MINUTES

The Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg, SC, Executive Session Meeting, held at 200 Commerce Street, Spartanburg, SC, October 31, 2018, at 8:00 a.m.


Commissioners present were Ms. Viney, Mr. Littlejohn, and Mr. Montgomery. No one was absent.

The meeting was opened with the following statement:

This is an executive session of The Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg, SC. Written notice of the date, time, and place for this meeting, along with the agenda, has been posted in the lobby and on the Spartanburg Water website, and copies forwarded to local and nearby news media, at least 24 hours prior to this meeting.

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Montgomery called the meeting to order.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Littlejohn moved and Ms. Viney seconded the motion to enter into executive session at 8:02 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Viney moved and Mr. Littlejohn seconded the motion to come out of executive session at 10:13 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery said the Commission received legal advice and no action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

___________________________
G. Newton Pressley
Secretary-Treasurer

tbh
MINUTES

The Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg, SC, Regular Meeting, held at 299 N. Church Street, Spartanburg, SC, October 23, 2018, at 3:15 p.m.


Commissioners present were Ms. Viney, Mr. Littlejohn, and Mr. Montgomery. No one was absent.

The meeting was opened with the following statement:

This is a regular meeting of The Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg, SC. Written notice of the date, time, and place for this meeting, along with the agenda, has been posted in the lobby and on the Spartanburg Water website, and copies forwarded to local and nearby news media, at least 24 hours prior to this meeting.


Mr. Littlejohn moved and Ms. Viney seconded the motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

2. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Newt Pressley presented a financial summary of SWS expenditures and revenues for the three-month period ending September 30, 2018. An explanation was provided for the favorable and unfavorable budget variances.

The above was provided as information to the Commission.

3. WATER QUALITY REPORT

Bobby Walden provided an update on water quality for Lake William C. Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1.

Mr. Walden stated that throughout 2018, staff has sampled both Lake Bowen and Reservoir #1 for taste and odor constituents. In May, Geosmin reached levels as high as 51 Parts Per Trillion (PPT’s) and in July, MIB was detected as high as 150 PPT’s. Since the last algaecide application in July Geosmin and MIB have declined. Taste and odor results from samples taken at the Simms Intake-Structure during October continue to show low levels of Geosmin ranging from 6.9 PPT’s to 3.2 PPT’s and MIB remaining below the detection limit of <2.0 PPT’s. These results are from raw water sampling prior to any water treatment or filtration. The threshold for human detection is approximately 15 parts-per-trillion. Algae count continues to remain low at all sampling locations.

The above was provided as information to the Commission.

4. REPORT ON THE DRINKING WATER RESERVOIRS
Sue Schneider provided an update on activities with the drinking water reservoirs. Ms. Schneider stated that SWS heard from local citizens and local officials that all Spartanburg Water is doing is going through the motions. Ms. Schneider wanted to share with these citizens, officials, and the Commission that this is not true. Ms. Schneider stated that during her presentation she will identify meetings that have been held and how Spartanburg Water has listened and responded. Staff has made a commitment to update more frequently any lake management activities that may have an impact on SWS neighbors. Through the additional feedback collected during the last few months, SWS launched a series of informational meetings that allowed staff to start a new dialogue that will help us work together to protect water quality, ensure safety on our lakes, and recognize the important role that all of our customers play in the protection of the ecosystem. The meetings that SWS held this summer and fall also led to more changes, and Ms. Schneider noted that these were good changes. The SWS team took questions, received feedback, listened to recommendations; and then used them to make improvements.

Organizational improvements were made to streamline the permitting process. Permitting and Watershed activities were separated to create the Watershed Section and Lake Wardens Section. Since January, the average time to apply and be approved for a permit is two weeks or less. There has been a 49% increase in permits over this same timeframe last year. Ms. Schneider noted that only one application is necessary regardless of the number of permits requested.

SWS eliminated the Private Structure Agreement and created one universal document for all Reservoirs to allow Access to SWS Property: The Land Access Agreement (LAA). This standardizes the process with Lake Blalock and Lake Bowen. General dock maintenance requires only a Notification to the Watershed staff, no application or permit; and emergency dock maintenance only requires a Notification to the Watershed staff, no application or permit. Property owners with permitted docks desiring to add an unattached personal watercraft lift or a boat lift are not required to submit a drawing by a professional engineer. However, the application for permit is required for approval prior to the installation. Only property owners with a Type C dock application, those that are more post oriented desiring to make any changes to the structural portion including the installation of an attached personal watercraft lift or boat lift, are required to submit an approved stamped drawing.

SWS serves approximately 200,000 customers throughout Spartanburg County with clean, safe drinking water every day. Some stakeholders live around the lake, but most stakeholders live throughout the county. SWS conducted Lake Bowen stakeholder listening sessions, met with Board of Realtors representatives, and began dialogue with many SWS customers.

Some things that SWS heard from those meetings were: 827’ MSL property line, oxygenation system, algaeicide applications, storm water runoff in the watershed, native plants, how does SWS identify algae, how adjacent property owners can improve water quality, resources for adjacent property owners, confusion on permitting and what activities required a permit. In response to these inquiries, SWS scheduled an informational drop-in on
August 23, 2018. Lake Bowen and Reservoir #1 stakeholders were invited. SWS had subject matter experts there to answer questions. These subject matter experts included: DHEC, Aquatic–DNR, Clemson Extension, SWS staff–827'MSL Property Line, Hazen Engineers–Spartanburg Watershed Plan, Upstate Forever Studies on Strategies for Adjacent Property Owners, SWS staff–Water Quality and Reservoir Monitoring, Oxygenation System, SC Native Plant Society, Dr. Rodgers, Clemson & Aqua Services, SWS staff–Land Permitting and Communications and Resources.

