

MINUTES

The Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg, SC, Regular Meeting, held at 200 Commerce Street, Spartanburg, SC, May 23, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Copies of the agenda were forwarded to the following news media: Spartanburg Herald-Journal, The Spartan Weekly, Greenville News, The Greer Citizen, Hometown News, WSPA-TV 7, WYFF-TV 4, WLOS-TV 13, WHNS Fox Carolina, WORD News Radio, WOLT-FM Radio, Tribune Times, and the Times Examiner.

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.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 25, 2023, AND BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING OF MAY 16, 2023

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

2. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Cam Cole presented a financial summary of SWS expenditures and revenues for the ten-month period ending April 30, 2023. An explanation was provided for the favorable and unfavorable budget variances.

The above was provided as information to the Commission.

3. PARTICIPATION PROJECT CONSISTENT WITH OUTSIDE CITY WATER MAIN EXTENSION POLICY – SEAY ROAD PHASE 2

Recently management received a request from a property owner on Seay Road, north of Clark Road, concerning the possibility of obtaining water service.

The water main extension consists of approximately 685 linear feet of 6-inch water main and is consistent with the SWS Water Main Extension Policy. It will be billed at the outside city rate plus surcharge until such time as the full local share is recovered.

The water main extension has been upsized for future growth in the area to an 8-inch line which increased the original project estimate from \$51,400 to \$85,000. The property owner's participation cost is still based on the original estimate of \$51,400 and not the future growth estimate.

Management recommended Commission approve the above.

Gene Jackson provided the Commission with an overview of the Participation Project Consistent with Outside City Water Main Extension Policy for Seay Road Phase 2.

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Mr. Littlejohn moved and Ms. Viney seconded the motion to approve the request for an Outside City Water Main Extension for Seay Road Phase 2. The motion passed unanimously.

4. NOTIFICATION OF ENACTMENT OF EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT – SC HWY 14, LANDRUM WATER MAIN FAILURE

On Tuesday, March 14, 2023, a contractor working for Greer CPW bored into a six-inch water main at 402 E. Rutherford Street (Hwy 14) in Landrum. This incident caused an interruption to eight customers and a temporary closure and detour of Hwy 14. The contractor was performing the boring work under an expired SC-811 locate request which is a violation of state law.

Water flowing from the damaged water main caused extensive damage to the surface and sub-surface of all lanes of the SCDOT roadway.

Maintenance staff initiated and received management approval to execute an Emergency Procurement Request to make the necessary repairs to the roadway. Bennett Paving, a SCDOT approved contractor, was selected to perform the roadway repair. The cost associated with this contracted service was \$38,000. The total cost, including SWS labor, equipment and materials is \$49,258.

SWS is seeking reimbursement for all cost associated with the repair of the damaged water main.

Bobby Walden provided the Commission with an overview of the incident on SC Hwy 14 regarding the Landrum water main failure. Mr. Walden also explained the actions taken to fix the water main failure, as well as seeking reimbursement for the costs of \$49,258 from the contractor.

The above was provided as information to the Commission.

5. WATER QUALITY REPORT

Bobby Walden informed the Commission that the annual Triploid Grass Carp stocking took place on May 16, 2023. This is to address the aquatic nuisance species management plan from the SC Department of Natural Resources. There was 65 carp released into Lake Bowen and 25 carp were released into Reservoir #1.

Mr. Walden stated that at the Reservoir #1 Intake Structure: Geosmin ranged from 31-42 PPT with MIB being less than detect. Finished Water entering the distribution system: Geosmin ranged from 12-25 PPT with MIB being less than detect. The water temperature 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

Ken Tuck provided the Commission with an update on water quality. Mr. Tuck noted that due to increased Geosmin levels, a peroxide application was applied on Reservoir #1 on May 17. There were no adverse effects from this application. Due to the recent natural fish loss with Bream on Lake Bowen, this peroxide application focused on Reservoir #1.

