



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Water and Sewer Committee of Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 13, 2025**

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

The Water and Sewer Committee of Council met at 9:15 a.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Justin Novak (Chair), Jody Latham, and Gary Visser. Staff members present were Jason Blanton, Water and Sewer Manager Greg Gress, Town Administrator Joe Henderson, and Bridget Welch. There were no (0) members of the public and no (0) members of the media present.

Chair Justin Novak called the meeting to order at 9:22 a.m., and stated the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State Law.

2. Public Comment

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

a. Construction updates as to the Lift Stations and WWTP

There are no updates from Greg Gress. Joe Henderson gave an update from the Encore Engineers and stated we will hopefully be getting permits soon to move forward with the drainage project at Station 9 ½.

4. Discussion/Motions:

a. Approval of the Minutes from the January 30, 2025, Committee Meeting

Motion was made by Mr. Visser, seconded by Chair Novak, to approve the minutes from the January 30, 2025 Committee Meeting, passed 2-0 with Ms. Latham abstaining.

b. FY2026 Draft Budget Overview

Chair Novak reviewed the Sewer budget, which is largely staying the same, with a 1.47% increase due to COLA raises and other administrative costs. The Water budget has a 17.96% increase due to the increase in reserves the department is adding. It also includes the inclusion of the Charleston Water System Capital plan that covers capital improvements and the pending implantation of the new PFAS compliance. The increase also includes additional water purchase costs from the water purchased, which had a 5% increase.

Chair Novak also stated the account is seeing benefits from moving funds into a higher yield interest account.

Mr. Gress discussed the sewer side of the budget and the need for money to be put into the maintenance of the treatment plant. He took questions from the Committee and Jason Blanton also commented on the depreciation in the fund. Mr. Gress also spoke about the potential costs of treatment of the proposed regulations for PFAS. These changes are more theoretical now as they require many decisions and instructions from the EPA.

Mr. Gress stated there will be a spreadsheet with rate increases to show how these changes will increase the average customer forthcoming. He then took questions from the committee, and they also discussed the possibility of installing digital AMI meters. How this would fit into a capital budget plan as well.

- c. Letter from CWS Re: EPA Regulation to Significantly Impact Water Rates
- d. Discussion of the South Carolina Wastewater Surveillance Program – no updates
- e. Plan for Town Deep Water Wells – no updates
- f. Discussion FY 2023-2027 CIP Plan and Funding for AMI Meters (Greg Gress Recommendations)

5. Review of Active and Pending Projects:

- a. W&S Ordinance Clean-Up Discussion
- b. Written Cost Recovery Program
- c. Private Sewer Lateral Policy for I&I Reduction
- d. Pump/Lift Stations
 - i. Protection using rip-rap
- e. Update Capital Improvement Plan
- f. Update Capital Improvement Plan

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

- a. The next Sullivan's Island W&S Committee meeting is to be determined.

Motion was made by Ms. Latham, seconded by Mr. Visser, to recommend the full Water & Sewer budget as proposed to the full Council and Finance Committee for the March 13, 2025 meeting for review, passed unanimously.

7. Adjourn

Motion was made by Ms. Latham, seconded by Mr. Visser, to adjourn the Water and Sewer Committee meeting at 10:23 a.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bridget Welch