

# **JOINT MUNICIPAL WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES**

**November 13, 2024**

The Joint Municipal Water and Sewer Commission held its Wednesday, November 13, 2024, meeting at the Commission office at 5:30 PM.

### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Frank Shumpert, Chairman - Town of Pelion  
Joseph Hardee, Vice-Chairman - Gilbert-Summit Rural Water District  
Cindy Campbell, Town of South Congaree  
Bobby Keisler, County of Lexington  
Hazel Livingston, Town of Lexington  
Viola McDaniel, Town of Swansea  
Tem Miles, City of West Columbia  
Lancer Shull, Town of Batesburg-Leesville

### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Jay Nicholson, General Manager	Gene House, Operations Manager
Stephanie Morton, Clerk to Commission	Guy Schmoltze, Engineering & Const.
Ashton Blocker, Finance	Anthony Self, Engineering
Rita Shumpert, Customer Service	Madeline Zimmerman, Finance
Melinda Lee, Operations	Barry Leaphart, Operations
Noelle Delalla, Ripple Fiber	Joshua Runyan, Ripple Fiber
Ryan Zakany, Ripple Fiber	

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

Mr. Joseph Hardee gave the invocation. The pledge of Allegiance was said.

The Chairman confirmed the media had been notified.

Mr. Jay Nicholson stated that Ripple Fiber has requested to be added to the agenda to address the board. The Chairman asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add Ripple Fiber. Mr. Tem Miles made the motion to amend the agenda. Mr. Bobby Keisler seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Chairman Shumpert addressed item four (4) regarding consideration of minutes from the 10/09/24 meeting. Mr. Bobby Keisler made the motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Mr. Tem Miles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Attorney Joshua Runyan with Ripple Fiber addressed the board and introduced the other Ripple Fiber representatives that were present. Mr. Ryan Zakany addressed the board and stated that Ripple has come to Lexington County due to the demand for High-Speed Internet. Since February 2024 they have completed the building of over 8,000 new connections and have plans to add an additional 30,000 connections in the county and town of Lexington. Mr. Zakany stated as expected with a project of this size there have been some concerns and issues, and over the past month issues

specific to JMWSC water system area regarding resources and time as it relates to utility damages. Other issues regarding unpaid invoices issued to contractors by JMWSC have been a concern. Mr. Zakany stated that they have taken the following measures to ensure that these issues get resolved. Future at fault damages will be paid within 5 business days of receipt. Contractors that were involved in the last two water damage claims have been removed from the project. Narrow pointed or sharp shovels have been removed. Project updates will be sent to Mr. Jay Nicholson on a weekly basis regarding where installations will be in the area. Should locates for code 50 or 55 be received contractors will reach out to Commission staff to work with them directly to ensure markings are correct to avoid damage. Mr. Zakany stated that they are willing to deploy ground penetrating radar technology if and when needed at their expense. Mr. Zakany thanked the board for their time and stated that they look forward to working with the Commission.

Chairman Shumpert addressed item five (5) Executive Report. Mr. Jay Nicholson presented an informal report to the board. A full copy of the report is attached as an addendum to the minutes.

The Chairman addressed item six (6) Executive Session regarding Cayce WWTF capacity discussions, Ripple Fiber and WEASC/SCAWWA Tap fees. Mr. Tem Miles made the motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. Joseph Hardee seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously

Coming out of Executive Session the Chairman stated that the only motion made during Executive Session was the motion to come out of Executive Session.

Chairman Shumpert addressed item eight (8) announcements. Mr. Jay Nicholson reminded everyone of the Commission Christmas Party coming up on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at the new location Lexington Country Club.

As there was no other business, Mr. Tem Miles made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bobby Keisler seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.



