



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina**  
**Water and Sewer Committee of Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, July 26, 2023**

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

The Water and Sewer Committee of Council met at 8:45 a.m. on July 26, 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, Andy Benke, Joe Henderson, Bridget Welch, and Max Wurthmann. There were no members 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. Presentation from Raftelis re: Rate Study and a 4<sup>th</sup> Tier Option**

Mihaela Coopersmith, Raftelis representative, presented a follow-up to their previous presentation. They did a quick review of the last presentation and then discussed two funding alternatives for the potential purchase of gallons of water from CWS. These options are to start setting aside funds now by recovering from customers and potentially adding a fourth block for high users and irrigators or borrowing funds at a later time. The fourth block would target users who use over 12,000 gallons a month, which could be both for residential and irrigation customers or irrigation customers alone. She provided examples of costs for both options as well as additional notes for consideration including alternative costs and estimated number of monthly bills that would be in block 4. Answering questions, Ms. Coopersmith stated there is no industry standard, but many municipalities use a tiered system for conservation efforts. There are also other places that have a separate irrigation rate.

Ms. Coopersmith answered more questions from the Committee, clarifying where the \$3.2 million goal was pulled from and talking more about water capacity. They also discussed how water is being used by different entities on the Island, including businesses, churches, domestic, new construction, and irrigation.

If these changes were to be implemented, the Committee would like to educate and inform residents well before they go into effect. Mr. Gress also suggested a public hearing after the letters are sent. There was further discussion until the final conclusion of deciding to move forward with sending a letter and setting a public hearing date. A second letter will go out once decisions are made, potentially focusing more on those with irrigation meters.

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

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

Mr. Gress stated there are no new items, they are still waiting on a DHEC permit.

### **4. Discussion/Motions:**

- a. Approval of Minutes from the May 11, 2023, Special Committee Meeting

**Motion was made by Mr. Visser, seconded by Chair Novak, to approve the Water and Sewer Special Committee Meeting Minutes (attendees only) from May 11, 2023 as submitted, passed unanimously.**

- b. Approval of Minutes from the May 18, 2023 Committee Meeting

**Motion was made by Mr. Visser, seconded by Chair Novak, to approve the Water and Sewer Committee Meeting (attendees only) from May 18, 2023 as submitted, passed unanimously.**

- c. Rates discussion and consideration of a 4<sup>th</sup> tier
- d. Discussion FY 2023-2027 CIP Plan and Funding for AMI Meters

Mr. Gress will provide a copy of the CIP plan for this new Committee to review and possibly approve. The entire set would need to be replaced in order to use AMI (advanced metering infrastructure). All neighboring municipalities have already switched to AMI meters. Mr. Gress stated previous funding options that were discussed were self-funding, an SRF loan, or a combination of the two. Besides removing manual reads, it would also provide the customer with a portal to view usage. There is also the ability to alert customers if high usage is detected.

### **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, August 24, 2023 at 8:45 a.m.

**7. Adjourn**

**Motion was made by Mr. Visser, seconded by Ms. Latham, to adjourn the Water and Sewer Committee meeting at 9:35 a.m., passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Bridget Welch