



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Water and Sewer Committee of Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 15, 2022**

1. Call to Order & Freedom of Information Act Requirements:

The Water and Sewer Committee of Council met at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2022 at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Bachman Smith, IV (Chair), Scott Millimet, and Gary Visser. Staff members present were Greg Gress, Andy Benke, and Mary Poole. There were no (0) members of the public and no members of the media present.

Chair Bachman Smith called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m., and stated the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State Law.

2. Communications/Additional Items from WWTF Manager, Greg Gress

a. Construction updates as to the Lift Stations and WWTP

Mr. Gress stated the permit application for the riprap on Lift Stations 1 and 3 have been submitted but there has not been any response yet. They are still trying to close out the wastewater treatment plant project. They are only waiting on the EO&M manual from HDR. DHEC has done a final walk through and once the manual is sent, the permit to operate can be issued. Mr. Gress also mentioned the chlorine tablets and their increase in price.

The waterline project has 500 feet installed and the next 500 feet run is about halfway installed on Goldbug. He did not have a completion date for that.

3. Discussion/Motions:

a. Approval of Minutes- October 27, 2022, Committee Meeting

Motion was made by Mr. Visser, seconded by Mr. Millimet, to approve the Water and Sewer Minutes from October 27, 2022 as submitted, passed unanimously.

- b. Continue work on Private Sewer Lateral Policy for further I&I Reduction
 - i. Focus on how to launch program for most comprehensive coverage/best results and triggers for inspections.

Chair Smith reviewed the plan for the Private Sewer Lateral Policy for further I&I reduction. He stated he had a conversation with the Town's lawyer, Larry Dodds about options for what can be required in the ordinance. Per their conversation, it is possible to craft an ordinance that requires inspections on private sewer laterals for new construction, renovations (over a certain value), etc. Chair Smith stated the next question is what to do if residents/property owners refuse to fix anything that does not pass as leak-proof. Mr. Dodds suggested metering water going out, the same way water is metered coming in. Mr. Gress stated that is not possible with the current technology because of waste that is going out plugs up the meter, at least for individual homes. However, they can collect that kind of data at the pump stations.

There was further discussion about how to deal with these situations and possible consequences for those that refuse to comply. It was agreed that turning off someone's water is not a reasonable option so the details must be fleshed out. Mr. Gress also stated most of the responsibility must fall on the homeowner. Chair Smith reiterated that the main issue they are trying to fix is leaky or broken laterals. Another issue is the homes that have these issues but would not be "triggered" to be tested because they are not being sold or renovated anytime in the near future. Mr. Benke suggested a surcharge may be a solution, similar to tax penalties. The possibility of the Town subsidizing part of the cost for the test as well, but no decisions were made. Chair Smith pointed out that the cost of the potential repair is what will likely cost a lot of money, not necessarily the test itself.

The committee again discussed the potential triggers as well as the timeframe for getting tests and repairs done and possible restrictions for those that do not comply. Having a list of approved plumbers to perform the test was also discussed as a possibility, though how to compile such a list would need to be discussed further. A decision would also have to be made about how often this test would be required as well as look at how this would impact staff. Records of the tests could be attached to the metered account once issued.

No final decisions were made about this process and will continue to be discussed at future meetings.

4. Review of Active and Pending Projects:

- a. Wastewater Treatment Plant Retrofit (Close Out)
 - i. Screening of the WWTP
- b. CWS contract revisions

- c. Written Cost Recovery Program
- d. Private Sewer Lateral Policy for I&I Reduction
- e. Pump/Lift Stations flood proofing project
 - i. Protection using rip-rap
 - ii. Aesthetic changes/considerations
- f. Aesthetic changes to Lift Stations
- g. Update Capital Improvement Plan
- h. Updated rate study

5. Set the date for the next W&S Committee Meeting

- a. The next Sullivan's Island W&S Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 8:45 a.m.

6. Adjourn

Motion was made by Mr. Millimet, seconded by Mr. Visser, to adjourn the Water and Sewer meeting at 9:37 a.m., carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bridget Welch