

**The Water Works Board of the City of Auburn
May 18, 2023 – Regular Meeting
Minutes**

The Water Works Board of the City of Auburn met on May 18, 2023, 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
Bernard Hill, Secretary
David Reaves, Board Member
Thomas Sparrow, Board Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Jennifer Chambliss Vice Chairman

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
Allison Edge, Finance Director
Erika Sprouse, Principal Financial Analyst
Heidi Lowery, Accounting & Financial Reporting Manager
LaTrice Mose, Revenue Manager
Keith Williams Public Services Executive Director
Alex Massingill, Accountant
Amy Whitman, Utility Billing Office Manager
Rick Davidson, Water Board Attorney

III. BOARD COMMUNICATION

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Wilson asked for approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 20, 2023.
Mr. Reaves made a motion for approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of April 20, 2023.
Dr. Hill 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. Edge stated that the financial statements presented in the packets were for the month ending April 30, 2023, and 58.3 percent of the year has elapsed. Water sales were at 57.9 percent of the budget. Operating revenue was at 57.6 percent of budget and operating expenses were under budget at 49.5 percent. The net income for the month of April was \$321,311. The year-to-date net income through the month of April was \$2,054,546. The Access Fee account balance is \$2,955,570 as of April 30, 2023.

2. Service Awards

The Board recognized Logan Webster who received his 5-year service awards. Mr. Webster was unable to attend, so Mr. Hildreth will give him the service pin from the Auburn Waterworks Board.

3. Water Distribution 2023 Ford F-150 purchase from National Auto Fleet

Mr. Carson requested the Board's approval to purchase a 2023 Ford F-150 from National Auto Fleet as a replacement vehicle for Water Distribution. The total cost of this vehicle is \$40,655.00.

Mr. Sparrow made the motion to approve this resolution.

Dr. Hill seconded the motion.

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

Resolution No. 23-05

4. Water Distribution 2023 Ford F-350 XL purchase from Stivers Ford

Mr. Carson requested the Board's approval to purchase a 2023 Ford F-350-XL from Stivers Ford. This would be an expansion vehicle to be used by the Water Distribution. The total cost of this vehicle is \$64,924.00.

Mr. Sparrow made the motion to approve this resolution.

Mr. Reaves seconded the motion.

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

Resolution No. 23-06

5. Machen McChesney additional audit cost

Ms. Edge requested approval from the Board authorizing additional payment to Machen McChesney for the audit of the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022. The total for these services would be \$2,737.00.

Mr. Sparrow made the motion to approve this resolution.

Dr. Hill seconded the motion.

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

Resolution No. 23-07

VII. STAFF REPORTS

1. Project Status Report

- Martin Luther King Drive Water Main Improvements -Donahue Drive to Richland Road (Project 21075)

Mr. Dunn reported on the Martin Luther King Drive Water Main Improvements project. 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 existing water distribution main along this section of MLK is approximately 70 years old and is in need of replacement. This Water Resource Management Department recommends replacing this main and including it with the streetscape construction project which is being implemented by the City's Engineering Services Department. Project design and bidding is complete, and the City Council awarded the construction contract (streetscape and water main improvements) in early May to JLD Enterprises in the amount of \$4,523,298.80, of which approximately \$575,000 is for the new water main. The ductile iron water main pipe for this project was bid and received late last year and will be provided to the general contractor. The consultant has compiled CSX permitting information for the water main crossing near Byrd Street, and the Board's staff is currently reviewing this information. Project construction project is expected to last into early 2024.

- West Farmville Road Water Main Hwy 147 (North College Street) to Miracle Road (Project 20078)

Mr. Dunn reported on the West Farmville Road Water Main Project (Hwy 147 (North College Street) to Miracle Road). This project will extend a new 12" 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 W. Farmville Rd/Mrs. James Rd/N. Donahue Dr. area. The pipeline material bids were opened for this project on May 12, 2022. The low bidder was Ferguson Waterworks. The AWWB has received all pipeline materials from the vendor and pipeline installation commenced the week of March 13. To date, approximately 75% of the water main pipe has been installed. Construction is expected to be complete in the Summer of 2023.

