

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
ISLE OF PALMS WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 18, 2026

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Agenda was posted on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at City Hall, the Commission Office, and provided to *The Post and Courier*. The meeting was held on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at the Commission Office, 1300 Palm Boulevard on the Isle of Palms, SC.

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

Chairman Hooper called the meeting to order at 8:23 a.m.

As there were no corrections offered to the minutes of the regular meeting of January 21, 2026, the minutes were approved as presented.

Chairman Hooper read the Chairman's Statement, as there were citizens present.

Mr. Jacob Hildebrand, speaking on behalf of the Wild Dunes Community Association (WDCA), asked the Commission to consider a 50% reduction in the impact fees being requested from them for a 4' x 8' bathroom being added to the gate house at the back gate.

Mr. John Haire of Heavy's Burgers, 1012 Ocean Boulevard, and his attorney, Matt Kelly, asked the Commission to reconsider the impact fees assessed on them in a letter dated January 14, 2026. Mr. Kelly shared multiple articles and aerial photographs of the property in question. They believe the fees to be excessive. They challenged the seating occupancy stated in the letter and also maintain that the use of the space has not changed from its previous use (as Papi's Taqueria).

Mr. Kelly referenced an earlier letter from the "water department" regarding the impact fees. He said, "The Commission was already paid these impact fees. So, the Commission was able to recoup those fees from Papi's and is now seeking them again. Essentially, you have what is equivalent to an unjust enrichment at the cost of property owner. Essentially, they are paying this bill twice, when it should only be paid once. And from everything that we have seen, it is clear that there is no change in use."

Special Projects Administrator Jenkins began the Manager's Report. He reported that the Fairway Dunes project is approximately 50% complete. Coastal Utilities has worked the past two weekends to stay abreast of the project. Service installations will begin this week. Coastal Utilities is onsite at the Beach Club Villas project. Coastal Utilities has been asked by staff to supplement its work forces on both projects so that the projects are timely finished. The project must be completed before May 13 so that the Commission can request reimbursement prior to June 1 for the SCIIP grant. General Manager Jordan said that Coastal Utilities is "well aware" of the completion dates.

The Duneridge water main replacement project is under review with SCDES.

General Manager Jordan reported that Water Environment Consultants performed field measurements to verify the new RO concentrate outfall will operate as designed and meets US Fish & Wildlife Service's criteria for excess temperature and mitigation of manatee attraction.

He also shared that Gideon Crane passed the Biological Wastewater Treatment Operator certification exam, and Joel Terrio passed the Transmission/Distribution Operator certification exam.

Members of the City's Environmental Advisory Committee recently toured the new wastewater treatment plant.

Comptroller Stickle delivered the Financial Report. She reported that the Commission received a check for \$222.50 from Carroll Enterprises, LLC for hydrant meter usage. On February 10, 2026, \$1.3 million was transferred from the First Citizens Concentration account to the SC State Treasurer.

The Commission earned \$12,609.00 in interest at a rate of 3.9%.

Revenues for January were under budget by \$78,223.00, and expenses were over budget by \$57,366.00, resulting in a negative net revenue of \$135,590.00. Revenues and expenses for 2026 are higher, but the Commission remains well ahead of the budget in net revenues.

Under New Business, Secretary Smith reported that the Finance Committee recommends that the FY25 audit be approved as presented. Vice Chairman Forslund made a motion to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation. Commissioner Helfrich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

General Manager Jordan reported that he has been working with the Federal lobbyist, Thorn Run Partners, to apply for authorization for funding through the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The request is for \$50 million. He said they may not receive the full amount. Thomas & Hutton is working on updating the cost estimates to sewer the entire island. There is a 75/25 cost share on all projects through WRDA. General Manager Jordan said that the less money the Commission must expend for projects funded in this manner, the less it will cost for customers to tie in to the sewer. Engineer Yodice noted that grinder pumps cost the Commission money.

The Commissioners were reminded to file their ethics filings with the State by March 30, 2026.

Secretary Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session according to SC Code Section 30-4-70(a)(2) to receive legal advice. Vice Chairman Forslund seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission went into Executive Session at 8:58 a.m.

The Commission returned from Executive Session at 9:27 a.m. Chairman Hooper stated that no decisions were made.

Commissioner Leigh made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Forslund seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.



Robert W. Hooper, Jr., Chairman



Date