PROGRESS THROUGH COOPERATION

# Executive Report

September October 9-November 13, 2024

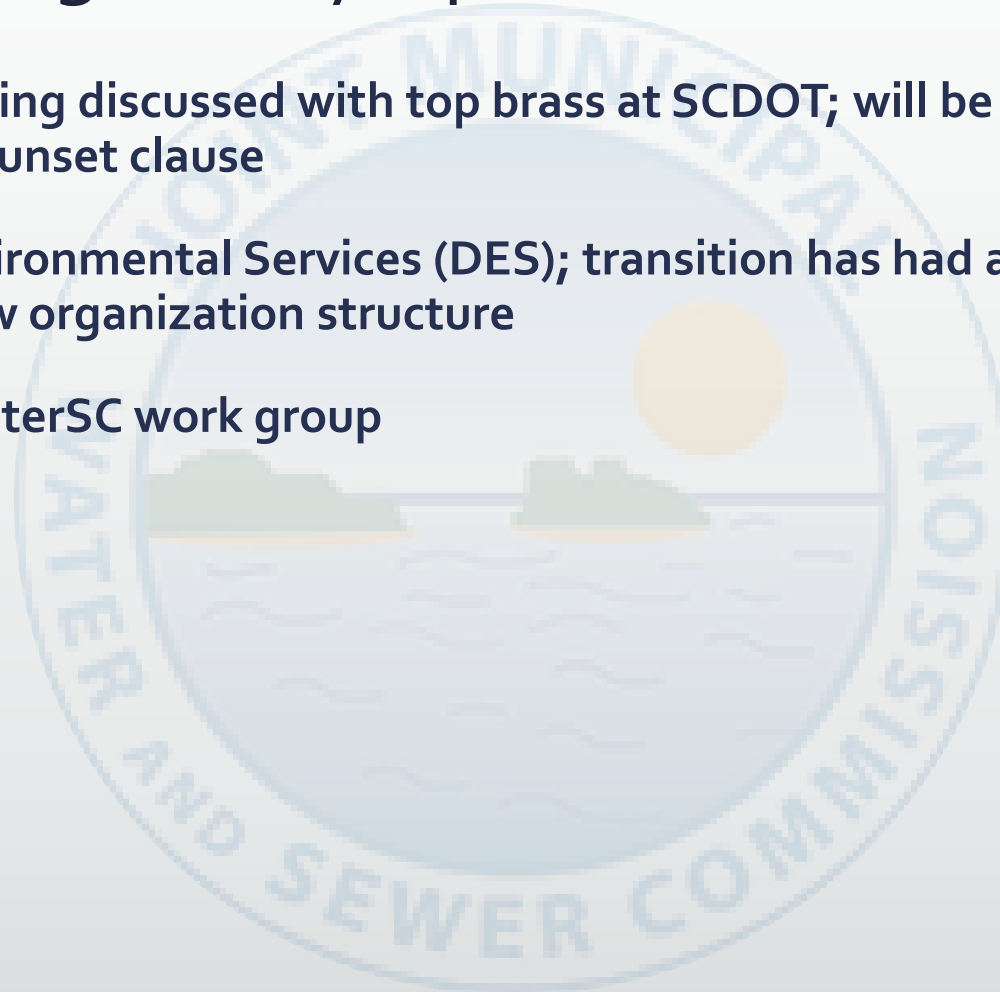
# Legislative/Regulatory Update



- **Batesburg-Leesville project**
- Project is full steam ahead
- Groundbreaking ceremony held 10/29 – excellent turnout
- Construction conflicts; tank progress
- **Swansea**
- Project making good progress;
- Draft report anticipated before end of calendar year
- Operations and Franchise options being vetted

