

**The Water Works Board of the City of Auburn  
May 19, 2022 – Regular Meeting  
Minutes**

The Water Works Board of the City of Auburn met on May 19, 2022 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:**

Brad Wilson, Chairman  
Jennifer Chambliss, Vice Chairman  
Thomas Sparrow, Board Member  
David Reaves, Board Member

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Bernard Hill, Secretary

**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  
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  
Rick Davidson, Attorney  
Rhonda Sussick- Citizen  
Natalie Knight- Observer

**III. BOARD COMMUNICATION**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Wilson asked for approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 21, 2022.  
Ms. Chambliss made a motion for approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of April 21, 2022.  
Mr. Reaves seconded the motion.  
All voted aye; none opposed and Mr. Wilson declared the motion approved.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Financial Report**

Ms. Lowery stated that the financial statements presented in the packets were for the month ending April 30, 2022, and 58.3 percent of the year has elapsed. Water sales were at 56.6 percent of budget. Operating revenues were at 55.9 percent of budget and operating expenses were under budget at 46.9 percent. The net income for the month of April was \$178,417. The Access Fee account balance is \$2,546,894 as of April 30, 2022.

## **2. West Farmville Road Water Main Improvements Project**

Mr. Johnson requested authorization from the Board to purchase 5,040 LF of 12" DI Water Main and related appurtenances from Ferguson Waterworks in the amount of \$258,201.53, subject to material price adjustment as noted in the bid document, not to exceed \$378,279.83.

Mr. Reaves made a motion to approve the resolution.

Ms. Chambliss seconded the motion.

All voted aye; none opposed and Mr. Wilson declared the motion approved.

Resolution No. 22-03

## **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) in order to remotely read customer's meters. In December 2020, a new antenna and wireless gateway communication equipment was installed on the Glenn Avenue water storage tank to begin pilot testing the system. In late July 2021, Neptune provided an updated radio propagation study. In accordance with the results of the study, the Summerhill tank has been selected as the location for an additional gateway/collector antenna. Equipment was installed and commissioned on December 1, 2021. Initial results from the new gateway have been positive. The collector/gateway from the Glenn tank was relocated to the Shug Jordan Parkway tank on March 30, 2022. Staff has been evaluating the reception results from this site. Based on these results, the number of meters being read by this collector has doubled by relocating the antenna/collector from the Glenn Ave tank to the Shug Jordan Pkwy tank. Staff is currently evaluating additional sites. The project is expected to last into late FY2022.

#### **- Opelika Road Water Main Extension – Phase 1**

Mr. Dunn reported on the Opelika Road Water Main Extension – Phase 1 Project stating that this project is 99 percent complete. 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. In late November 2021, two HDPE directional bores crossing under Opelika Road were completed. Connections to the bores have been made and all pipe has now been installed. Water main has been tested and has been put into service. All water service lines have been transferred to the new main. The AWWB has completed the connection of the old 2" main (continuing west from Gentry Dr.) to the new 10" main in mid-February 2022. Last month the contractor terminated the old water services that were to be abandoned. The only remaining water work item for the project is some additional irrigation connections to be used for the newly installed landscaped areas maintained by the City. The contractor has completed the bore/sleeves for these areas. All project activities are expected to be completed near the end of July 2022.

#### **- Glenn Avenue Water Main Improvements (Byrd to Hemlock)**

Mr. Dunn reported on the Glenn Avenue Water Main Improvements Project stating that this project includes extending a new 12" ductile iron water main along Glenn Avenue from Byrd Street to Hemlock Drive. This project is the second phase of water distribution system improvements in this area. Phase one (Byrd Street Water Main Extension) was completed by the Board's forces in February 2021 and included the installation of a 12" water main along Byrd Street from Magnolia Avenue to Glenn Avenue. Materials for phase two of the project were bid in October 2021. The first material delivery was received on December 13, 2021. The Board's staff completed main installation at the intersection of Glenn and Hemlock in early January. The remaining pipe materials were delivered in January 2022 and the Board's staff has completed the installation of the new main. The main has been tested and is now in service. The remaining work items for the Board's crews are to remove one old hydrant and abandon the old 6-inch cast iron water main. The project is expected to be completed by mid-June 2022.

#### **- Martin Luther King Drive Water Main Improvements (Donahue to Richland)**

Mr. Dunn reported on the Martin Luther King Drive Water Main Improvements Project stating that this project will extend a new 8" ductile iron water main along the north side of Martin Luther King (MLK) Drive from Donahue Drive to Richland Road. The City's Engineering Services Department is currently designing a streetscape project along this section of roadway. The existing water distribution main



along this section of MLK is approximately 70 years old and is in need of replacement. The Water Resource Management Department recommends replacing this main and including it with the streetscape construction project. At the January 2022 meeting, the Board approved the design of the new water main by the Foresite Group engineers, the firm performing the design of the streetscape project. The project is currently in the design phase, 30 percent drawings have been received from the engineering consultant and are currently being reviewed by staff. The project is scheduled to bid in September 2022. Construction is expected to be complete in early Summer 2023.

