



Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Water and Sewer Committee of Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 23, 2021

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

The Water and Sewer Committee of Council met at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Bachman Smith, IV (Chair) and Gary Visser. (Council Committee member Scott Millimet was not present) Staff members present were Jason Blanton, Greg Gress and Bridget Welch. There were no members of the public present 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.

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

A. Lift Station Conversion Project:

Lift station projects are winding down, with a few outstanding issues left to resolve, including removing rotten boards and wire corrosion. Corrosion was found at Lift Station 4, caused by not plugging off the electrical conduit that leads to the wet well. Greg Gress stated the company that produces the panels recommended products to use to repair this, and the parts have not arrived. Most everything else is completed. The department will be installing some riprap to protect the bases at stations 1 and 3. Councilmember Gary Visser asked about locking the stations to avoid having any members of the public accessing water, but the stations cannot be locked. Greg Gress stated the water is turned off inside the meter box, so water cannot be used there.

Greg Gress is going to follow up with the removal of rocks in the field next to the old water treatment plant, in response to Chair Bachman Smith's query.

B. Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project:

The pole barn construction has been started, with bases being poured and set, and will continue to progress in coming weeks. Area lighting is starting to be constructed and the control building is being remodeled. The gear boxes have arrived and are scheduled to be installed next Tuesday and Wednesday (September 28-29). Plans have been finalized and will go through a 30-day demonstration period before it is considered “ours.”

Greg Gress also included an updated on the I&I reduction. One of the last steps is to link in all videos for all work done for Phase 1 & 2 to the Town’s GIS. This will link all information, including inspections and videos, for new pipes and will be available on the Town Server. The Water and Sewer Department removed 8,000 feet of lining work from Arcadis contract and will finish it up with a different company, Bio-Nomic.

Additionally, CWS is planning on flushing the main line on Wednesday of next week, between the hours of 10:00am and 3:00pm. Water pressure on the island will be reduced, and Greg Gress will be sending out a Nixle to everyone it will affect. It has been cleared with Fire Chief Anthony Stith and will not affect public services. While this is going on, the Water and Sewer Department will run an exercise, by putting the Tower online and isolating it to pressure test the Tower. This will allow for new staff to test the Tower and see how the process works.

III. Discussions/Motions:

A. Approval of Minutes- August 26, 2021.

Motion was made by Councilmember Gary Visser, seconded by Councilmember Bachman Smith, to approve the Water and Sewer Minutes from August 26, 2021, carried unanimously.

IV. Review of Active and Pending Projects:

- A. Wastewater Treatment Plant Retrofit (Construction Phase-Final)
- B. Charleston CPW/ICW Water Main Project (Construction Phase-Final)
- C. CWS contract revisions
- D. Written Cost Recovery Program
- E. Private Sewer Lateral Policy for I&I Reduction
- F. Pump/Lift Stations flood proofing project (Contracting Phase-Final)
- G. Water & Sewer Ordinance review/clean-up
- H. ASR: Aquifer Storage and Recovery (explore use of Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant funds)

V. The next Water and Sewer Committee Meeting is scheduled for: Thursday, October 28, 2021 8:45 a.m.

A. November meeting will be moved due to the Thanksgiving holiday

VI. Final Thoughts

Councilmember Gary Visser feels the ASR: Aquifer Storage and Recovery is worth pursuing because it would make water available to the Island if water from the primary sources of CPW water (Edisto River, Cooper River Reservoir) were to be contaminated. This would cause reduced water volume and pressure. While the CPW can remedy these problems, it could potentially mean months of impact for the Town. Councilmember Visser stated an ASR system is a valuable solution to pursue and implement. Greg Gress stated this issue will most likely be brought up as the next project to study and determine its feasibility. The budget is available to begin the study, which Greg Gress will act on if time allows.

VII. Adjournment:

Motion was made by Councilmember Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Gary Visser, to adjourn at 8:58 a.m., carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Bridget Welch