Ms. Schneider stated that SWS also heard during this time is that some lakeside residents, whether inadvertently or advertently had make improvements below the 827, and were concerned about whether they would have to remove or get permit for those improvements. After listening to all of our residents, our staff got together and developed “Let’s Press the Pause Button”. This program was designed from all of the comments received during listening sessions with Lake Bowen residents. It was designed to allow existing improvements, semi-permanent and permanent structures that are already below the 827 line to get a permit and approval or a license for a limited one-time period during the next 14 months. They can reset the baseline for their property. If they have not moved permits into their name, they can do that. If they have an improvement below the 827 that has not had a permit – maybe the previous owner installed it, they can get a permit. We want our adjacent property owners to participate and have the confidence that their investments are recognized and appreciated. This program started October 1, and there has been 31 sign-ups in three weeks. SWS has made the process easy for Press Pause participation through the following steps.

Ms. Schneider shared how easy staff had made it for stakeholders to participate in the Press Pause Program. There is a dedicated Email address: presspause@spartanburgwater.org, a Voice Mailbox: 864-580-2095, or they can stop by the Lake Bowen office and complete a form. Staff has streamlined the process. There is one application for all authorization requests – consolidated authorizations listing all improvements, semi-permanent or permanent structures. In an effort to evenly distribute the workload among staff, an early sign-up discount to participants signing up for the Press Pause Program between October 1, 2018 through March 30, 2019 will receive a 25% discount on all authorization fees.

Ms. Schneider stated that the Healthy Lakes Newsletters are distributed bimonthly. They include issues that SWS is hearing from our community. While experts were at the informational meeting and discussed the 827 Contour Line, SWS also published articles to provide more information. The newsletters are mailed to all adjacent property owners on Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock, and Reservoir #1. Information is shared about SCDNR, Press Pause Program, reduction of MIB and Geosmin. SWS also launched a lake alert program and encouraged all lakeside property owners to sign up. That allows SWS to be able to send out a text. An example of this was in preparation for Hurricane Michael. The Governor requested that the lakes be lowered by about three feet. SWS was able to get that message out not just on the SWS Website or Facebook, but by sending a Lake Alert straight to someone’s phone.
SWS received feedback regarding waterfowl hunting at Lake Bowen. SWS changed the policy and now only has public waterfowl hunting on Lake Blalock, effective September 19, 2018.

SWS also conducted a Reservoir #1 Coffee and Conversation session on September 6 at Pavilion #1. SWS shared the history and importance of Reservoir #1 as a Drinking Water Reservoir. What SWS heard was Reservoir #1 stakeholders would like a permitting program like the other Reservoirs, improvements on SWS buffer should be grandfathered in, access to the water with non-motorized watercraft, and flexibility in maintaining a naturally maintained buffer on SWS property. Management will evaluate the comments and bring recommendations before the Commission.

SWS met with the Blalock Lakeside Property Owner’s Association Officers and Committee Chairs on October 9 at the Chesnee Library. What SWS heard was more communication on water levels, more discussion on vegetation permits, and cleaning up of the buffer area on SWS property.

Ms. Schneider stated that as previously noted with the Commission, SWS is working with non-maintained dock owners. SWS sent letters to 108 landowners placing them on notice that their docks have fallen into disrepair. The status of this project is – 81 or 75% of the docks have been upgraded or removed, 10 have been removed, and SWS is still working to contact 27 or 25% of the current owners with correct addresses.

Some things on the horizon are more listening sessions with all Spartanburg Water stakeholders, expanding communication with lakeside property owners and businesses that serve Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock, and Reservoir #1. SWS will continue to assist owners of non-maintained docks at Lake Bowen with the process to repair or remove the deteriorated structures, and expanding communication of the Let’s Press the Pause Button with adjacent property owners around Lake Bowen.

For those that we have heard from, and some local elected officials that seem intent on stopping regulations or preventing SWS from doing their job, I want to make a few things clear. SWS and the citizens of the City of Spartanburg own the property around the reservoirs and underneath it. That statement alone is not meant to sound boastful or arrogant. It really is to share with the Commission and with our community that SWS not only owns the land but also bears the responsibility to properly manage the property and to ensure that we maintain water quality drinking water for generations to come. We are also listening to the lakes themselves. As we have mentioned in the past, our lakes and the ecosystem is changing. It is providing information and data and we have the responsibility to protect our precious water resources over and above all. We also have the responsibility to tell the truth and own that as well. We need the help of all of our stakeholders so that we can minimize the impact of necessary changes.

Community, property owners, and lakes themselves, we are listening and we are taking action.

The above was provided as information to the Commission.

5. SCDNR PARTNERSHIP
Ms. Schneider stated that SWS is pleased to announce a final arrangement of our partnership with SCDNR to ensure that our drinking water reservoirs are appropriately managed and allow us to continue providing quality recreation for the public and protect our natural resources. This partnership furthers the communication between SCDNR and SWS and establishes processes to reduce the chance of future fish mortality when algaecide applications are applied. We have come to an agreement in kind and principal with both SCDNR and SCDHEC. I am asking the Commission to authorize the CEO to sign on their behalf. This agreement is for the replacement cost of the fish that were lost and the staff time during the incident that happened in May. SCDNR in turn has volunteered to use this money to access restocking needs and to restock Lake Bowen and Reservoir #1 with the appropriate species. The agreeing parties are SCDNR, SWS, and SCDHEC.

Ms. Viney moved and Mr. Littlejohn seconded the motion to approve the CEO to sign this Partnership Agreement between SCDNR, Spartanburg Water System, and SCDHEC on behalf of the Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Schneider stated that within the last few weeks, with SCDNR’s cooperation and in anticipation of signing this agreement, SCDNR has released over 535,000 fish back into the lakes.

October 8:  85,000 Bluegills was added to Lake Bowen
October 18:  330,800 Sunfish (122,800 Bowen; 208,000 Reservoir #1)
October 19:  120,000 Sunfish (60,000 Bowen; 60,000 Reservoir #1)

A total of 535,800 Bluegill and Sunfish have been added. SCDNR will further evaluate Bass restocking in the Spring of 2019.

6. LAKE LEVEL DRAWDOWN

Bobby Walden provided an update to the Commission regarding operational strategies associated with the lowering/drawdown of Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock during the winter months.

