

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
ISLE OF PALMS WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Agenda was posted on September 11, 2024, at City Hall, the Commission Office, and provided to *The Post and Courier*. The meeting was held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at the Commission Office, 1300 Palm Boulevard on the Isle of Palms, SC.

Attending were Chairman Jay Leigh, Vice Chairman Bob Hooper (via phone), Secretary Donald Smith, Commissioner Curtis Helfrich, PE, Commissioner Jeff Forslund, General Manager Chris Jordan, Special Projects Administrator Bill Jenkins, Operations Manager Shorty Meade, Comptroller Helena Stickles, CPA, and Attorney Jennifer Blumenthal. Engineer Mark Yodice was absent.

Chairman Leigh called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Commissioner Forslund made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2024, regular Commission meeting as presented. Secretary Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Special Projects Administrator Jenkins began the Manager's Report. He said that staff is waiting on the punch list and record drawings for the Wild Dunes Pump Station. The pump station is running as designed. Regarding the plant consolidation, he said, "We just started reseeding the existing plant. We are still processing through the new plant. We do have some problems that have come up. The contractor is working to correct those problems," which are mainly centrifuge and programming issues.

Secretary Smith said that he noticed an odor coming from the plant yesterday. General Manager Jordan said, "We started bringing the plant back online, and we were bringing sludge from Wild Dunes over there. We had a lot of tanks open." The odor will disappear once everything is sealed up again.

The Notice to Proceed for the R/O Extension project has been issued to Trident Engineering. Triad should be starting in October.

Eadie's Construction has registered on the SAM website. Special Projects Administrator Jenkins reported that staff would like to recommend Eadie's Construction's bid for the project.

Staff has been working with Thomas & Hutton to finalize the plans for Sewer Basin N. A request for full plans has been made so that they can be easily reviewed. Special Projects Administrator Jenkins added, "One of the issues that we are up against is where do we place the laterals to the properties in reference to where they can access from their septic tanks. So, we will be looking into that to make sure that we land them in the proper place." This may require some interaction with the customers in that area.

The Dewees Island water main has been installed. Staff is waiting on the contractor to complete the project.

Two customers at 605 and 608 Carolina Boulevard, respectively, have requested connection to sewer. Both will be required to extend to the system. Plans have been made, and a start date is anticipated in the next few months. The Commission has requested the addition of five services in the area, two of which will

eliminate two existing grinder pumps. The cost of the project will be split three ways. The Commission's portion is \$96,000.00.

Lead and copper testing has been conducted, and samples have been sent to DHEC as part of the triannual testing requirements.

The lead service line inventory was completed but with numerous unknowns regarding the service line materials between the water meters and the residences. Due to these unknowns, the EPA requires the Commission to post on the website a notice to all customers stating that there are unknowns, along with a list of laboratories, should anyone want to have their water tested.

General Manager Jordan hopes to have an open house at the new plant before Thanksgiving. He said that staff is beginning to take Wild Dunes offline. He stated that the new plant has a built-in redundancy. It is essentially two wastewater treatment plants in one space, allowing flexibility if there is a failure.

Secretary Smith said that Wild Dunes is looking into the possibility of opening 30 spaces for public parking to allow for that portion of the beach to receive federal funding. He wondered if the Commission's lot in Wild Dunes could be used for this purpose if Wild Dunes decides to pursue that accommodation. Director Kerr responded that the slots are required to be spaced out across the resort and near beach accesses, so this lot could not be used.

Comptroller Stickles delivered the Financial Report. She reported that the balance of the bond checking account as of August 31, 2024, is \$52,138.00. Three checks totaling \$436,769.00 were written in August 2024. Another installment of the FEMA grant was received in the amount of \$484,189.74. To date, the Commission has received \$3,268,125.00. The balance yet to be received is \$1,089,075.00, and the balance due to Ruby-Collins is \$1,121,411.47. The remaining money from FEMA will not be received until the project is closed out.

The Commission earned \$14,708.00 in earned interest in August 2024 at a rate of 5.4%.

August 2024 revenues came in \$208,000.00 over budget, and expenditures were \$38,000.00 under budget, resulting in \$246,000.00 positive net revenue. August 2023 had a higher positive net revenue by \$56,000.00.

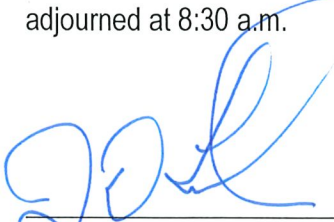
General Manager Jordan said that Engineer Yodice confirmed Eadie's bid submitted earlier in the summer for the Forest Trails outfall replacement project. Now that Eadie's has registered on the SAM website, the RIA has approved Eadie's for the project. Staff recommends that the project be awarded to Eadie's in the amount of \$756,741.37.

Commissioner Helfrich made a motion to award the contract for the Forest Trails outfall replacement project to Eadie's Construction in the amount of \$756,741.37. Chairman Leigh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

As mentioned earlier in the meeting, staff would like to extend sewer service an extra 120 feet in the 600 block of Carolina Boulevard to allow for five new customers in the future. Two locations will require two existing grinder pumps to connect to the new gravity system. Staff recommends using the remaining funds budgeted for the outfall replacement project to pay for this project.

Vice Chairman Hooper made a motion to approve this plan as presented. Secretary Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary Smith made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Forslund seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.



Jay D. Leigh, Chairman

10-16-24

Date