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Mr. Tuck stated that staff worked with SCDNR to collect the Bream from the fish loss. A total of 537 fish were collected between May 16-21, with 258 from Lake Bowen and 279 from Lake Blalock. Management sent fish specimens to Auburn University for testing. A diagnostic report showed that the fish loss was due to a disease called Columnaris. Columnaris is a disease of freshwater fish caused by the bacterium *Flavobacterium columnare*. This type of bacteria lives in water and mud and is found on the bodies of fish and in the gill area. Bacteria may enter the fish through the gills or broken skin. Epidemics occur when fish are under some type of stress, such as a low level of oxygen in the water, spawning, excessive handling, crowding or unfavorable temperatures.

Mr. Littlejohn asked if Columnaris is unique to Bream? Mr. Tuck noted that freshwater fish of all ages and various species get Columnaris.

Mr. Tuck introduced Terry Goldsby, with Jones Fish, and Dr. Matt Huddleston, with Copperhead Environmental Consulting. Mr. Goldsby and Dr. Huddleston are in attendance to help clarify information and answer any questions the Commission may have regarding the Redfin Shad fish loss due to the algaecide application that took place on March 30 on Lake Bowen.

Mr. Littlejohn asked what happened on March 30 to create the fish loss. Mr. Goldsby stated that technology was utilized to apply the algaecide, which contained copper, per Dr. Huddleston's prescription at certain depths and concentrations that were well within acceptable limits. Mr. Goldsby believes that unobserved schooled up Redfin Shad were immediately below the boats and the material dropped over them creating the fish loss.

Mr. Littlejohn asked if there is a way to prevent fish loss from algaecide applications. Mr. Goldsby stated that this type of loss happens occasionally and there is no way to guarantee that there will be no fish loss. There are techniques used to assist in the reduction of fish loss, but there is no guarantee.

Mr. Boyle stated that Spartanburg Water expected to have a report back from SCDNR within 30 days, but have not received a report at this time. The recent SCDNR Board meeting was held on May 18, but Spartanburg Water was not on the agenda. Management hopes it will be on the June agenda. SCDNR will provide direction to Spartanburg Water in response to the fish loss.

Mr. Boyle complimented staff for their response to the Redfin Shad fish loss from the algaecide application on March 30, but does not feel Spartanburg Water has any closure to the Catfish loss that occurred two weeks later. The Catfish specimens sent to Auburn University were too decayed to be tested.

Mr. Goldsby stated that he believes these events are unrelated. There were two weeks in between the application prior to the Catfish loss, and then the Catfish loss continued for another two weeks. It was unfortunate timing, but not believed to be related to the Redfin Shad fish loss.

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Dr. Huddleston agreed with Mr. Goldsby, and does not believe the Catfish loss is related to the Redfin Shad fish loss. Dr. Huddleston believes it is bacteria related.

Mr. Boyle noted that Mr. Goldsby stated there is no guarantee of not having a fish loss from algaecide applications; and asked how many fish loss events has his firm been involved with over the last few years.

Mr. Goldsby said there was a fish loss event in Georgia on Lake Blackshear about four years ago, but the fish loss was minimal. There was a loss of about 20-30 Spotted Suckers.

Ms. Viney asked if there is a specific reason Spartanburg Water has had several fish loss events. Mr. Goldsby said that there are other reservoirs with Catfish loss even at this moment. Research tell us that 30-50% of all Blue Gill die naturally annually. Fish loss isn't just happening within the reservoirs at Spartanburg Water.

Mr. Littlejohn asked how adjoining property owners are responding to the recent fish losses. Mr. Boyle stated that Spartanburg Water has communicated on every level and every opportunity. The property owners were responsive but understanding with the Redfin Shad loss, but with the continued loss of Catfish and then Bream, there are complaints. Social Media has had a very negative response, especially within the fishing social media groups.

Jennifer Candler noted that there has been a positive reception of communications.