SWS has received several requests from adjoining property owners at our public meetings to lower the lake levels to allow routine maintenance to their docks and walkways. As an operational strategy, management is recommending lake drawdowns of 2.5’-3’ for both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock during the winter months beginning in early December 2018 and remaining in place through February 2019. Staff has evaluated the predicted long-term weather patterns and models from various agencies and no drought is predicted for our area through the spring of 2019. Above normal precipitation is predicted for early spring allowing recovery to full pool status. Management will provide advance notice of drawdowns allowing Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock adjoining property owner’s time to schedule maintenance and evaluate seawalls and shoreline conditions. This will provide SWS an opportunity to perform maintenance to various valves and gates that control the lake levels at the dams.

The above was provided as information to the Commission.
7. ROOF RETROFIT PROJECT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Proposals were received on October 4, 2018, to retrofit the roof system on the Administration building. The roof system has issues with leaking that need to be addressed. Canon Consulting and Engineering was hired to assist with the development of specifications, supplier qualifications, and the selection process.

The request for proposal was advertised in the local media and forwarded to prospective roofing contractors. The solicitation drew responses from three qualified contractors. A cost tabulation of the responses are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIDDER</th>
<th>AMOUNT OF BID</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tecta America Carolinas LLC</td>
<td>$221,560</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indian Trail, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cannon Roofing</td>
<td>$290,386</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spartanburg, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pickens Roofing</td>
<td>$488,960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spartanburg, SC</td>
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Management recommended an award be granted to Tecta America Carolinas, LLC at a total cost of $221,560 for the retrofit of the Administration building roof system based on their highest scoring proposal. Funding will be provided through the SWS depreciation fund.

Mr. Littlejohn moved and Ms. Viney seconded the motion to approve management’s recommendation to award the bid to Tecta America Carolinas, LLC at a total cost of $221,560 for the retrofit of the Administration building roof system based on their highest scoring proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

8. ROOF RETROFIT PROJECT FOR THE ENGINEERING BUILDING

Proposals were received on October 4, 2018, to retrofit the roof system on the Engineering building. The roof system has issues with leaking that need to be addressed. Canon Consulting and Engineering was hired to assist with the development of specifications, supplier qualifications, and the selection process.

The request for proposal was advertised in the local media and forwarded to prospective roofing contractors. The solicitation drew responses from three qualified contractors. A cost tabulation of the responses is listed below:

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<tr>
<td>Tecta America Carolinas LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indian Trail, NC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannon Roofing</td>
<td>$300,504</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spartanburg, SC</td>
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Management recommended an award be granted to Tecta America Carolinas, LLC at a total cost of $209,220 for the retrofit of the Engineering building roof system based on their highest scoring proposal. Funding will be split equally between the SWS and SSSD depreciation funds.

Mr. Littlejohn moved and Ms. Viney seconded the motion to ratify the action taken in the SSSD meeting to approve management’s recommendation to award the bid to Tecta America Carolinas, LLC at a total cost of $209,220 for the retrofit of the Engineering building roof system based on their highest scoring proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

9. CONVERSE HEIGHTS HYDRANT FLOW TESTING UPDATE

Ronnie Champion, Director of Water Distribution and Collection, provided an update associated with the completion of Phases 1 and 2 of this 7 Phase project. Mr. Champion stated that per the South Carolina State Primary Drinking Water Regulations, a flow test shall be conducted on all fire hydrants at a minimum of once every three years. Performing these hydrant flow tests ensures that hydrants are fully operational and able to provide adequate fire protection when required.

Hydrant flows need to be performed within the Converse Heights Community. The piping within Converse Heights consists of primarily unlined cast iron piping that dates back to the late 1880’s to the origins of a water system for the City of Spartanburg and is now over 130 years old. These unlined pipes are highly susceptible to tuberculation that can reduce the volume of water available from those pipes and impede the ability to provide fire protection within the community. These factors present some concerns associated with the increased velocities within these pipes while performing hydrant flows in the community. To minimize interruption to SWS customers, management proposed utilizing a method of flushing the lines called “Unidirectional Flushing”. Unidirectional flushing consists of isolating particular pipe sections or pipe loops, typically through closing appropriate valves and residential meters and opening hydrants in an organized, sequential manner.

The entirety of the Converse Heights Community will be performed in phases to minimize the disruption to customers. To date, Phases 1 and 2 are complete. These phases consisted of 13 streets, 298 customers, and 23 fire hydrants. There were no customer complaints. Management plans to complete all seven phases before year-end.

The above was provided as information to the Commission.

10. DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM REHABILITATION PROJECTS

Janet Cann, Construction Asset Department Manager, provided a summary on the Distribution System Low-Flow Hydrant Rehabilitation Projects.
Ms. Cann stated adequate fire protection as established by SCDHEC requires fire hydrants to provide 500 GPM of water at 20 PSI. It was noticed in 2012 that some of the hydrants in our distribution system were beginning to perform below this minimum requirement. As Mr. Champion previously stated, per the South Carolina State Primary Drinking Water Regulations, a flow test shall be conducted on all fire hydrants at a minimum of once every three years to ensure operability and adequate fire flow protection. To date staff has identified, through our hydrant testing program, over 60 hydrants which have not met this requirement. The majority of these hydrants are located on 6” cast iron pipe in areas where infrastructure is greater than 100 years old. When SWS is aware of non-compliant fire hydrants, the local fire departments and/or emergency communications are notified, then SWS looks for an expeditious and minimally disruptive solution to bring the hydrant back into compliance. First, the hydrants are retested, then if possible replaced or relocated. Second, a short-term solution or phased approach is considered to improve performance, such as a partial replacement of distribution system. The final option or long-term solution, is usually the replacement of the entire distribution system in the area where the hydrant(s) are non-compliant.

