



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Water and Sewer Committee of Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 7, 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, August 7, 2025 at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Justin Novak (Chair) and Gary Visser. Staff members present were Town Administrator Joe Henderson, Water & Sewer Manager Gregg Gress, 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 9:16 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

Still waiting on rip rap at lift stations one and three. Seamon and Whiteside is now bidding because of the dredging and will not be part of the SCIIP grant project.

Mr. Gress also discussed the current conflicts the SCIIP project has with existing utilities. There are 48 and they will all create friction loss, but there may not be any noticeable differences. These will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and Seamon and Whiteside will be in communication with the Town for all of them. These will also cause temporary water shut-offs on the Island and residents and property owners will be notified via phone. Contractors will also be knocking on doors in the area's immediate vicinity. Residents are encouraged to make sure their utility bill contact information is correct so they can receive notifications.

Mr. Henderson stated the bids for the Station 9 ½ stormwater improvements will be going out tomorrow (August 8). Letters have been sent to homes affected by the project and they are hoping to break ground in the next couple of months.

4. Discussion/Motions:

- a. Approval of the Minutes from the May 8, 2025 Committee Meeting

Motion was made by Mr. Visser, seconded by Chair Novak, to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2025 Committee Meeting, passed unanimously.

- b. Review of HDR WWTP Peracetic Acid Pilot Study proposal

Currently they use a tablet system to disinfect the wastewater and remove chlorine, but they may be able to switch to using peracetic acid instead. Mr. Gress stated they are moving into a pilot program to further explore this possibility. He also said he has spoken to other municipalities that have already switched. The benefits would be that there is no residual and no need to remove chlorine when using peracetic acid. He stated we would be the first place with saltwater discharge and also provided a cost comparison, noting the initial testing would cost roughly \$175,000, but could potentially be cost beneficial in the long run. A more detailed proposal will be presented to Council and will have to be approved before moving forward. There was more discussion about the process and what will need to be presented to Council.

- c. Discussion of the South Carolina Wastewater Surveillance Program – no updates
- d. Plan for Town Deep Water Wells

Mr. Gress stated they will need to get some electrical work done if they are going to use the wells and hook up generators. If they were to be used, the water would not be potable because the amount of fluoride. To make it drinkable it would need a reverse osmosis system, which would require more equipment. There was further discussion about the possibility of using these wells during an emergency situation. Chair Novak suggested creating a solid plan to present to Council that includes what steps would be taken in an emergency situation, as well the costs involved. Mr. Gress also took questions from the Committee.

- e. Discussion FY2023-2027 CIP Plan and Funding for AMI Meters (Greg Gress Recommendations)

A capital improvement plan was proposed for all meters to transition to AMI meters with a projected cost of \$700,000. Mr. Gress stated these updated meters would read the meter every hour, instead of the current monthly reading that is done manually. It would also allow users access to a portal where they can see their real-time usage data. It will notify people of leaks earlier, saving water and money. A six-year phase-in transition was proposed and the Town would buy around 300 each year, after purchasing the initial software. There is a possibility of grant funding from Google that Mr. Gress is going to look into. The software would cost between \$20,000-\$25,000 to maintain per year.

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

6. 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, August 28, 2025 at 9:15 a.m.

7. Adjourn

Motion was made by Mr. Visser, seconded by Chair Novak, to adjourn the Water and Sewer Committee meeting at 10:22 a.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bridget Welch