



Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Water and Sewer Committee of Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 4, 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, August 4, 2022 at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Bachman Smith, IV (Chair), Scott Millimet, and Gary Visser. Staff members present were Greg Gress, Andy Benke, Joe Henderson, and Bridget Welch. There were no (0) 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

Mr. Gress stated WK Dickson is still working on the riprap permits for Stations 1 and 3. The new force main is completed at Station 1.

Warranty issues are still being worked through the press and some parts were replaced last week. There have also been some issues with controlling the new tablet system a bit and the department is working on getting through those. The E operation and maintenance manual for the treatment plant is also still being worked on. Bionomics is back this week to put in more segments. Once they do 3-4 segments, they will take a break for 2-4 weeks, then come back to do more work. This pattern will continue until the work is completed. These breaks will things to process through the plants.

CPW sent us an invoice for \$31,000 for their annual true-up cost. Their fiscal year ends December 31st, but the contract requires they send us an invoice for the projected July rates, based on their projected costs. Mr. Gress stated the amount is higher than expected.

3. Discussion/Motions:

- a. Approval of Minutes- June 23, 2022, Committee Meeting

Motion was made by Mr. Visser, seconded by Chair Smith, to approve the Water and Sewer Minutes from June 23, 2022 as submitted, passed 2-0.

- b. First look and discussion of updated Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Gress reviewed the five-year Capital Improvement Plan draft for the next five years. Most of the sewer work has been completed and replacing the force mains is left. He also mentioned the possibility of getting a permit to possibly get water reuse to use for irrigation. While the engineering study is being done for the rehaul of Stith Park seems like a good time to explore this possibility. He thinks it will possibly require additional treatment but does not know for sure. The new MPDS permit must be applied for by January 1 and Mr. Gress feels it may be a good time to apply for the other permit as well since they have six months to work on the application. Chair Smith supported moving forward with the application and would like the study to try and focus on finding a way to keep the infrastructure inside the current bounds of the treatment plant and not any closer to neighboring properties. Mr. Gress clarified there will be no construction outside of the current footprint of the existing treatment plant, but it may be possible to irrigate the park or other areas.

Mr. Gress discussed the water line replacement and the water meter replacement plans. The water line replacement plant will be started up again shortly, focusing first around the water tower and old cast iron lines will be replaced with new PVC pipe. The water meter replacement program will continue and is currently around 50-60% completed. The old meters were installed in 1997 and have a 20-year life span, but most have started to slow down. There is a buy-back program for the old meters, so the department is able to get credit for the old ones. The current meters must have no lead, so they are unable to reuse any old parts. Mr. Visser clarified there are no health or safety concerns with the old meters that do contain traces of lead. Mr. Gress also mentioned there are no lead service lines in the Town.

Mr. Gress next addressed the advanced metering infrastructure, which most surrounding municipalities have already completed. The meters will have an antenna installed and there will be more data points available to track residents' usage. There will also be a portal available for residents to see their usage on an hourly basis, rather than month to month like it is now. They will also be able to set up notifications to alert them when a certain threshold is reached.

The automated water tower switchover will help in the event the Town loses water pressure. This would be able to solve the issue without having to wait for someone to manually change everything.

Chairman Smith stated the Capital Improvement Plan draft needs to be finalized by the Committee before moving forward with the rate study unless the document would need to be significantly changed. Mr. Gress stated if they needed to buy more capacity from CPW then they would need to change it. This is a possibility because of usage increases from the new treatment plant and irrigation use.

4. Review of Active and Pending Projects:

- a. Wastewater Treatment Plant Retrofit (Close Out)
 - 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 (use of rip-rap)
- f. Aesthetic changes to Lift Stations
- g. Update Capital Improvement Plan
- h. Updated rate study

Chair Smith stated the last wastewater rate study was done in 2018 by Raftelis where there was talk of adding a tier of cost to encourage water savings by residents using water for irrigation and pools. Irrigation is currently causing high water demands. He suggested the Committee decide if they would like to move ahead with the proposed rate study or take some more time to study and discuss it. It's recommended that these types of studies are conducted every 3-5 years. The cost for the proposed study by Raftelis is \$52,850.00, minus \$4,200 if the company does not make a presentation in person.

Motion was made by Mr. Millimet, seconded by Mr. Visser, Raftelis be contracted to perform a five-year rate study, carried unanimously.

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, August 25 at 8:45 a.m.

6. Adjourn

Motion was made by Mr. Visser, seconded by Mr. Millimet, to adjourn the Water and Sewer meeting at 9:29 a.m., carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bridget Welch