In the last three years SWS staff has completed 17 projects, some were first phase of multi-phased solutions. Thirty-nine hydrants have been brought back into compliance. These 17 projects have affected 409 properties, primarily residential, an estimated 1,400 customers now have adequate and in some cases improved fire protection. There is a project under construction on River Street in the Converse Community where 35 properties will benefit from the construction of the new waterline and hydrants. There are four projects currently under design and development. Where SWS has completed projects to address low flow hydrants, an improvement has been noticed in increased hydrant performance that varies from 15% to more than 100% increase in flows.

The above was provided as information to the Commission.

11. **BIDS FOR DUCTILE IRON PIPE**

Bids were received on October 2, 2018, from suppliers to furnish ductile iron pipe to the Spartanburg Water System as needed for repair, maintenance, and construction projects. The scope of the solicitation included eight sizes of pipe (3”, 4”, 6”, 8”, 10”, 12”, 14”, 16”) in three pipe categories including mechanical joint, slip joint, and restraining thrust ring pipe. Annual quantities used for bidding purposes were estimated and based on historical data. The purpose of this solicitation is to utilize vendor-managed inventory and secure firm unit pricing for the contract term.

The request for bid was advertised in the local media and forwarded to prospective suppliers. A tabulation of the bids is listed below. The costs listed represent annual totals based on estimated annual quantities. The contract will be for an initial twelve month term with two optional renewal terms. Orders will be placed as required and actual quantities purchased will vary depending on need and construction schedules.
The Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg, SC – Regular Meeting, October 23, 2018

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<tr>
<th>BIDDER</th>
<th>AMOUNT OF BID</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fortiline Waterworks</td>
<td>$713,137.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenville, SC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Utility Supply</td>
<td>$748,345.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ferguson Waterworks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consolidated Pipe and Supply</td>
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<td>Greenville, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEC Utilities Supply</td>
<td>NON-RESPONSIVE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenville, SC</td>
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Management recommended the contract be awarded to Fortiline Waterworks based on their lowest responsive bid of $713,137.44. Funding will be provided from a combination of SWS operating and capital project funds, depending on the application.

Ms. Viney moved and Mr. Littlejohn seconded the motion to approve management’s recommendation to award the bid to Fortiline Waterworks based on their lowest responsive bid of $713,137.44. The motion passed unanimously.

12. **CMAR SELECTION – R.B. SIMMS INTAKE AND RAW WATERLINE**

On July 20, 2018, qualifications were received for Construction Manager at Risk for the R.B. Simms Intake and Raw Waterline Project. The project scope outlined in the request for qualifications included the following: a raw water intake with air burst system, raw water pipeline from the intake to the existing treatment facility connection, powdered activated carbon system, and bulk alum storage system. Qualifications were received from the following Construction Manager at Risk firms:

- Crowder Construction Company
- Harper Corporation General Contractors
- Haskell
- PC Construction
- Reynolds Inc.
- Wharton-Smith, Inc.

The qualification submittals were each evaluated based on six criteria: firm’s experience, project team, approach to the project, firm’s location, safety and accident prevention program, and legal/litigation history. The three highest scoring teams were requested to submit proposals for the project, and the following teams selected were:

- Crowder Construction Company
- Harper Corporation General Contractors
- PC Construction
The Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg, SC – Regular Meeting, October 23, 2018

The team’s proposals were then evaluated based on five criteria: detailed project approach, project references, community benefit/MWBE participation, interview, and price proposal.

Management and staff have thoroughly reviewed the proposals utilizing the selection criteria and recommended that the Commission enter into a Construction Manager at Risk contract with Harper Corporation General Contractors for the Project. Pre-construction services are a not to exceed amount of $85,000 with a total construction budget estimated at $13.5 million. The project will be funded by bond funds.

Gene Jackson provided a brief overview of the contractor selection process that included review of six qualification submittals that resulted in staff’s selection of three contractors to provide proposals for the Construction Manager at Risk contract. The proposals were evaluated based on five criteria in order to determine management’s recommendation of Harper Corporation General Contractors for the Project.

Mr. Montgomery noted that this is a major investment to ensure water quality.

Mr. Littlejohn moved and Ms. Viney seconded the motion to approve management’s recommendation to enter into a Construction Manager at Risk contract with Harper Corporation General Contractors for the Project. Pre-construction services are a not to exceed amount of $85,000 with a total construction budget estimated at $13.5 million. The motion passed unanimously.

13. AGREEMENTS EXECUTED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION

The following agreements have been executed on behalf of the Commission by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Commission on March 28, 1989.

A. Outside City Private Fire Service Agreements

(1) Boiling Springs Self-Storage & RV

Boiling Springs Self-Storage & RV located at 3220 Parris Bridge Road in Boiling Springs, SC wishes to connect a 6-inch water line to the Commission’s 12-inch water line along Parris Bridge Road to serve a private fire protection system including one hydrant for the above-mentioned storage facility. Boiling Springs Self-Storage & RV wishes to enter into an agreement for this service.

Annual Stand-By Revenue - $446.32

(2) Storage on 9

Storage on 9 located at 120 Birds Eye View in Boiling Springs, SC wishes to connect a 6-inch water line to the Commission’s 8-inch water line along Birds Eye View to serve a private fire protection
system for the above-mentioned storage facility. Exeter 18349 DE, LLC wishes to enter into an agreement for this service.

Annual Stand-By Revenue - $223.16

B. Outside City Water Main Extension Agreements

(1) Orchard Valley Subdivision

Monument Homes, LLC is developing Orchard Valley Subdivision. This development will consist of 31 residential lots, approximately 730 LF of 6-inch water main, 1,106 LF of 4-inch water main, and one hydrant. The developer will bear all costs.

C. Lake Agreements

Applications have been submitted and all fees have been paid on the following Lake Agreements.

(1) Manfred Lewis desires to construct a dock and hard pathway at Lake Blalock.

(2) Randy B. Spitler and Jodie D. Spitler desire to replace a dock at Lake Blalock.

(3) Clark W. Murff III and Susan W. Murff desire to construct a dock and hard pathway at Lake Blalock.

(4) Steven P. Leahy and Margaret M. Leahy desire to construct a boat lift at Lake Blalock.

(5) William Todd Lumpkins desires to replace a dock at Lake Blalock.

