

**The Water Works Board of the City of Auburn
June 22, 2023 – Regular Meeting
Minutes**

The Water Works Board of the City of Auburn met on June 22, 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
Jennifer Chambliss, Vice Chairman
Bernard Hill, Secretary
David Reaves, Board Member
Thomas Sparrow, Board Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF/VISITORS PRESENT:

Eric Carson, Water Resource Management Director
Matt Dunn, Water Resource Management Assistant Director
Tim Johnson, Principal Utility Engineer
Marla Smith, Watershed Division Manager
Allison Edge, Finance Director
Erika Sprouse, Principal Financial Analyst
Heidi Lowery, Accounting & Financial Reporting Manager
Keith Williams Public Services Executive Director
Alex Massingill, Accountant
Amy Whitman, Utility Billing Office Manager
Rick Davidson, Water Board Attorney
Stephen Clay, Water Board Attorney

III. BOARD COMMUNICATION

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Wilson asked for approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 18, 2023.
Mr. Reaves made a motion for approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of May 18, 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 May 31, 2023, and 66.7 percent of the year has elapsed. Water sales were at 66.2 percent of the budget. Operating revenue was at 66.1 percent of budget and operating expenses were under budget at 56.9 percent. The net income for May was \$757,209. The year-to-date net income through May 31, 2023, was \$2,793,765. The Access Fee account balance is \$3,038,153 as of May 31, 2023.

2. Service Awards

The Board recognized Tim Youngblood who received his 15-year service award. Mr. Youngblood was unable to attend. Mr. Hildreth will give him the service pin from the Board.

3. Request for approval to purchase tool body from Knapheide Truck Equipment

Mr. Hildreth requested the Board's approval to purchase a tool body from Knapheide Truck Equipment for \$19,075. This tool body is for the new 2023 Ford F-350 XL Diesel 4WD Crew Cab Truck purchased from Stivers Ford last month.

Mr. Reaves made a motion to approve.

Dr. Hill seconded the motion.

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

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 needs replacement. The 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. A pre-construction conference was held on May 31, 2023, and the contractor has been compiling construction material submittals for staff review. The contractor has mobilized on the western margin of the project and started the water main installation near Richland Rd on June 12. The consultant has compiled CSX permitting information for the water main crossing near Byrd Street, and staff is reviewing the permit agreement for final execution. The 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 98% of the water main pipe has been installed. The Water main is expected to be operational in the next 4 to 6 weeks. Valve and meter vaults are expected to be installed in late summer. Construction is expected to be complete in late summer/early fall 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. The water main along Will Buechner Parkway has been installed and is currently being tested. A portion of the water main along Highway 14 is being relocated by the contractor to facilitate turning lane construction. The overall project is approximately 67% complete. Construction is expected to last until late July 2023.

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

Mr. Dunn reported that 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 have 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/materials to arrive in late June with installation expected in July. 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. The project is substantially complete. Miscellaneous electrical and control work is concluding, and punch list items are currently being addressed. The final punch list walk-through is scheduled for June 20, 2023. 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 complete in late June 2023.

2. Rainfall Data

Mr. Carson stated that as of June 19th, at the lake, we have received 6.89 inches of rain for the month and 33.35 inches of rain for the year, which is 1.65 inches above normal at this site. At the plant, we have received 8.6 inches of rain for the month and 34.54 inches of rain for the year, which puts us at 2.32 inches above normal for the year at this site.

3. Lake Level Chart

Mr. Carson stated that the lake is in the upper part of the optimal pool cycle with a level of 486.6, which is over the spillway. This leaves us in a great position to keep up with the water demands of the summer.

4. Drought Map and Drought Discussion

Mr. Carson stated that the drought monitoring maps for May 9, 2023, and June 13, 2023, show that the map for Alabama, the northern region of the state is abnormally dry, but Lee County and the rest of the state show no signs of drought. The national map shows no signs of drought with the Midwest being moderately dry. Texas is experiencing extreme heat and setting records for this time of year.

5. Statistical Usage and Revenue Analysis Recap

Mr. Carson stated that the Statistical Usage and Revenue Analysis Recap showed the average water demand for May 2023 was eight 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 1.0 mgd and, water produced from Well #4 was approximately 2.2 mgd. Water purchased from Opelika Utilities was 700,000 gallons per day. Based on these production numbers, the Board produced 91% of the distributed water from its sources and purchased the remaining 9% from Opelika Utilities.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Executive Session

Mr. Wilson stated there is a matter to discuss in executive session. This matter is to discuss with legal counsel the legal ramifications and legal options of a matter likely to be litigated if this Board pursues a proposed course of action. The Board has properly convened with a quorum present. Mr. Wilson asked for a motion that the Board convene in an executive session to discuss pending or threatened litigation.

Ms. Chambliss made the motion for the Board to enter Executive Session.
Mr. Sparrow seconded the motion.

Mr. Wilson stated that we have a motion and a second. Before voting, he asked Mr. Stephen Clay, the Water Board's Attorney whether these matters are appropriate to discuss in executive session. Mr. Clay gave the opinion that the topic to be discussed was appropriate to discuss in an executive session.

Upon roll call for vote to enter into Executive Session, the following Board members voted Yes:

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

Voting No: None.

With the Board voting to enter into executive session, Mr. Wilson stated that the Board would take no action during the executive session and would reconvene in approximately 30 minutes. He asked everyone, except the Water Board's Attorneys and necessary staff to please leave the room.

The Board entered the executive session at 4:15PM.

The Board reconvened the Public Session at 4:30 PM.

Mr. Rick Davidson presented a contract agreement with Pittman, Dutton, Hellums, Bradley & Mann, P.C. to the Board for legal services and recommended entering into the agreement. Ms. Chambliss made the motion for the Board to approve the recommendation. Mr. Sparrow seconded the motion. All voted aye; none opposed.

2. Next Regular Meeting

The next regular meeting will be on July 20, 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 June 22, 2023, meeting adjourned at 4:34 PM at the Bailey-Alexander Water and Sewer Complex at 1501 West Samford Avenue, Auburn, Alabama.

Brad Wilson, Chairman

ATTEST:
Dr. Bernard Hill, Secretary