

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION  
ISLE OF PALMS WATER & SEWER COMMISSION  
MAY 17, 2023

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In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Agenda was posted on May 10, 2023, at City Hall, the Commission Office, and provided to *The Post and Courier*. The meeting was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at the Commission Office, 1300 Palm Boulevard on the Isle of Palms, SC.

Attending were Chairman Jay Leigh, Vice Chairman Bob Hooper, Secretary Donald Smith, Commissioner Curtis Helfrich, PE, Commissioner Jeff Forslund, General Manager Chris Jordan, Special Projects Administrator Bill Jenkins, Comptroller Helena Stickles, CPA, Operations Manager Shorty Meade, Engineer Mark Yodice, and Attorney Jennifer Blumenthal. Also present were Dana Love, PE, and Linda Tucker.

Vice Chairman Hooper called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

Commissioner Helfrich made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 19, 2023. Chairman Leigh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

As there were no citizens present, Chairman Leigh dispensed with the reading of the Chairman's Statement.

City of Isle of Palms Fire Chief Craig Oliverius addressed the Commission regarding the City's initiative to promote the installation of interconnected sprinkler systems in homes on the island as a means of risk reduction. He believes the P2904 system allows a homeowner to have such a system at a reasonable cost since a plumber can install it. It will help reduce the severity of fires.

He said that the Fire Department continues to research these systems. He is seeking support from the Commission and would like for the City of Isle of Palms to be a leader on this issue. Director Kerr reported that City staff members are gathering information about how other jurisdictions are handling this issue, as well as installation costs. Chief Oliverius anticipates feedback from the South Carolina Building Codes Council on this matter.

Vice Chairman Hooper requested that any information gathered be shared with General Manager Jordan so that it can be discussed at the June 2023 Commission meeting. There was a brief discussion about the sprinkler systems, but because this was not an agenda item, further discussion was delayed until next month.

Special Projects Administrator Jenkins began the Manager's Report by reviewing the status of the capital projects. He reported that the wet well for the Wild Dunes Pump Station arrived two weeks ago. The site is being prepared for the installation of the generator. The contractor has remobilized on the Forest Trails site. The top slab has been poured, and the block mason arrives next week to begin block work. Roof trusses will be installed soon.

Staff is still in discussions with the Army Corps of Engineers and US Fish & Wildlife regarding issues related to the R/O concentrate line.

The City's drainage project at 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue is complete. The work at 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue will begin after the season is over. The City will be going out for bids on the 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue project later this year.

Special Projects Administrator Jenkins shared that staff participated in the City's Disaster Expo, which was held at the Recreation Center on May 16, 2023.

General Manager Jordan reported that flows are picking up, and there is a significant increase in demand for irrigation. He said that the BioRem representative was here last week to start the odor control system at Pump Station 19. The system is up and operational.

Comptroller Stickles delivered the Financial Report. She said that operating cash is down \$264,000.00 due to payments to Ruby-Collins, Inc., and Coastal Utilities. The Commission earned approximately \$39,000.00 in interest income last month.

Comptroller Stickles said that the balance in the bond revenue account is approximately \$241,000.00 as of May 16, 2023.

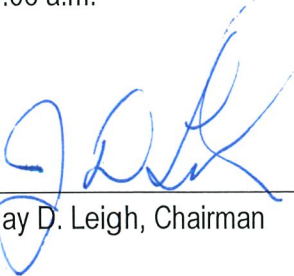
Revenues for April 2023 were \$42,000.00 over budget, and expenditures were \$100,000.00 over budget. She explained that expenses were higher last month, and going forward, depreciation will be included as a monthly expenditure.

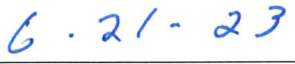
Vice Chairman Hooper thanked Linda Tucker and Mark Yodice for their work in helping the Commission secure \$4.5 million in grant funding from the South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program Community Impact grant. The letters notifying the Commission of this award were included in the meeting packet.

Chairman Leigh made a motion for the Commission to accept the recommendation from the Finance Committee to appoint HRG CPAs, LLC, to complete the annual audit. Commissioner Forslund seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Helfrich made a motion for the Commission to accept the recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve the FY24 budget as presented. Vice Chairman Hooper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Leigh made a motion to adjourn. Secretary Smith seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

  
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Jay D. Leigh, Chairman

  
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Date