(6) Dan Kosco and Brenda Darlene Kosco desire to replace a dock and construct a boat lift at Lake Blalock.

(7) Gary L. Sass and Mable M. Sass desire to replace a dock at Lake Blalock.

(8) Roger T. Eaker desires to stabilize the shoreline at Lake Bowen.

(9) Sharon Kathleen Hawkins desires to replace a dock at Lake Bowen.

(10) Kelan Brown desires to construct a hard pathway at Lake Bowen.

(11) Gerald W. Gritter and Dolores A Gritter desire to replace a dock and stabilize the shoreline at Lake Bowen.

The above was provided as information to the Commission.
14. NEGOTIATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Ms. Schneider had no negotiations or miscellaneous administrative matters.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Montgomery stated that the Public Comment period would begin.

Mr. Montgomery introduced Commissioner Angela Viney. Mr. Montgomery stated that Commissioner Viney serves on the Board of Commissioners with Commissioner Littlejohn and himself. Ms. Viney would like to share on behalf of the Commission regarding the issues and challenges faced to ensure safe quality drinking water at a reasonable price. It is a balancing act between the property owners around Lake Bowen and our 200,000 customers across Spartanburg County. SWS is constantly striving to balance recreation access with providing affordable safe drinking water.

Ms. Viney said Good Afternoon. With the busyness of life that seems to consume all of us these days, each minute is valuable, so thank you. I sincerely mean that. Thank you, each and every one of you for sharing your busy life with us today, and attending today’s meeting.

I would call myself an advocate and I have always encouraged others to get engaged by attending public meetings, researching issues to determine the facts, visiting with elected officials, and most importantly voting. So, it truly does my heart good to see so many of you here. Thank you. Thank you especially for those who came to the beginning of the meeting and have stayed to the very end. Thank you very much.

Spartanburg Water System has an awesome responsibility. The mission of Spartanburg Water is to provide quality water and wastewater services to our region in a reliable manner. We are proudly committed to protecting public health, being good stewards of the environment, and supporting our community’s desired quality of life. However, every individual in the Spartanburg Water System region has control of managing our precious water resources – Lake Bowen, Lake Blalock, Municipal Reservoir #1. Spartanburg Water System originally chartered in 1887 as the Spartanburg Water Works Company, now serves over 200,000 customers in Spartanburg, Union, and Cherokee counties. As a community, we are all united by this common goal to do all we can to ensure quality water at a reasonable price for all of those 200,000 plus customers. We may not always see eye-to-eye on everything we do to serve our entire community, but we all want the same thing – safe, high quality, and even award winning drinking water. As a lake property owner, you carry an even greater responsibility with your daily actions. Since your actions directly impact the source of our drinking water. What you do on the lake impacts over 200,000 Spartanburg Water System customers. From birth, we are taught that there are rules to follow. Spartanburg Water System has the responsibility to set and enforce policies, rules, and regulations to protect the source of our drinking water, our three lakes. Lakeside lawns with nothing but manicured grass do nothing to stop soil erosion and the runoff of harmful pollutants and sediments into the lake. Silt, fertilizer, pesticides, boat oil, gas spills, discharges, dog waste, trash, basically anything that is on your
backyard and on Spartanburg Water’s buffer area will make its way into the lake during a rain event or irrigation. That pollution can stimulate larger algae blooms, increase toxicity, and inhibit fish reproduction. Anybody in here remember what Lake Greenwood looked like about 20 years ago. I am very familiar since I worked for Upstate Forever and helped make that turn around. I didn’t even mention the fact that contaminants increase the cost of treating water at our water plants. Those higher treatment costs are shared. They are shared with our over 200,000 users of drinking water in our service area. As a service to our region, in addition to our main and most important focus on water quality, Spartanburg Water also endeavors to keep Lake Bowen safe for recreation use by the public at large as well as the roughly 1,200 property owners, whose property runs contiguous with the Spartanburg Water System buffer zone. One of the biggest challenges we as a public utility face is balancing the enforcement of those rules and regulations to protect water quality with the recreational desires of the property owners who want to maximize their enjoyment of the lake. We at Spartanburg Water truly do understand the impact of the necessary enforcement efforts. We know the cost and the inconveniences that are associated with it. That is why we want to start working much closer with each individual landowner. Once you reach out to us, we want to work to minimize as much as possible the impact of the enforcement guidelines. For that reason, we recently implemented the new program for the Lake Bowen residents. Let’s Press Pause. Many lakefront property owners have asked, why heighten the enforcement of the lake management regulations now, when it has seemed to last for years. That is a fair question and it is an important one to provide the answers. The community we serve in 2018 is much larger and more diverse than it was 100 years ago, but the concept of our service is the same. Spartanburg Water balances many needs. Quality drinking water, economic development, fire service, recreation, and environmental stewardship. Our community is growing. How do we plan for that growth? How do we achieve our shared goals for another 100 years from now? That is really not so simple. This is what I know and what I believe – we must all start now to work as a community – we must all start now to work as a community, by taking responsibility for our little piece of the world to conserve our drinking water resources. Remember that small acts have great impacts. We must adapt and prepare for a different Spartanburg County. One that is more attentive, more equipped, and more realistic in strategic planning so that we are ready for what is inevitable. Due to population growth our responsibility and challenges to protect our waters have never been greater and they are going to continue to be more daunting even overwhelming. Our county is expected to grow 20% by 2040. The upstate will be the home to more than 1.6 million residents. Unlimited development, unchecked and unregulated construction around the drinking water reservoirs is not only dangerous and irresponsible, but it is also a violation of our mission to provide quality water to all the members of our community in a reliable manner. I understand that there are some who don’t like that answer or they disagree with it, and I respect that, I truly do. These public forums allow you the opportunity to express those views and as I stated when I started, your voice is important. I am truly appreciative of those of you who have become engaged, because more people need to do that in our community and in our world. As I stated when I started your voice, just like the voice of the other 199,999 customers are important. All of our customers, our community, and our neighbors – we do hear you and
we are listening. We are trying to balance the needs of our ecosystem to fulfill our mission of quality drinking water at a reasonable price with your individual expectations and that’s a tall order. Change can be troubling and managing changes along our precious water resources will continue to create conversations, debate, compromise and even mistakes. Change is defined as the act or instance of becoming different. It is my sincere hope that we will all become different. That we will all work together as a team for this one common goal. I hope you will commit to joining Spartanburg Water and the Spartanburg Water team as we remain focused on what is undisputable – good, clean, quality water that is necessary to support public health and the community’s desired quality of life. We not only share this responsibility with our 1,200 lake property owners, but with all of the over 200,000 customers in the Spartanburg Water service area. We are community and everyone has a stake in our success. Thank you for listening.

