

**The Water Works Board of the City of Auburn
March 18, 2021 – Regular Meeting
Minutes**

The Water Works Board of the City of Auburn met on March 18, 2021 at 4:00 PM via Zoom due to COVID19 social distancing requirements.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeff Clary, Chairman
Butch Brock, Vice Chairman
Jennifer Chambliss, Secretary
Brad Wilson, Board Member
Bernard Hill, Board Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF/VISITORS PRESENT:

Eric Carson, Water Resource Management Director
Matt Dunn, Water Resource Management Assistant Director
Tim Johnson, Principal Utility Engineer
Rick McCarty, Water Plant Manager
Kyle Hildreth, Water Distribution Manager
Marla Smith, Watershed Manager
Allison Edge, Finance Director/Treasurer
Erika Sprouse, Assistant Finance Director/Treasurer
Heidi Lowery, Principal Financial Analyst
Alexander Massingill, Accountant
Stephen Clay, Attorney
Mitchell Tate, Student Observer

III. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

A. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

B. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Clary asked for approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 18, 2021.
Mr. Wilson made a motion for approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of February 18, 2021.
Dr. Hill seconded the motion.
All voted aye; none opposed and Dr. Clary declared the motion approved.

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Financial Report

Ms. Edge stated that the financial statements presented in the packets were for the month ending February 28, 2021, and 41.67 percent of the year has elapsed. Water sales were at 40.1 percent of budget. Operating revenues were at 39.8 percent of budget and operating expenses were

under budget at 33.9 percent. The net income for the month of February was \$300,381. The Access Fee account balance is \$2,428,746 as of February 28, 2021.

2. Brasfield Gorrie, LLC, Lease Agreement

Mr. Carson presented a resolution accepting a lease agreement between The Water Works Board of the City of Auburn and Brasfield Gorrie, LLC, granting a ten-month lease for a temporary construction laydown and trailer lot next door to the Bailey-Alexander Complex located at 1501 W. Samford Avenue. Brasfield Gorrie, LLC, promises to pay the Board a monthly rental of \$1,260, payable on the first day of April, 2021 and on the first day of each month thereafter until January 31, 2022, according to the specifications, terms and conditions thereof as set forth in the lease agreement.

Dr. Clary asked for a motion to approve the request.

Mr. Brock made a motion to approve the request.

Dr. Hill seconded the motion.

All voted aye; none opposed and Dr. Clary declared the motion approved.

Resolution No. 21-05

3. Safe Harbor Agreement Certification Statement

Ms. Smith requested authorization for the Board Chairman to execute the Responsible Official Certification Statement regarding the annual report submissions associated with the Chewacla Creek Safe Harbor Agreement (September 2003). This is for the 2020 reporting year only.

Dr. Clary asked for a motion to approve the request.

Dr. Hill made a motion to approve the request.

Mr. Brock seconded the motion.

All voted aye; none opposed and Dr. Clary declared the motion approved.

4. Gay Street Water Main Replacement Pipe Materials Purchase

Mr. Johnson presented a resolution requesting authorization to purchase 840 LF of 8" DI Water Main and related appurtenances from the vendor that provided the lowest quote, Consolidated Pipe and Supply, in the amount of \$30,237.60, which is the Base Quote/Bid (27,812.60) plus Additive Alternate No. 1 (\$2,425).

Dr. Clary asked for a motion to approve the request.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the request.

Mr. Brock seconded the motion.

All voted aye; none opposed and Dr. Clary declared the motion approved.

Resolution No. 21-06

VII. STAFF REPORTS

1. Project Status Report

- Fixed Network (AMI) Meter Reading System

Mr. Dunn reported on the Fixed Network (AMI) Meter Reading System stating that this project includes installation of communication equipment (antenna) on the Glenn Avenue water storage tank. This equipment will be utilized to automatically read customer's service meters within range of the tank. Upon installation, the Board will conduct a pilot test to determine the equipment's coverage of the system. If the test is successful, the coverage may ultimately determine the number of antennas needed for coverage of the entire system. Currently, the Board's meter equipment manufacturer (Neptune Technology Group) has finalized the files that will take meter data and "push" the information into the Board's billing software. Software training with Neptune and Board staff is was held in late January 2021. Staff continues to monitor the range and data collection from the new collector/gateway on the tank. Meters not being "heard" by the collector are being outfitted with external antennas in select locations. It is expected that staff will continue to install external antennas on meters and install additional collector/gateway units on other elevated water tanks. The project is expected to last into 2021.