Mr. Boyle stated that 2018 was the last fish loss due to copper algaecide applications. It is important to get the AO system online so that Spartanburg Water can reduce these applications. The applications are expensive and the most recent application without copper is less effective.

Mr. Boyle provided the Commission with information regarding the Auburn University results of the Bream fish loss.

Ms. Viney noted that this is the first time she has heard of the Columnaris disease. Mr. Tuck noted there has been previous fish loss due to bacteria, but in very small quantity.

Mr. Littlejohn asked if climate change is effecting the water quality. Mr. Goldsby stated that with aging reservoirs and climate change, it is effecting water quality. Mr. Tuck noted that additional population and construction also effect water quality.

The above was provided as information to the Commission.

6. VARIANCE REQUEST – 122 PASTORALE DRIVE – LAKE BLALOCK

The adjoining property owner applied to install a new dock on Lake Blalock in the cove that separates Pastorale Drive and Wall Circle. Watershed staff evaluated the request and determined the location for the requested dock did

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not satisfy the required 14' offset from the extended property line for new construction as outlined in the current policies and procedures. In addition, staff confirmed that the adjoining property owner's lot does not front or abut the 720' contour of Lake Blalock. The property abuts SWS property that is located between the adjacent property owner's lot and the 720' contour of Lake Blalock. The application for the new dock was disapproved. The adjoining property owner has submitted a request for a variance of the Standard Specifications of the Lake Blalock Policies and Procedures for a marine structure regarding the minimum 40' fronting and abutting on the ponded water as well as a variance for the placement of permitted structures so that all portions are at least 14' from the extended property lines.

While installation of the marine structure as requested would not impede access, create safety concerns or have a negative impacts on water quality, it would be in direct opposition to the 14' offset required by marine structures from the extended property lines.

Management suggests approval of the variance to the abutment on ponded water and the 720' contour.

Management does not recommend approval of the variance request associated with the 14' offset requirement from the extended property line.

If the variance to the abutment on ponded water is approved, staff will request for the property owner to provide a modified dock schematic and placement that maintains the 14' offset specified in the Lake Blalock Policies and Procedures.

Management does recommend approval of the variance request as described above.

Bobby Walden reviewed the variance requests as they are stated above. Management suggests approval of the variance to the abutment on ponded water and the 720' contour. Management does not recommend approval of the variance request associated with the 14' offset requirement from the extended property line. If the Commission approves the variance to the abutment on ponded water and the 720' contour, management will work with the adjoining property owner to find a different location for the requested structure so that all portions are at least 14' from the extended property lines.

Mr. Littlejohn moved and Mr. Montgomery seconded the motion to approve the variance to the abutment on ponded water and the 720' contour, and does not approve the variance request associated with the 14' offset requirement from the extended property line. The motion passed unanimously.

7. 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 January 26, 2023.

A. Inside City Private Fire Service Agreements

(1) Fifth Third Bank

Fifth Third Bank, located at 1585 East Main Street in Spartanburg, wishes to connect a 6-inch water line to the Commission's 12-inch water line along East Main Street to serve one private hydrant for the above-mentioned bank. Fifth Third Bank wishes to enter into an agreement for this service.

Annual Stand-by Revenue - \$297.52

B. Outside City Private Fire Service Agreements

(1) Blackstock Road Hotel

Echo Hotel, located at 490 West Blackstock Road in Spartanburg, wishes to connect a 6-inch water line to the Commission's 12-inch water line along Westgate Village Drive to serve a private fire protection system for the above-mentioned hotel. Spartanburg ES, LLC wishes to enter into an agreement for this service.

Annual Stand-by Revenue - \$223.16

(2) The Grande at Geyser Fall

The Grande at Geyser Fall, aka Clark Road Multi-Family Apartments, located at 4449 Highway 9 in Boiling Springs, wishes to connect an 8-inch water line to the Commission's 12-inch water line along Clark Road to serve a private fire protection system including two private hydrants for the above-mentioned apartment complex. Clark Rd MF, LLC wishes to enter into an agreement for this service.