Mr. Montgomery introduced Gene Jackson, Capital Projects Officer, who will assist with the Public Comment agenda item.

Mr. Jackson opened the Public Comment period and requested that each person speaking state their full name and address before making comments. Mr. Jackson also noted that he is the timekeeper and when the commenter hears the timer, please wrap up their comments.

Mr. Jackson called Kelan Brown to the podium. Mr. Brown said he and his wife were not originally from the region, but his wife’s dream was to own property on the lake and they were able to purchase a home at Lake Bowen. Everything was great, until all of a sudden we hear all of the conversations among property owners. We decided to educate ourselves by attending several of the meetings that were held by them. We have property that adjoins Lake Bowen buffer zone and were afraid that we would lose the improvements that the previous owner made while we were trying to make a safer walkway to the dock. We attended a lot of the SWS meetings that were held to educate ourselves from the Commission stand point. We were very fortunate when we heard about the Let’s Pause. If I wasn’t the first, I know I was one of the first to actually sign up for the program. I worked with Jon Morgan and Megan Roy. We devised a buffer improvement plan and a walkway that fulfilled the natural requirements and my permits went through without any problems. While we were afraid and had heard some horror stories, I believe the Commissioners have listened, and made positive steps. I would challenge any of my colleagues on the lake to investigate Let’s Pause. They have listened and they will continue to listen and work with you.

Mr. Jackson called Mary Lou Hodge to the podium. Mary Lou Hodge stated that she and her husband have lived on Lake Bowen for 33 years. Before moving to Lake Bowen they spent many years recreating at the lake. During all of these years’ they have had pleasant dealings with lake wardens and lake management. We have seen them patrol the lake to keep the lake safe and the water clean. We have respected these employees and the joy they took from doing their job. Lately that experience has changed. We receive mailings from Spartanburg Water System and they explain all of the problems you are having, and I have heard you talk about them today. Unfortunately, most of those mailings and a lot of the things that have been
Mr. Jackson called Dustin Chapman to the podium. Mr. Chapman was not present at the meeting.

Mr. Jackson called Wayne Floyd to the podium. Mr. Floyd said Board Members, I would like to address a few things. I am a lifelong resident, seven generations of Spartanburg County. I bought a piece of property in 1994. My concern is with the Land Access Agreement. In the Land Access Agreement it states that the Spartanburg Water System does not guarantee its continued existence of maintenance of Lake Bowen including the dam and both facilities owned by Spartanburg Water System. It also states that it does not ensure the purity of the water or the soil line of Lake Bowen, the maintenance of the water level at any time during any season. I know you can’t control droughts and things, but I’m wondering if you may use that against us. In the suitability of Lake Bowen recreational activities, SWS in no way shall become obligated to manage or control Lake Bowen for recreational use. My question to you is what is your purpose? If SWS doesn’t provide for Spartanburg recreational facilities, then where do we go? I think we can have both. I think this is a strong-arm tactic. If you can’t provide a dam, and you can’t provide facilities what is your purpose? I would like to address two things. You may own the land, but I don’t think you own the water. I think the people own the water. To Ms. Viney, I will address you too. Of the 200,000 people you are talking about, a lot of them like recreation. You have an obligation to those people too.

Mr. Jackson called Clint Johnson to the podium. Mr. Johnson was not present at the meeting.

Mr. Jackson called Walter Hodge to the podium. Mr. Hodge said hello, my address is 185 Dickson Cove Road and my property adjoins Lake Bowen. I am an avid fisherman. I watch the lake, water, and fish closely every day. When Lake Bowen was built, it was stocked in the early 60’s with sterile grass carp to help eat nuisance aquatic plants such as bladderwort. Since these grass carp were sterile and didn’t reproduce they needed to be restocked on a regular basis. This situation was never a problem until all of the sterile grass carp died. Within a few years after the grass carp was gone, the upper end of Lake Bowen was filled with bladderwort and when this plant began to spread to other areas of the lake it became a real problem. It was reported in the Spartanburg Herald Journal that sterile grass carp would be restocked to control bladderwort. The first phase of the restocking was completed. Remember these fish are not the mature fish that can eat large amounts of the plants. I personally talked to an employee from Spartanburg Water Works and was told that the fish were too expensive and the lake guardians decided the expense was not deemed
necessary, and the restocking plan wasn’t done. Unfortunately, the few small grass carp that were stocked was not able to make a dent in the massive amount of bladderwort in the lake and so Plan B was implemented. This Plan included manually harvesting the bladder wart. After a few months, it was obvious that Plan B had not been effective so Plan C included the new and better option, chemical spraying into the water. Finally, the bladderwort was under control in the upper end of the lake. In earlier years of the lake, the lake also included drawdowns in cold months to allow homeowners to make improvements to their docks. Once the restocking of the sterile grass carp and periodic drawdowns were abandoned it seemed the problem became a big issue for the quality of water. Just recently, the tropical storm pushed massive amounts of the bladderwort up into the upper end of Lake Bowen and it moved to a larger area of water, so you might want to check for a resurgence of bladderwort. See property owners can be partners and take care of the lake. Mr. Hodge read part of a public notice dated August 21, 2018, from South Carolina Electric & Gas Company regarding the drawdown of Lake Murray stating drawdowns will help water quality and fight aquatic vegetation to keep the lake healthy. I would like to thank the Board Members for allowing me time to speak.

