



GreenvilleWater

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS
517 West Washington Street
Community Room
Greenville, South Carolina
November 10, 2020
8:15 a.m.

Commissioners of Public Works in attendance:

Chairman Phillip A. Kilgore, Vice-Chairman James W. Bannister, and Will Brasington.

Absent: Debra M. Sofield and 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, Director of Water Resources Jeff Phillips, Director of Strategic Initiatives Dr. Jane Arrington, Director of Engineering Mark Hattendorf, Director of Human Resources Richard Posey, Manager of Field Operations Wayne Benson, Manager of Facilities and Fleet Allen White, Public Relations Manager Emerald Clark, and Attorney Adam Bach.

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 October 6, 2020, the Water Resources Report, the Finance Update, New Development, and New Annexations. The items were deemed approved.

4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Legislative Liaison Bob Knight to provide a legislative update. Mr. Knight wanted to make the Commission aware of the House and Senate reorganizing as a result of the recent election. The reorganization date has not been set yet. The House of Representatives will elect some officers at that time. The Senate will not meet until January. Prefiling the legislation submitted by Greenville Water regarding the retirement system funding should occur sometime around the beginning of December. Mr. Knight will take care of prefiling for Greenville Water.

Elections results include 81 members of the Republican caucus and 32 Democrats in the House. Of the 46 Senators, 30 are now Republican and 16 are Democrats. The House of Representatives and the Senate are both one vote away from a supermajority of Republicans.

Mr. Knight shared he and Chief Operations Officer Jeff Boss met with the SC Department of Transportation's (SCDOT) Acting District Engineering Administrator for the Upstate, Mr. David Herbert, to present some issues regarding road resurfacing. It appears that SC DOT current regulations allow for the DOT to make financial exceptions for the present condition of the pavement when assessing the replacement asphalt work necessary from a watermain project. Mr. Herbert seemed open to investigating the applicability of this "rule" and working with Greenville Water on resurfacing requirements and scheduling.

5. WATER LOSS CONTROL TRENDING

Chairman Kilgore invited Director of Strategic Initiatives Dr. Jane Arrington to comment on water loss control trends. Dr. Arrington reviewed Water Loss Control Team data from the last five years, showing the solid baseline that has been established in water loss numbers, and shared Greenville Water successes and future goals.

As of 2020, California, Georgia, Hawaii and Indiana are progressive leaders as far as requiring the use of American Water Works Association (AWWA) free audit software and Level 1 validation by an outside auditor. Nevada and Illinois, along with Tennessee, require water utilities to compile water audit data. South Carolina is progressing and has created the South Carolina Water Loss Control committee. Dr. Arrington is a member of the committee.

Successes in the past five years include:

- Verified and validated free water accounts
- Increased the accuracy of non-revenue water passing through auto-flushers. This began in the field by calibrating all the auto flushers and progressed in 2020 to metering the auto-flushers for improved volume accuracy.
- Field verified inactive accounts
- Focused KPIs in Field Operations on timely locates and repairs
- Launched a strategic leak detection program

Future goals include:

- Initiating a meter testing and replacement program based on a robust proposal by Director of Business Services Gary VerDouw. This initiative will attack the apparent loss that occurs when a meter under-registers.
- Reassessment of the leak detection approach.
 - Engineering and Field Operations are working together to review the data over the last eight years.
 - The new Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) software is being used to schedule the valve maintenance exercising associated with leak detection.
 - New equipment for field use is being procured.

Greenville Water's real water losses are estimated at around two billion gallons a year. Real losses are the physical losses in a pressurized system (water mains and customer service connections) associated with leaks, breaks and overflows. This established baseline will be used to assess the effectiveness of leak detection strategies. Normalized real losses based upon system size and operating pressure is a benchmark provided by AWWA to compare utilities. The median real losses measurement is 0.59 gallons/service connection/day/psi,

and the average is 0.79 gallons/service connection/day/psi. Greenville Water's average is 0.37, which is exceptional for a utility of this size.

Dr. Arrington reviewed system characteristics that are collected annually to show the growth of Greenville Water. Over the last five years the length of mains in miles has increased from 2,931 to 3,038 miles. The number of service connections has increased from 176,841 to 188,491. System costs remain low, with the last rate increase occurring in 2016. Dr. Arrington shared Level 1 validation benchmarking, which are key indicators to compare Greenville Water to other utilities. The most recent water audit from 2019 shows Greenville Water is below both the median and average in terms of cost.

Water loss auditing is currently moving away from percentages and moving to gallons/connection/day, a normalizing factor for the size of the utility. In terms of apparent losses Greenville Water is at the average and measures below both the median and average values for real losses. To conclude, the water loss baseline established over the past five years will be used to assess the effectiveness of the two major initiatives: meter testing and replacement program, and the strategic leak detection program.

6. 2021 COMMISSION MEETING AND HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Mr. Bereskin presented the 2021 Commission Meeting and Holiday calendar for review. Chairman Kilgore recommended moving the November 2021 Commission meeting date to the second Tuesday. Commissioners approved the calendar with the recommended change.

Mr. Bereskin proposed changing the December 2020 Commission meeting start time to 9:00 a.m. to allow Commissioners to participate in the Greenville Water Employee Holiday Food Truck event.

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Chairman Kilgore invited Mr. Bereskin to provide the Chief Executive Report. Mr. Bereskin shared he is reviewing the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission agreements. One is an intergovernmental agreement to outline the service area in perpetuity and the other is an asset agreement. These agreements should be ready to sign by the end of November.

Staff continues to work with the cyberattack insurance claim. A cyber claim advocate with Arthur J. Gallagher has been enlisted to help. There has been no movement towards a resolution with AIG. The claims advocate has asked to be given until the end of the week to try to make progress.

The Roper Mountain Science Center Environmental Science and Sustainability Building development is progressing. Dr. Arrington and Manager of Public Relations Emerald Clark have been working on interactive work scenarios for the Greenville Water exhibit and half of the scenarios are completed. Ms. Clark is working to influence the City of Greenville's Unity Park signage at the Greenville Water splashpad to include a tie-in to the Roper Mountain Science Center Environmental Science and Sustainability Building. There is a continued

push for conservation, education, and job opportunities at Greenville Water in both major sponsorships in 2020.

A sign has been placed in the City View area of Greenville announcing the new waterline replacement project with the help of a grant from the Rural Infrastructure Authority.

Greenville County Council had the first reading of an ordinance on wastewater consolidation of the Berea, Gantt, Marietta, Parker, Taylors, and Wade Hampton Special Purpose Districts. The ordinance includes, subject to approval, that Greenville Water is expected to provide water service in Marietta. Objections to the ordinance have been filed by the Special Purpose Districts. Mr. Bereskin will get more information and get back with Commissioners.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS

No comments were presented.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 8:50 a.m.



Phillip A. Kilgore, Chairman

Kimberly Haulter, Executive Assistant