



Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Water and Sewer Committee of Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 28, 2023

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

The Water and Sewer Committee of Council met at 8:45 a.m. on September 28, 2023 at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Justin Novak (Chair), Jody Latham, and Gary Visser. Staff members present were Water & Sewer Manager Greg Gress, Joe Henderson, Bridget Welch, and Max Wurthmann. There was one (1) member of the public and no members of the media present.

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

2. Public Comment

- Dan Batten, 2430 Atlantic Ave – would like to dispute his water bill

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

- a. Construction updates as to the Lift Stations and WWTP

Mr. Gress stated they are still waiting on the rip-rap permit from DHEC and there have been no changes.

4. Discussion/Motions:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the July 26,2023 Committee Meeting

Motion was made by Mr. Visser, seconded by Ms. Latham, to approve the minutes from the July 26, 2023 Committee Meeting, passed unanimously.

- b. Approval of Minutes from the August 24, 2023 Committee Meeting

Motion was made by Mr. Visser, seconded by Ms. Latham, to approve the minutes from the August 24, 2023 Committee Meeting, passed unanimously.

c. Discussion of recent rain event

Mr. Gress stated on the morning of September 21st we got 3.65 inches of rain, which caused the entire sewer system to be surcharged, which caused two Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO). He sent in a report to DHEC for two SSOs in different locations. He stated these happen less frequently since all the work that has been done with I & I reduction. Mr. Gress believes a lot of residents have sump pumps that are tied to the sewer system and are not supposed to be, and likely caused these events. He stated it would be best to address these issues with the large overall stormwater plan instead of insisting people remove their sump pumps.

d. Rates discussion and consideration of a 4th tier and public hearing

Chair Novak stated the field trip to the outfalls dates of October 13th or 27th will be presented at the next Council Workshop. Mr. Gress is not available on the 27th so Chair Novak suggested a second option of November 3rd. The public will be notified when the date is decided.

Joe Henderson stated the outfalls on Osceola and Back Street are easily accessible and Town staff has been working at both those locations recently, alongside SCDOT and Steven Whitesides & Associates. He also mentioned possibly showing the outfall work that will be done with SKIP Grant at Stations 16, 25, 28 ½, and 31.

Mr. Gress has a letter drafted to send to the public regarding the 4th tier rate discussion and will send it when a date for the public hearing is set. Chair Novak stated they will hopefully set a date in November at the October 2nd Workshop.

e. Discussion FY 2023-2027 CIP Plan and Funding for AMI Meters

Mr. Gress gave an Advanced Meter-Reading Infrastructure (AMI), stating it would cost around \$750,000 to swap out all the meters. Currently the meters are read twice a month and this new system would provide meter readings hourly. The meters and antennas have a 20-year battery life and there is also an ongoing software maintenance agreement that would cost \$30,000-\$40,000 per year. Mr. Visser suggested having it discussed at the next Workshop.

Motion was made by Mr. Visser, seconded by Chair Novak, to ask Council Workshop to add AMI Update to the agenda without recommendation for approval or of options, passed unanimously.

5. Review of Active and Pending Projects:

- a. Wastewater Treatment Plant Retrofit
 - 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

- f. W & S Ordinance clean-up
- g. 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, October 26, 2023 at 8:45 a.m.

7. Adjourn

Motion was made by Ms. Latham, seconded by Mr. Visser, to adjourn the Water and Sewer Committee meeting at 9:07 a.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bridget Welch