Mr. Jackson called Anastasia Wietrzchowska to the podium. Ms. Wietrzchowska said hello friends and that was a wonderful talk you gave. I live on Reservoir #1. I would like to say that since the population has grown so much, I think it would be a help to have someone on the board that lives in the area. Secondly, I would like to propose that an additional function be added to the Good Neighbor Program and the Operation Roundup Program currently available through the Salvation Army that helps folks pay their water bill that can’t afford it. I’m convinced that Spartanburg Water intentions are pure and good, we all want good clean water. But there is a segment of population, those under 20 and over 60, which is half the population of the upstate don’t have the money that people in their 30’s, 40’s and 50’s have. I think a lot of folks out here are just afraid they won’t be able to help and implement all of the wonderful things you are trying to get done. I know it’s a problem and worry for me. I was thinking if you could expand those two programs to help those who say they need help taking down a tree because it’s in the buffer zone or whatever grasses need to be planted, perhaps these programs could help. Seems like most of us, all of us want clean water and because we love our lakes. Also, the Water Matters Program is free, and it’s absolutely wonderful. It gave me such a perspective on what actually goes into the complex work of Spartanburg Water. I just want to say I met management, I met folks who do the work on the streets, they all gave generously of their information and their time and it was a wonderful program. Thank you for the privilege of speaking at this meeting.

Mr. Jackson called Steve Hammett to the podium. Mr. Hammett said I am here because I am a property owner and the President of the Spartanburg Board of Realtors. I have had many calls from fellow realtors asking me, what’s going on at the lake. After trying to explain the many policies and changes that have happened, I find that I also have a few questions myself. Along with that, I do want to tell you that I do think Let’s Pause is headed in the right direction, but I do think there are some issues that need to be addressed and thought through before we get too far into. Let’s Pause
seems to be a way for Spartanburg Water System to gain authorization to improvements below the 827 Contour Line until you read it closely, as I have done. I numbered these lines starting at the top. So as to line 16 it says establish a baseline of permits, licenses and/or agreements. Line 30-31-32 says if you don’t know if the permits is in the current homeowners name for an existing dock, other structures and in good condition but when it was sold or purchased the seller and buyer assumed everything was ok. Why should the new landowner have to pay for a permit for something they didn’t have anything to do with. The next thing is the fees other than boat that are referred to in line 16. Are these fees a onetime fee for the present landowner or do they have to renew each year? I would like to get a written step by step procedure from sign up to the issuing of permits for the Let’s Press Pause, so that I can offer this to my fellow realtors and they will know how to proceed further. Does the access agreement have to be signed prior to getting the Let’s Press Pause permits issued? Thank you for your time.

Mr. Jackson called Larry Cook to the podium. Mr. Cook said Good afternoon. I have been a Spartanburg Water System customer for over 35 years and a Lake Bowen resident since 1986. Until recently, I never had much thought about how Spartanburg Water System operated because there were no real issues that I was aware of, but that has changed. After attending several Commission meetings I see a need for more involvement, 150,000 customers, 1,700 lakefront property owners who are not Spartanburg City residents and are not represented by this Commission. The Public Works Commission should consider changing its monthly meeting time to a time that is more convenient to your customers because a lot of them can’t get away in the afternoons and midday. Your recent public relations meetings were held in the evenings and they had a great response. The side comment to Ms. Schneider’s comment that you are the landowner up there. That is true, but I don’t think you own all the land that you think you own. Spartanburg Water needs to go back to the original deeds. Thank you.

Mr. Jackson called Peggy Hamrick to the podium. My name is Peggy Hamrick. I own lakefront property that joins the buffer zone on City Reservoir #1. I began working for my employer as a social worker after I graduated from Wofford and the first time I went to family court the Judge pulled me aside and said from now own, when you come to court with a problem, I want you to bring me a solution at the same time. It is something that I took to heart and always remembered. We all have a problem, a series of problems – angry homeowners, negative publicity, and dead fish. I would like to offer at least one piece of a solution that I believe would be helpful. It is my understanding that Clemson Extension offered Spartanburg Water System free training for lakefront property owners regarding erosion and drainage control for runoff and shore scape. They certainly offered that to me and to my community but it looks like the water system is not going to do that. I think it would be a professional resource for lakefront owners that would begin to create a collaborative understanding of the needs and how to meet them, the joint needs we both have. I have to do a certain number of volunteer hours, and I am offering to you to use my shoreline if you will use your buffer zone as a demonstration of how that could be manifested. I would be willing to pay for the work and the plants that have been approved in advance by members of your committee. I think it would be a way to meet almost all of your goals. In closing, I really appreciate your comments.
Angela. I have something above my desk that says: change is inevitable growth is optional, choose wisely. I hope we can choose wisely.

Mr. Jackson called Anne Homer to the podium. Ms. Homer said good afternoon, I live also on Reservoir #1. My husband and I purchased our home there 22 years ago, and it was as lovely, quite serene, had a dock, dock house, everything was great. Now we find out the dock, dock house and everything has to go. We have been told the biggest reason for this is runoff. The dock itself is sitting on cinder blocks. I don’t know how the dock or the dock house affects that, but I understand it’s on your property. Can we do something to work together about the buffer zone, because the problem with that is, we can’t see the lake anymore. We have lost the beauty that we love. We are the stewards of your lake. Personally, we don’t use pesticides, we don’t use herbicides, we clean up, we recycle, we like to feel like we are on the same team. Can we move that buffer zone back? Can we come back 20 feet, come up with the plants that you want in there, so that we still have that access to the waterfront where we can sit, see and enjoy the beauty of the lake and not have it completely blocked out by weeds. Thank you very much.