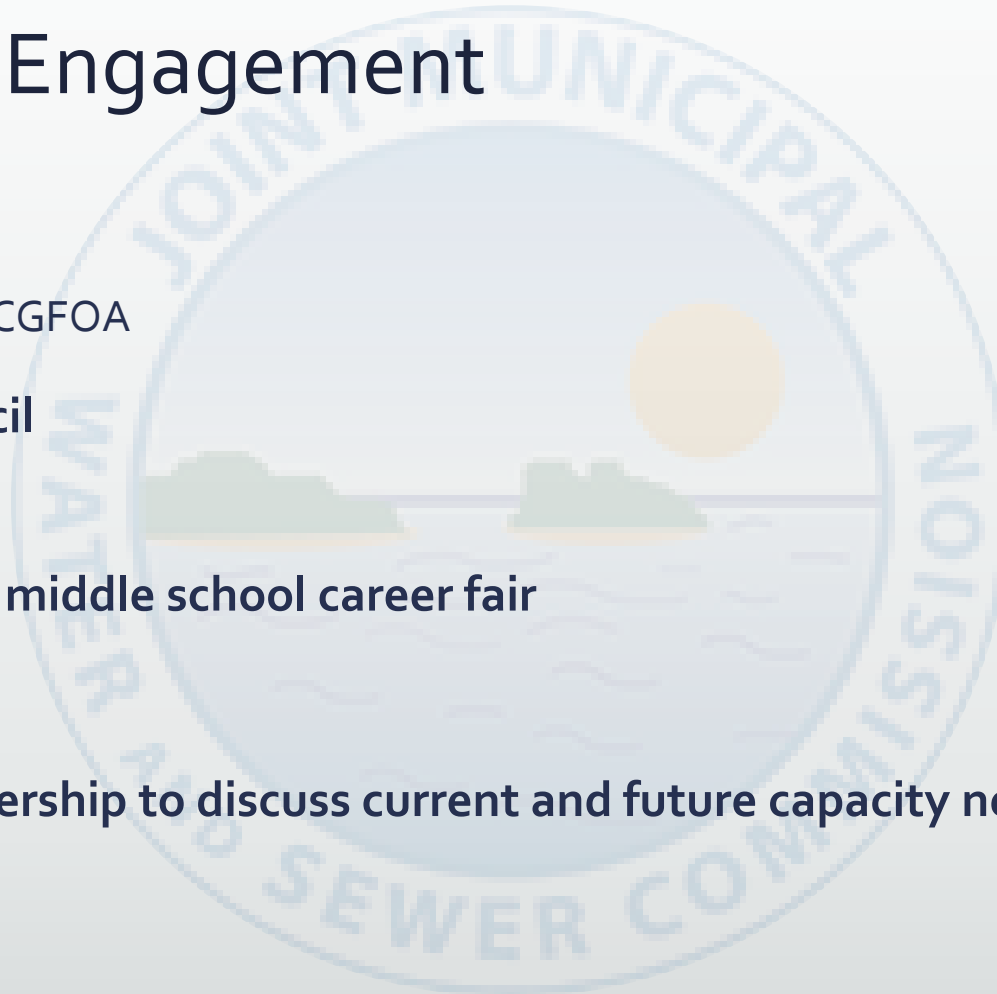
# Legislative/Regulatory Update

- Utility Relocation law being discussed with top brass at SCDOT; will be targeting sponsors to extend the sunset clause
- New Department of Environmental Services (DES); transition has had a few bumps but progressing with new organization structure
- Governor announced WaterSC work group



