



LAURENS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
Board of Commissioners Meeting
September 24, 2024

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Philip O'Dell (County Council District II)
Jurell Byrd, Jr. Secretary (County Council District III)
Bill Teague, Vice Chairman (County Council District IV)
Susan Curry, Treasurer (County Council District V)
Lumus Byrd, Jr. (County Council District VI)
Ted Davenport, Chairman (County Council District VII)
Jimmy Young (Municipal)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Dime Hollingsworth (County Council District I)

STAFF PRESENT:

Jeff Field, Executive Director
Steve Griffin, Construction Manager
Damas Mattison, Regulatory Compliance & Operations Manager
Wendy Medlock, Director of Finance
Angie Nelson, Director of Administration & Customer Service
K.C. Price, Engineering Manager
Mary-Wallace Riley, Executive Administrative Assistant

ATTORNEY:

Allen Wham

PRESS:

None

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Davenport called the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m. in the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission's training rooms.

INVOCATION

Delivered by Commissioner Curry.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Davenport asked if there were any additions or corrections to the August 27, 2024, minutes as submitted to the Commissioners. None were submitted.

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. **MOVED** that the August 27, 2024, minutes be approved as submitted. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner J. Young **MOTION CARRIED**. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0.

CHAIRMAN REMARKS

Chairman Davenport greeted everyone and announced that Vic McDonald from The Clinton Chronicle was on vacation and that he was missed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

Mr. Field welcomed everyone and asked that Bubba Cash and wife be in everyone's prayers as they travel to Atlanta later in the week for a heart surgery procedure that will hopefully improve his wife's health condition.

LCWSC MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The monthly financial summary was presented to the Commissioners. A copy of the summary can be found in the Commissioner Board Packet.

As of August 31, 2024, LCWSC had a total of \$8,505,765 in cash for operating and reserve funds as compared to \$7,822,765 this time in FY24. As of August 31, 2024, LCWSC was awaiting an EDA reimbursement of \$252,158, which will be outstanding until the project is completed. This means the total cash balance would be \$8,757,923.

Mr. Field discussed the highlights for Water Distribution and Treatment, Wastewater Treatment, Wastewater Collection, Lake Rabon, and the Town of Gray Court. He also supplied the percentage breakdown for operating revenue, operating expenses, capital revenue, and capital expenses by department and the overall combined percentage for each.

Mr. Field noted that as of August 2024, LCWSC had received \$5,000 in contributed capital grants for Administration, \$300,153 for Wastewater Treatment, and \$50,000 for Wastewater Collection. Thus far, in FY25, a total of \$7,000 has been received in contributed capital grants. Future grant funds that are committed are for the following projects: Water and Sewer Infrastructure Master Plan RIA project, WWTP Sludge CDBG / SRF project, Metric Road Elevated Water Tank EDA project, and SCIIP Hospital Area Water System Improvements project.

As of August 2024, there was \$30,160 in paid line extensions.

LCWSC MONTHLY OPERATIONS SUMMARY

The monthly operations summary was presented to the Commissioners. A copy of the summary can be found in the Commissioner Board Packet.

Mr. Field noted that the average gallons per day (GPD) per active residential tap for August 2024 was 160 GPD. On average, each customer uses 134 GPD over a 12-month period.

Mr. Field shared the precipitation graph, noting that in August FY25, the rainfall was 3.24 inches, which is 0.26 inches below August FY24, 1.42 inches above that of August FY23, and 0.94 inches below the norm for August. This data is a county average derived from rain gauges at Brighton Meadows, Bush River Wastewater Treatment Plant, Clinton Pump Station, and Lake Rabon.

Mr. Field then recognized Mr. Mattison to review the work order summary. Mr. Mattison reported that eighty new water taps, and fifty new sewer taps were installed in August 2024. Mr. Mattison presented a map indicating the distribution of all new taps installed throughout the county.