- Teague Court Tank Rehabilitation

Mr. Dunn reported on the Teague Court Tank Rehabilitation project stating that this project consists of the full recoating of the interior of the water storage tank, exterior washing and touchup, and exterior tank lettering recoating. The task order for the design of the project was approved at the August 2020 Board meeting. Design by the consultant (BARGE Design Solutions) is complete and a bid opening was held on January 12, 2021. The project was awarded to the low bidder, Tank Pro, Inc., in the amount of \$291,430. Contract documents, bonds, and insurance certificates have been finalized. The pre-construction conference with the contractor was held on March 12, and the Notice to Proceed has been issued for March 15, 2021. The project is expected to last four months.

- Mercer Circle Water Main Replacement

Mr. Dunn reported on the Mercer Circle Water Main Replacement project stating that this project consists of the replacement of an existing 2" water main with new 6" and 4" ductile iron water main along Mercer Circle. The project will also include installation of new valves along Dean Road near the Dean and Annalue intersection. Installation of the new main by the Board's forces is complete. The old main was disconnected and abandoned during the week of March 8. This project is substantially complete.

- Gay Street Water Main Replacement – Thach to Magnolia

Mr. Dunn reported on the Gay Street Water Main Replacement (Thach to Magnolia) Project stating that this project consists of the replacement of an old 6" cast iron water main with a new 8" ductile iron water main along Gay Street from Thach Avenue to Magnolia Avenue. This project is planned to be implemented while this area is under construction (new Publix grocery store development on the site of the old Burger King and Tiger Rags). Quotes for the materials were received on March 5, 2021. Water main installation by the Board's crews is expected to commence in April 2021 and last approximately 8 to 10 weeks.

- Opelika Road Water Main Extension – Phase 1

Mr. Dunn reported on the Opelika Road Water Main Extension – Phase 1 stating that this project includes the installation of a new 10" ductile iron water main along the north side of Opelika Road from Gentry Drive to a point just west of Saugahatchee Road. This project is included in the City of Auburn Engineering Services Department's Renew Opelika Road Phase 4 Streetscape Project. JLD Enterprises, LLC was awarded the construction contract by the City Council in 2020. Construction material submittals have been submitted, reviewed, and approved. The contractor mobilized and project construction has commenced. The project is expected to last into mid-summer 2021.

- James E. Estes Water Treatment Plant Improvements

Mr. Dunn reported on the James E. Estes Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project stating that this project consists of several process, structural, and equipment replacement improvements at the Estes Water Treatment Plant. These elements include improvements to the carbon and lime feed systems, replacement of sludge collection equipment (in two sedimentation basins), various pump and valve replacements, and misc. structural and electrical improvements. The Board approved the task order with the engineering consultant in May 2020. A project design kickoff meeting was held in June 2020 and design is now underway. A schematic design workshop was held with the engineering consultant in October and final design is now underway. Design drawings, specifications, and plans are currently being developed. Project design is expected to last into early 2021, with bidding expected in late Spring 2021, with bidding expected in late Spring 2021. The project is expected to be complete in 2022.

2. Rainfall Data

Mr. Carson stated that the rainfall report for the month of March, shows that as of the 18th, we have received 3.99 inches of rain at the lake and 3.53 inches of rain at the plant. For the year to date, we are 4.77 inches below normal at the lake and 5.02 inches below normal at the plant.

3. Lake Level Chart

Mr. Carson stated that the lake level chart shows that the lake level is currently at an elevation of 486.6 feet. According to the drought management tool, the lake is well above the Optimal Pool Cycle Stage.

4. Drought Map and Drought Discussion

Mr. Carson stated that the drought monitoring maps for February 9, 2021 and March 9, 2021 show that the map for Alabama indicates that some areas within the state are abnormally dry to moderately dry conditions. However, Lee County is still showing no signs of drought. The national map shows significant drought concerns for the western half of the United States.

5. Statistical Usage and Revenue Analysis Recap

Mr. Carson stated that the Statistical Usage and Revenue Analysis Recap showed the average water demand for the month of February 2021 was 6.3 million gallons per day (mgd), which includes water produced and water purchased from Opelika Utilities. Water produced from the water plant was approximately 2.4 mgd, water produced from Well #3 was approximately 1.2 mgd and water produced from Well #4 was approximately 2.1 mgd. An average of 0.6 mgd was purchased from Opelika Utilities.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Next Regular Meeting

The next regular meeting will be April 22, 2021 at 4:00 PM. With respect to the loosening of COVID - 19 restrictions, Dr. Clary asked Board members how they felt about returning to in person meetings starting in April. After some discussion the Board members agreed that the next meeting would be held in person at the Bailey-Alexander Water and Sewer Complex.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dr. Clary declared the March 18, 2021 meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM at the Bailey-Alexander Water and Sewer Complex at 1501 West Samford Avenue, Auburn, Alabama.



Dr. Jeff Clary, Chairman

ATTEST: 

Ms. Jennifer Chambliss, Secretary