



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina**  
**Water and Sewer Committee of Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 26, 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, May 26, 2022 at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Bachman Smith, IV (Chair), Gary Visser, and Scott Millimet. Staff members present were Greg Gress, Andy Benke, and Bridget Welch. There were no members of the public and no members of the media present.

Chair Bachman Smith called the meeting to order at 8:46 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**

No new updates on the construction side, just tidying up some change orders, such as the front gate, which is now operating. Mr. Gress also shared some aerials of the new plant that were taken by Garney Construction.

He also briefly went over the timeline of the leak in the CPW pipeline in the Charleston Harbor, which made the Town temporarily switch to the Mt. Pleasant water feed and caused a drop in water pressure on the Island. He provided some photos and provided updates and a description of the work that has been done to repair the leak over the past two weeks, starting on May 21, 2022. The first clamp that was put on buckled/bulged under the pressure and a second, temporary, clamp was put on May 25. A permanent clamp will be put on when a stainless steel one is available. The Committee will be updated once CPW provides updates.

**3. Discussion/Motions:**

- a. Approval of Minutes- April 28, 2022, Committee Meeting**

**Motion was made by Mr. Millimet, seconded by Mr. Visser, to approve the Water and Sewer Minutes from April 28, 2022 as submitted and amended, carried unanimously.**

Chair Smith stated the names Davis & Floyd and WK Dickson needed to be corrected in the minutes and that the correction was submitted to Bridget prior to the meeting.

**b. Final Review of Budget for FY2023**

Mr. Gress stated at the Second Reading of the budget stands at a 7% COLA increase, which translated to a 2.1% rate increase for a 6,000-gallon water and sewer customer bill. COLA has since gone up to an 8.5%. This brings the total impact to \$37, 936 (up from \$31, 241) and includes salary, social security, and retirement. It also brings the rate increase for the customer to a 2.6% increase to balance the budget.

Chair Smith stated that making a change this significant to the budget between Second and Third reading requires two Council members to be in favor of the motion to amend. He is waiting on clarification from Town Lawyer Larry Dodds on how this needs to be carried out during the next Council meeting. He went over how this will be presented during the meeting. This amended budget, once approved, will then become the Third Reading.

Mr. Gress also spoke about possible changes in the fees for various water and sewer tasks. These are raised to cover the cost of construction and labor of any work done out of regular water and sewer usage upkeep.

**c. ASR: Aquifer Storage and Recovery – engineering study results**

Mr. Gress stated the study is completed and there are three options moving forward. The first is to move forward with converting well #2 to an ASR well with significant risk, which is reducing the capacity of the well. Option two is to drill a new, shallower well that will be an ASR well and the third is to do nothing. He feels option one is not worth the risk but feels having an ASR well is a good option, especially in lieu of the recent CPW leak in the harbor. It would provide potable water in such events. Mr. Visser agrees, but it is something that will need to be looked at and budgeted for at a later date.

**d. Aesthetic changes to Lift Stations**

There have been resident concerns about Lift Station 3 and they have given suggestions about how to improve the aesthetic. These included planting grass, adding a trellis, painting the generator and/or bollards, placing planters in front of the bollards, and moving the electric meter. Mr. Gress feels moving the electrical box is not an option but will look into it. He stated the ordinance is clear in prohibiting planters in the right of way

and feels this would set a precedent for allowing others to put planters in the right of way. Mr. Benke mentioned it is not necessarily up to the Town to give permission for allowing things in the right of way as it is the DOTs and may be encroachment. Mr. Gress feels painting the bollards is an option and if the planters were allowed, they would need to be defined in terms of size, plants, placement, etc. He does have concerns about if painting the bollards something other than safety yellow makes the Town liable for any sort of accident involving them.

**4. Review of Active and Pending Projects:**

- a. Wastewater Treatment Plant Retrofit (Construction Phase-Final)
  - 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 (Close out)

**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, June 23, 2022 at 8:45 a.m.

Mr. Visser will not be able to attend the next meeting.

**6. Adjourn**

**Motion was made by Mr. Visser, seconded by Mr. Millimet, to adjourn the Water and Sewer meeting at 9:40 a.m., carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Bridget Welch