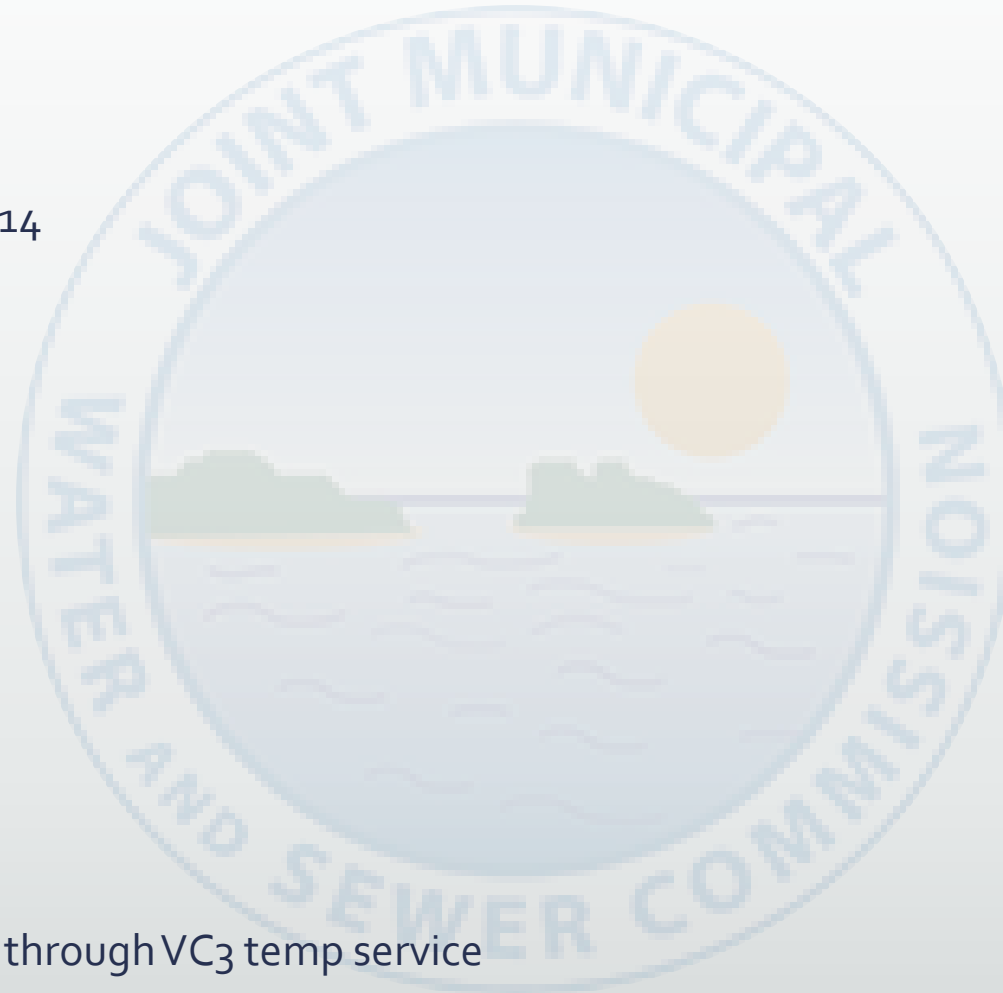
# Professional Engagement

- **Conferences/Meetings**
  - Operators Conference; SCGFOA
- **Saluda River Basin Council**
  - Draft plan under review
- **Anthony Self attended a middle school career fair**
- **WUC**
- **Meeting with Cayce leadership to discuss current and future capacity needs**



# Workforce

- **Training and Education**
  - CityWorks user training
  - In-house training held 10/14
- **Staffing**
- **Operations**
  - Full staff
- **Engineering**
  - Full staff
- **Customer Service**
  - Full staff
- **Finance**
  - IT position being covered through VC3 temp service
  - Developing the description for the additional position



# Operations

- **Tank Maintenance**

- All inspections and maintenance up to date
- Mixer at South Congaree has been replaced
- Hwy 1 drained and cleaned this month

- **Water Quality**

- Chlorine residuals remain stable throughout distribution system
- Minimal flushing in several areas per normal operational optimization
- Several minor leak repairs in Pelion and Swansea
- Taste & odor episode seems to be dwindling; MIB and geosmin numbers are trending downward

- **Sewer Collections**

- No SSOs in September





# Engineering & Construction

- CMMS – CityWorks flushing and valve maint programs soft launch
- RFQ for AMI assistance to be advertised soon; some initial discussions with consultants
- Project Portal development continues
- CIP added to website

## Finance

- Investments remain strong
- ACH rollout on sample of vendors continues to grow
- Working with GP consultant to improve efficient use of modules
- Auditors onsite this month; presentation of ACFR in January

## Customer Service

- Customer Information System (CIS) Upgrade
- SpryPoint testing continues; go live in December

# Capital Improvements Program

- **Water Projects**

- PER submitted for the Pelion Main Street Water Main Replacement
- Working on engineering selection for second Pelion Water System Upgrade (PF)
- Black Jack Oak Lane; we have requested additional information prior to reimbursement
- Muddy Springs Water Main Extension; have not received information for reimbursement
- B-L Project; full steam ahead; project updates on website
- Fort's Ridge subdivision (Pelion) to extend main along Lydia Dr for improved flows; project has been permitted for construction
- Calico Farms; working with project engineers on long term water plan in this area
- Working with GMC on water main improvements at the Platt Springs Tank; submitted for permitting
- Traffic circle relocation projects – Bethany Ch/Boiling Springs, Meadowfield/Hwy 6