Mr. Mattison discussed water purchase and shared the water audit report. The report captures the Rolling Average Water Audit in gallons for the system including the revenue (sold), the non-revenue (unaccounted), and the non-revenue authorized consumption (audited) versus the purchased. The rolling 12-month average for non-revenue (unaccounted) water is 17,631,952 gallons, which is an increase of 94,840 gallons over the previous 12-month average. The target for unaccounted water is less than 19,500,000 gallons.

In August 2024, there were six main line leak work orders; four were repaired within two weeks, one within two to four weeks, and one later than four weeks. There were sixteen lateral line leak work orders: seven were repaired within two weeks, four repaired within two to four weeks, and five later than four weeks. As of August 2024, there were nine active service line leaks over two weeks old and two active main line leaks open over two weeks old.

Mr. Field provided an update on the Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility, stating that it continues to operate well. In August 2024, the facility pumped 81.839 MG of raw water and treated 73.600 MG.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Taste and Odor

Mr. Field outlined the reasons that guided LCWSC's decision to incorporate an ozone system in the construction of the Water Treatment Facility and highlighted the numerous benefits of owning and operating such a system. He then reported that on Monday September 9, 2024, the WTF's ozone system went out and as a result we received complaints from customers regarding the taste and odor of the water.

Mr. Price echoed Mr. Field's sentiments regarding the benefits of an ozone system. He then provided information explaining MIB (2-Methylisoborneol) as the cause of the taste and odor complaints. He further explained that MIB it is a naturally occurring organic compound that can affect the taste and odor of water. It is produced by certain types of algae and bacteria, particularly cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) in freshwater bodies. Even in extremely low concentrations, MIB can impart an earthy or musty odor to drinking water, making it unpleasant for consumption. He went on to explain that **MIB**

levels in water levels are typically measured in nanograms per liter (ng/L) or parts per trillion (ppt). Even at levels as low as 5 to 10 ng/L, MIB can cause noticeable odor and taste issues, though it poses no significant health risks at these concentrations. To manage MIB, LCWSC uses advanced methods like ozone treatment to reduce or eliminate its presence.

Mr. Price explained that LCWSC staff acted swiftly when the system went down having the replacement breaker's delivery expedited and the ozone system was back online by EOB Monday September 16, 2024. Mr. Price reported that the complaints virtually stopped and customers that had reported concerns noted that they were no longer tasting anything objectionable.

Commissioner Young asked Mr. Price if a system was in place to prevent this from happening in the future and Mr. Price reported that we now have additional breakers in inventory and a revised SOP for maintenance of the system, including checking the temperature of the breaker panel to know if a particular breaker is overheating before it fails. Commissioner Teague noted that the ozone system was a wise investment on the Commission's part.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Riley shared an outline of upcoming community events that may interest the Commissioners. She encouraged their participation to foster community engagement and partnerships, which are key components of the five strategic priorities outlined in the Commission's Strategic Plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon returning to open session, the Commission may act on the matters discussed in executive session.

Commissioner O'Dell MOVED that the Board of Commissioners enter Executive Session at 9:35 a.m. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner J. Byrd, Jr. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0.

1. Contractual Matter related to Laurens CPW

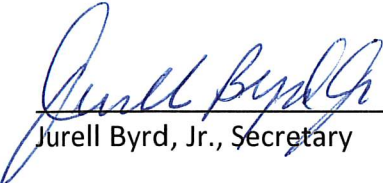
Commissioner S. Curry MOVED that the Board of Commissioners return to the Open Session at 9:58 a.m. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner J. Byrd, Jr. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0.

ADJOURN

Commissioner L. Byrd, Jr. **MOVED to adjourn the Board of Commissioners meeting. MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner J. Young. **MOTION CARRIED.** AYES, 6; NAYS, 0.

There being no further business, the Commission meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

I certify that the above Minutes accurately reflect the business conducted at the Commission meeting on September 24, 2024, and that the minutes were approved at the October 22, 2024, meeting.


Jurell Byrd, Jr., Secretary