- Will Buechner Parkway Water Main Project

Mr. Dunn reported that the Will Buechner Parkway is being constructed from Martin Luther King Drive (AL Hwy 14) near Webster Road to Richland Road near Creekside Elementary. This project includes the installation of a new 12" ductile iron water main along this new connecting roadway. This project is being done in concert with the COA and a new residential development located north of Highway 14 and west of the Solamere Subdivision. Construction of the roadway, storm drainage, sidewalk, water main, and other utilities, is underway. To date, approximately 90% of the water main has been installed for the project. Overall project construction is approximately 60% complete. Construction is expected to last until mid-June 2023.

-Fixed network (AMI) Meter Reading System (Project 21061)

Mr. Dunn reported on the wireless gateway communication equipment has been installed and is in operation on the Summerhill Road and Shug Jordan Parkway elevated water storage tanks. Pilot study results from the two existing sites has been successful thus far with approximately 5,000 meters currently being read during the winter months. A pole-mounted, standalone unit along Runningvine Lane (near the Village Mall and movie theatre) will be the next gateway site constructed. The AWWB has received a portion of the electrical & communication equipment for this site and expects the balance of the equipment within the next month, with installation to follow. Two other gateway/collector sites are proposed for the East Farmville Road and the

West Farmville Road water storage tanks. The equipment has been ordered and is expected to be received in late 2023. The three additional pilot study sites will help staff further evaluate the AMI system capabilities. The project is expected to last through FY2023.

- James E. Estes Water Treatment Plant Improvements (Project 20001)

Mr. Dunn reported on the James E. Estes Water Treatment Plant. 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 project bid opening was held in July 2021. The project was awarded to the low bidder, Schmidt Environmental Construction, and construction commenced in late 2021. Currently, the project is approximately 98% complete. Work for filters 3 and 4 was completed the week of 5/8/23. Miscellaneous electrical and control work is concluding, and punch list items are currently being addressed. Staff and the engineering consultant (JACOBS) are currently reviewing various change orders submitted by the contractor. At this time final project costs are expected to be within the amount previously approved by the Board. The project is expected to be completed in mid/late June 2023.

2. Rainfall Data

Mr. Carson stated that updated data for the rainfall report for the month of April shows that as of May 15th at the lake, we have received 1.01 inches of rain for the month and 24.01 inches of rain for the year, which is 2.72 inches below normal at this site. At the plant, we have received .97 inches of rain for the month and 24.15 inches of rain for the year, which puts us at 2.62 inches below normal for the year at this site.

3. Lake Level Chart

Mr. Carson stated that the lake level has dipped into the middle of the optimal pool range. We will continue to monitor the levels and if we do not get any significant rain in the next few weeks, we may consider turning on the quarry pumps just so we can stay ahead of things for water supply.

4. Drought Map and Drought Discussion

Mr. Carson stated that the drought monitoring maps for April 11, 2023, and May 9, 2023, show that the map for Alabama has improved over the last month. The national map shows improvements as well.

5. Statistical Usage and Revenue Analysis Recap

Mr. Carson stated that the Statistical Usage and Revenue Analysis Recap showed the average water demand for April 2023 was 7.6 million gallons per day (mgd), which includes water produced and water purchased from Opelika Utilities. Water produced from the water plant was approximately 3.4 mgd, water produced from Well #3 was approximately 1.2 mgd and, water produced from Well #4 was approximately 2.4 mgd. Water purchased from Opelika Utilities was 600,000 gallons per day. Based on these production numbers, the Board produced 92% of the distributed water from its sources and purchased the remaining 8% from Opelika Utilities.


VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Next Regular Meeting

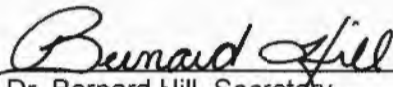
The next regular meeting will be on June 22, 2023, at 4:00 PM at the Bailey-Alexander Water and Sewer Complex at 1501 West Samford Avenue, Auburn, Alabama.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Wilson declared the May 18, 2023, meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM at the Bailey-Alexander Water and Sewer Complex at 1501 West Samford Avenue, Auburn, Alabama.



Brad Wilson, Chairman

ATTEST: 

Dr. Bernard Hill, Secretary