# Capital Improvements Program

- **Sewer Projects**

- Old Orangeburg/Platt Springs Sewer Upgrades (SRF); Wiley Easton continues to make progress
- Lexington Hills Lift Station rehab; changed suppliers and package on order
- Calico Farms project; conceptual design phase (sewer routing and pump station)
- Highfill Engineering continues design on force main upgrade along Bluefield Rd
- GHD working on Business Park lift station project
- Master Plan work beginning soon

JMWSC at a Glance	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	FY24 Growth	Previous YTD	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	FY25 Growth	Previous YTD
<b>Customer Data</b>																		
Water customers	19,813	19,908	19,987	20,092	20,127	20,161	20,236	20,294	20,366	20,387	3.49%	3.14%	20,406	20,507	20,530	20,563	0.86%	1.09%
Sewer customers	6,421	6,468	6,522	6,629	6,652	6,661	6,699	6,748	6,777	6,788	6.31%	7.64%	6,802	6,887	6,894	6,909	1.78%	1.38%
New water only	29	47	36	4	31	22	26	37	9	11	294	195	5	10	11	28	54	118
New water/sewer	31	40	62	84	11	21	32	30	19	14	352	378	69	45	10	7	131	79
<b>Total new customers</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>197</b>
Start accounts	170	209	140	156	239	200	187	218	191	243			286	172	189	210		
Close accounts	58	54	34	45	50	45	50	53	57	54			92	60	46	59		
Meters read (AMR)	19,958	20,019	20,135	20,114	20,308	20,335	20,324	20,349	20,494	20,558			20,576	20,586	20,706	20,816		
Meters unread (AMR)	100	80	58	159	79	82	119	168	79	85			84	104	87	127		
Disconnected/nonpmt	118	137	skipped	skipped	139	147	140	160	156	125			155	58	158	138		
Remain disconnected	17	30	n/a	n/a	33	25	17	12	10	28			27	6	27	23		
<b>Water quality complaints</b>																		
Taste/odor/color	0	0	0	0	6	2	2	1	3	2			1	2	4	0		
Pressure	1	0	0	0	1	2	3	13	2	15			6	11	3	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>			<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Flow Data (MGD)</b>																		
Water avg daily flows	8.20	7.80	6.02	5.35	5.46	4.78	4.97	6.20	7.50	8.64			8.53	7.27	7.51	6.68		
previous year	7.85	6.54	5.08	5.25	*4.71	4.69	5.36	6.22	7.40	8.39			9.02	9.20	8.20	7.80		
Sewer avg daily (combined)	1.52	1.42	1.46	1.52	1.52	1.53	1.61	1.502	1.6	1.49			1.48	1.76	1.58	1.46		
previous year		1.37	1.377	1.395	1.429	1.493	1.431	1.513	1.44	1.42			1.52	1.49	1.52	1.42		
<b>Current projects</b>																		
Residential	35	38		37	39		38	43	43				44	43	43	46	Res lots	
Commercial	24	24		24	24		24	17	19				27	31	34	34	water	sewer
JMWSC	8	8		9	9		9	9	9				8	9	9	9	3,791	2,848
<b>Total projects</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>70</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>72</b>		<b>71</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>71</b>				<b>79</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>86</b>			
Locates received	972	1099	859	707	907	1050	1268	1733	1148	903			1168	999	915	1356		
Locates marked	596	714	584	447	590	716	891	1270	873	589			776	735	595	866		
Total LF marked	59,385	55,225	48,910	38,780	45,210	84,255	107,950	139,480	97,510	59,410			53,390	53,260	52,815	115,890		

Revenues/Expenses thru oct 2024	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Operating Revenues*	9,440,412	24,715,029	38%
Operating Expenses*	4,280,605	15,346,318	28%

\*Direct operating revenues/expenses only. Does not include debt service and depreciation information.



PROGRESS THROUGH COOPERATION