Mr. Carson stated that due to supply chain issues and the long lead times in securing pipe materials for projects, currently six to twelve months according to most pipe suppliers, that staff is considering soliciting bids for the pipe associated with this project in order to get the pipe ordered and here faster so as not to delay the City's project once it is bid. Mr. Johnson is in the process of preparing a bid package and should have more information available at next Board meeting.

#### **- West Farmville Road Water Main (Hwy 147 (North College Street) to Miracle Road)**

Mr. Dunn reported on the West Farmville Road Water Main (Hwy 147 (North College Street) to Miracle Road stating that this project consists of extending a new 12inch ductile iron water main along the south side of West Farmville Road from Alabama Highway 147 (North College Street) to Miracle Road. This main will be principally a transmission main to provide auxiliary feed to the West Farmville Road/Mrs. James Road/North Donahue Drive area. The pipeline material bids were opened for this project on May 12, 2022 and Ferguson Waterworks was the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$258,201.53. Due to expected extended material lead times, construction is expected to be complete in Spring/Summer 2023.

#### **- 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 project bid opening was held on July 1, 2021. Three bids were received and the low bid was from Schmidt Environmental Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$5,208,000. The Board awarded the construction contract to Schmidt at the July 2021 meeting. The pre-construction conference was held September 29, 2021 and the Notice to Proceed was issued for October 29, 2021. Currently, the project is approximately 13 percent complete. The contractor mobilized to the site in late January 2022 and has completed demolition work in sedimentation basin 3, and is nearing completion of concrete work in basin 3. The temporary lime feed system was installed in late April 2022. Existing concrete repair and rehabilitation work is underway. Installation of basin 3 tube setters is expected in early June. The project is expected to last into the Spring of 2023.

Mr. Johnson stated that contractor is experiencing some delays in obtaining electrical control panels, this has caused a delay in schedule and he will update progress as available.

## **2. Rainfall Data**

Mr. Carson stated that updated data for the rainfall report for the month of May, shows that as of the 16<sup>th</sup>, at the lake we have received 27.06 inches of rain for the year and 0.69 inches of rain for the month, which puts us at 1.45 inches below normal for the year at this site. At the plant we have received 22.58 inches of rain for the year and 0.57 inches of rain for the month, which puts us at 3.67 inches below normal for the year at this site.

## **3. Lake Level Chart**

Mr. Carson stated that the lake level chart shows that the lake level is currently at an elevation of 486.0 feet. According to the drought management tool, the lake is at optimum pool cycle. The lake levels are down but in anticipation of the drier weather and increased water usage, we have turned on the sump pump at the base of spillway and have started pumping water from the quarry as a precautionary measure.

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

Mr. Carson stated that the drought monitoring maps for April 12, 2022 and May 10, 2022 show that the map for Alabama indicates that the state is showing minimal signs of abnormally dry conditions. The national map shows drought conditions are worsening in 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 April 2022 was 7.3 million gallons per day (mgd), which includes water produced and water purchased from Opelika Utilities. Water produced from the water plant was approximately 3.6 mgd, water produced from Well #3 was approximately 1.2 mgd and water produced from Well #4 was approximately 1.9 mgd. Water purchased from Opelika Utilities was 600,000 mgd. Based on these production numbers, the Board produced 92% of the distributed water from its own sources and purchased the remaining 8% from Opelika Utilities in the month of April.

## **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. Loachapoka Water Authority Service Territory**

Mr. Carson provided an update on the discussions between the City of Auburn Water Resource Management Department (WRM) and the Loachapoka Water Authority concerning territory on Ms. James Road, specifically a new development called Quail Chase. It is a 200-acre parcel on the extreme western end of WRM territory. It was decided it would be in the best interest of all parties if Loachapoka Water Authority services this territory. Loachapoka Water Authority is still awaiting USDA approval. Further updates will be provided once the approval has been received.

### **2. Circle K Hwy 280/Shelton Mill Intersection**

Mr. Carson stated that there has been a proposed Circle K gas station at the intersection of Hwy 280 and Shelton Mill Road on the southwest corner. The location is unique because it is split in half by Auburn City Limits and Opelika City Limits. At some point in future, we may see an agreement designating who would serve this area.

### **3. Next Regular Meeting**

The next regular meeting will be June 23, 2022 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, Mr. Wilson declared the May 19, 2022 meeting adjourned at 4:27 PM at the Bailey-Alexander Water and Sewer Complex at 1501 West Samford Avenue, Auburn, Alabama.



Mr. Brad Wilson, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Dr. Bernard Hill, Secretary