



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Water and Sewer Committee of Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 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 Thursday, January 26, 2023 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 Water & Sewer Manager Greg Gress, Andy Benke, Jason Blanton, Joe Henderson, Bridget Welch, and Max Wurthmann. There were three (3) members of the public and no members of the media present.

Chair Bachman Smith 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

- Ron Coish, 2808 I'On Avenue, thanks the Committee for a job well done

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

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

Mr. Gress stated the final payout from Garney has been received.

4. Discussion/Motions:

- a. Approval of Minutes- December 15, 2022, Committee Meeting

Motion was made by Mr. Millimet, seconded by Mr. Visser, to approve the Water and Sewer Minutes from December 15, 2022 as submitted, passed unanimously.

- b.** Continue work on Private Sewer Lateral Policy for further I&I Reduction
 - i. Focus on how to launch program for most comprehensive coverage/best results and triggers for inspections

The committee discussed the best way to get the most coverage when launching the new program. Chair Smith reviewed the objectives of the program. The main goal is to make sure all private sewer laterals on the Island are certified as leak-proof. The Town would be witnessing and issuing the certification with approved plumbers conducting the test. The committee needs to decide on the duration and/or levels of the certifications. Mr. Millimet stated it would be best to make it as simple as possible, avoiding complexities and the opportunities for loopholes. They also still need to decide on the triggers that would require a test to be done. These triggers could be point of sale, permits, new construction, change of ownership, etc. Mr. Millimet suggested having the certificate last a set number of years until the next required certification.

There was discussion about the cost of the certification and repair options. It will most likely be up to the homeowner to find the most cost-effective way to proceed. They agreed it would be best to provide different options but to keep the end goal the same for everyone. Chair Smith stated he was still discussing legal options with the Town's lawyer on how best to eventually require every home be tested and certified. One possibility would be to pass an ordinance that sets the requirements. There was further discussion about how these requirements and consequences would work, but no decisions were made.

There was a public comment from Ron Coish, who agreed with Chair Smith, but stated that this would likely affect long-term residents financially and asked about the possibility of grants. Chair Smith agreed and would also like to find a way to assist those that may need it. Another resident, Laurie Ulmer, asked what the inspection process would be, and Chair Smith stated it has not been fully decided yet and this is why they are continuing to have these discussions. Chair Smith also explained the results from the recent I&I project results is why this project has become a priority.

Chair Smith suggested that Mr. Gress ask around to possibly get a base price to begin this process. Mr. Gress stated he would recommend a camera inspection happen before doing the actual leak test.

5. 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
 - i. Protection using rip-rap
 - ii. Aesthetic changes/considerations
- f. Aesthetic changes to Lift Stations
- g. Update Capital Improvement Plan
- h. Updated rate study

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, February 23, 2023 at 8:45 a.m.

7. Adjourn

Motion was made by Mr. Millimet, seconded by Mr. Visser, to adjourn the Water and Sewer Committee meeting at 9:30 a.m., carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bridget Welch