Annual Stand-by Revenue - \$921.84

C. Outside City Water Main Extension Agreements

(1) Bridge Creek Pointe

Bridge Creek Pointe LP is developing Bridge Creek Pointe Apartments off of Oak Forest Road. The development will consist of 90-unit apartments, approximately 347 linear feet of 8-inch water main and one hydrant. SWS will participate in the off-site water main construction cost in accordance with the Water Main Extension Policy.

(2) Chestnut Springs

Double Bridge Holdings, LLC is developing Chestnut Springs located off of Double Bridge Road in Boiling Springs. This development will consist of 220 residential lots; approximately 2,516 linear feet of 8-inch water main; 917 linear feet of 6-inch water main; 293 linear feet of 4-inch water main; and three hydrants. The developer will bear all costs.

(3) Moss Creek

ECS Development, LLC is developing Moss Creek located off of Leah Drive at Parwin Road, northwest of Spartanburg. This development will consist of 62 residential lots; approximately 526 linear feet of 6-inch water main; 811 linear feet of 4-inch water main; 137 linear feet of 2-inch water main; and one hydrant. The developer will bear all costs.

(4) Sherwood Gardens

Mark III Properties, LLC is developing Sherwood Gardens off of South Shamrock Avenue in Landrum. The development will consist of 207 residential lots; approximately 2,260 linear feet of 8-inch water main; 6,950 linear feet of 6-inch water main; 150 linear feet of 4-inch water main; 530 linear feet of 2-inch water main; and 13 hydrants. SWS will participate in the off-site water main construction cost in accordance with the Water Main Extension Policy.

8. PERMITS ISSUED AT THE RESERVOIR

Applications have been submitted and all fees have been paid on the following Lake Agreements, associated with new construction and replacement.

- (1) Joseph Robert Charnasky and Deborah K. Stephens**, desire to construct a boat lift on Lake Blalock.
- (2) Mark R. Osteen**, desires to construct a hard pathway on Lake Blalock.
- (3) Charles R. Branan and Linda M. Branan**, desire to construct a boat lift on Lake Bowen.
- (4) Michael Firby and Helen Firby**, desire to construct a personal watercraft lift on Lake Bowen.
- (5) Harold Eugene Hall, Trustee, Sarah Foster Hall Irrevocable Trust dated August 5, 2014**, desire to construct a personal watercraft lift on Lake Bowen.
- (6) Catherine W. Harrison and Guy L. Harrison**, desire to construct a boat lift and personal watercraft lift on Lake Bowen.
- (7) Dana Holland**, desires to replace a dock on Lake Bowen.
- (8) John Davis Kimberly and Lizbeth Packer Kimberly**, desire to replace a dock and construct a personal watercraft lift on Lake Bowen.
- (9) Kevin A. Seay and Kimberly**, desire to construct a boat lift and stabilize the shoreline on Lake Bowen.
- (10) Linda and Jackie D. Walker**, desire to construct a boat lift on Lake Bowen.

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(11) **Dianne Crawford**, desires to construct a dock on Reservoir #1.

Applications have been submitted and all fees have been paid on the following Lake Agreements, associated with acknowledgement of ownership.

(1) **Jon H. Fisher, Jr.**, dock replacement and hard pathway on Lake Bowen.

(2) **Richard A. Genoble, Janet Cash Genoble, Thomas H. Genoble, and Mary Pacolette Genoble**, dock replacement on Lake Bowen.

9. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. Mr. Boyle informed the Commission that the next SCDNR Board Meeting will be held June. Management will represent Spartanburg Water if the report is on the SCDNR meeting agenda.

B. Mr. Boyle noted that the Water Quality reports for Spartanburg and Landrum were provided in the Commission mail.

C. Mr. Boyle provided a status update on the AO System. Gene Jackson provided information on the project including the timeline and how it has been effected.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Robert F. Walden
Interim Secretary-Treasurer

tbh