

**The Water Works Board of the City of Auburn**  
**June 17, 2021 – Regular Meeting**  
**Minutes**

The Water Works Board of the City of Auburn met on June 17, 2021 at 4:00 PM at the Bailey-Alexander Water and Sewer Complex at 1501 West Samford Avenue, Auburn, Alabama.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Butch Brock, Vice Chairman

**STAFF/VISITORS PRESENT:**

Eric Carson, Water Resource Management Director  
Matt Dunn, Water Resource Management Assistant Director  
Tim Johnson, Principal Utility Engineer  
Kris Berry, 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  
LaTrice Mose, Revenue Manager  
Alexander Massingill, Accountant  
Amy Whitman, Utility Billing Office Manager

**III. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

**B. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Clary asked for approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 20, 2021.  
Dr. Hill made a motion for approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of May 20, 2021.  
Mr. Wilson 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 May 31, 2021, and 66.67 percent of the year has elapsed. Water sales were at 64.1 percent of

budget. Operating revenues were at 63.7 percent of budget and operating expenses were under budget at 53.5 percent. The net income for the month of May was \$221,428. The Access Fee account balance is \$1,977,425 as of May 31, 2021.

## **2. Alabama Power Company Easement**

Mr. Carson presented a resolution authorizing the Chairman to execute an easement agreement with Alabama Power Company on AWWB property near the Bailey-Alexander Complex located at 1501 West Samford Avenue in Auburn, Alabama. The easement would be granted in exchange for Alabama Power Company's installation of underground utilities in lieu of overhead distribution lines on an existing easement along West Samford Avenue.

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

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the resolution.

Ms. Chambliss seconded the motion.

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

Resolution No. 21-09

## **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 and implementation took place in March. 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. In May 2021, three specific areas were targeted for evaluation of coverage from the collector unit on the Glenn tank and staff is currently monitoring results. The project is expected to last into late 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. After design completion by the Board's consultant (BARGE Design Solutions) the project was awarded to the low bidder, Tank Pro, Inc. Contract documents, bonds, and insurance certificates have been finalized and the pre-construction conference was held on March 12. The contractor mobilized in early April and construction is underway. To date, the work on the interior of the tank is approximately 75 percent complete. This project is expected to last into mid-July 2021.

#### **- 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). The Board approved the purchase of materials at the March meeting. Phase 1 work is complete and Phase 2 construction is underway. Phase 1 includes the installation of the new main (in Gay Street) from Thach Avenue to a point adjacent to the northern property line of the First Presbyterian Church. Phase 2 will begin at the northern end of Phase 1 and continue to Magnolia Avenue. The main installation for Phase 2 is nearing completion. Once the Phase 2 segment of the main is installed, the northern

connection to the main in Magnolia Avenue and the transfer of water services will take place. The project is expected to last until late June 2021.

#### **- 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 miscellaneous 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. The project design has been completed and the project is currently out for bid. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for June 15 and the bid opening is scheduled for July 1, 2021. The project is expected to be complete in late 2022.

### **2. Rainfall Data**

Mr. Carson stated that the rainfall report for the month of June, shows that as of the 14<sup>th</sup>, we have received 2.96 inches of rain at the lake and 2.88 inches of rain at the plant. For the year to date, we are 2.44 inches below normal at the lake and 7.78 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 484.5 feet. According to the drought management tool, the lake is within the Optimal Pool Cycle Stage.

### **4. Drought Map and Drought Discussion**

Mr. Carson stated that the drought monitoring maps for May 11, 2021 and June 8, 2021 show that the map for Alabama indicates that the state is out of drought conditions. 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 May 2021 was 8.1 million gallons per day (mgd), which includes water produced and water purchased from Opelika Utilities. Water produced from the water plant was approximately 4.1 mgd, water produced from Well #3 was approximately 1.2 mgd and water produced from Well #4 was approximately 1.8 mgd. Water purchased from Opelika Utilities was just under 1.0 mgd.

## **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. Next Regular Meeting**

The next regular meeting will be July 22, 2021 at 4:00 PM at the Bailey-Alexander Water and Sewer Complex at 1501 West Samford Avenue, Auburn, Alabama.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Dr. Clary declared the June 17, 2021 meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM at the Bailey-Alexander Water and Sewer Complex at 1501 West Samford Avenue, Auburn, Alabama.

  
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Dr. Jeff Clary, Chairman

ATTEST:   
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Ms. Jennifer Chambliss, Secretary