engagement by the Commission in the next month. Ms. Clark stated the STEAM Festival at iMAGINE Upstate will take place April 4th, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and there will be a special luncheon at Roper Mountain on April 30th.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 10:15 a.m.



Phillip A. Kilgore, Chairman



Kimberly Haulter, Executive Assistant