Mr. Jackson called Lena Visser to the podium. Ms. Visser said my name is Lena Visser and I reside at 119 Timberlake Circle in Inman, on Reservoir #1. Thank you for the opportunity to speak and for listening. We received communication to remove the dock structure from the water system’s property over in our back yard. I’m here because we have mutual interest as you have heard from all of my friends and neighbors, and that is the water system. We have no reason to jeopardize the quality of our water, or the beauty of our lakes and rivers. It is the very thing that gives value to our homes and properties and eventually we all drink this very water that runs past our back yards. Like you, we want to ensure that we do what is right and what is best for our water. In our place as with many, our dock was in place when we purchased our property 10 years ago. Requesting that we remove a dock without providing compelling scientific evidence or research reasons leaves us greatly confused. Despite all of the information sessions with you, our questions remain unanswered. Is taking out the docks really the best way forward, is it the only way forward? Are there environmental reasons that you can provide to help us understand why specifically the removal of a dock that has been in the water for 10 years or more would have a positive impact rather than a negative impact. We understand that the Reservoir #1 is different and is a settlement pond. I can’t think of anything more unsettling than crews out there in the water digging up these structures. I find it ironic to think that we will have to remove a structure that was not erected by us and is officially not on our property for no good reason at all. I ask that you consider the press pause for us as well. I ask that you advise us as soon as possible on how to proceed. Thank you.

Mr. Jackson called Trey Roehl to the podium. Mr. Roehl said hello, my name is Trey Roehl. My wife and I moved onto Reservoir #1 about 10 years ago. I keep my property very natural and clean. I love nothing more than being outside and I can tell you the name of every native plant on my property. For about the last three months there has been a block of styrofoam about half the size of a car lodged in some tall grass across from my property. I can’t fish it out because I am not allowed to touch the water in any way.
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The lake warden goes by it several times a week and has not taken care of it. It is starting to break down. This pollutes Spartanburg’s water. I am asking why Spartanburg Water doesn’t allow property owner’s to use the lake to help clean it up if they are unwilling to do it themselves. I am sure you could find volunteers to go out and clean up and a lot of them are here today. For us to be able to do this you have to let us go out and use our kayaks and reach the shoulders to get this stuff cleaned up. Reservoir #1 is a beautiful and special place. I’m not sure why you seem unwilling to take care of it or share it with the public. Thank you.

Mr. Jackson called Representative Steven Long to the podium. Good afternoon. I am Representative Steven Long and I represent the Boiling Springs and Inman area in the State House. I grew up in the area and was always out on the lake doing a lot of camping and fishing. I am a real estate agent in the area as well. I’m here because I have heard from a lot of my constituents regarding their concerns of the way they are being treated by Spartanburg Water. I have heard that they are being run over on a number of different things. One thing is you schedule your meetings in the afternoon when a majority of the people are working and can’t make it. If you could schedule the meetings in the evening that would certainly help them. Primarily, I wanted to mention that a few weeks ago, the Spartanburg Legislative Delegation requested that the CEO of Spartanburg Water come to our November meeting and explain a little about what is going on at the lake and to address some concerns that we have heard from residents on the lake as well as other customers. I want to make those of you on the Board aware that we have reached out to the CEO of Spartanburg Water and I understand there is no direct accountability necessarily, but I certainly hope that we will be able to hear from the CEO of Spartanburg Water during the November meeting time. Thank you very much.

Mr. Jackson called Representative Josiah Magnuson to the podium. Representative Magnuson was not present at the meeting.

Mr. Jackson called Charles Mann to the podium. Mr. Mann said, good afternoon, My name is Charles Mann and I live in Moore. I am a water customer and I drink the water several times a day. By the way Commissioner, I thought your comments were on target. A few years ago, I used to work in the World of Banking in Washington. Every day I walked past a statue. The statue was of a little boy with a stick. The operator of the stick was an older man, the little boy was leading the older man because he was blind. He was blind because over the years he had been drinking polluted water. The statue was called River of Blindness. I mention all of that because we are very fortunate in this country, and also in Spartanburg, to have clean water. 99.99% of the time when we turn on our faucet, we get clean water. You must continue to protect the water and regulate the water. Not having clean water is not an option. Let me say that another way. There is no alternative to clean water. So when those come to you and want you to make exceptions and ease regulation, do not. Protect the water. I end by saying if some of those that want you to roll back regulation wake up one day and their water is bad, who do you think they are going to call. It will be you. If you fail to regulate the water, our fate could be as dramatic as little boys or little girls with a stick leading older women and
older men by the stick because drinking polluted water over time will have ill effects on their health. Thank you.

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

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G. Newton Pressley
Secretary-Treasurer

tbh
MINUTES

The Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg, SC, Executive Session Meeting, held at 200 Commerce Street, Spartanburg, SC, October 22, 2018, at 2:00 p.m.


Commissioners present were Ms. Viney, Mr. Littlejohn, and Mr. Montgomery. No one was absent.

The meeting was opened with the following statement:

This is an executive session of The Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg, SC. Written notice of the date, time, and place for this meeting, along with the agenda, has been posted in the lobby and on the Spartanburg Water website, and copies forwarded to local and nearby news media, at least 24 hours prior to this meeting.

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Montgomery called the meeting to order.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Viney moved and Mr. Littlejohn seconded the motion to enter into executive session at 2:07 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Littlejohn moved and Ms. Viney seconded the motion to come out of executive session at 3:31 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery said the Commission received legal advice and no action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

G. Newton Pressley
Secretary-Treasurer

tbh
MINUTES

The Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg, SC, Executive Session Meeting, held at 200 Commerce Street, Spartanburg, SC, October 10, 2018, at 9:30 a.m.


Commissioners present were Ms. Viney, Mr. Littlejohn, and Mr. Montgomery. No one was absent.

The meeting was opened with the following statement:

This is an executive session of The Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg, SC. Written notice of the date, time, and place for this meeting, along with the agenda, has been posted in the lobby and on the Spartanburg Water website, and copies forwarded to local and nearby news media, at least 24 hours prior to this meeting.

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Montgomery called the meeting to order.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Littlejohn moved and Ms. Viney seconded the motion to enter into executive session at 9:36 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Littlejohn moved and Ms. Viney seconded the motion to come out of executive session at 12:51 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery said the Commission received legal advice and no action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

G. Newton Pressley
Secretary-Treasurer

tbh