

## Five Questions with Easley Combined Utilities Commissioner Eric Goodwin



### 1 What is your role as a commissioner for Easley Combined Utilities?

We have an oversight role over the entire organization. We approve budgets, hire the general manager, set regulations for the utility operation, and plan for future expansion. Overall, we help cast the vision for the organization and keep up with changes in the industry.

### 2 You successfully ran for the post in 2013 and were just re-elected in November 2019. What makes being part of the ECU special?

The organization has been around for over 100 years and does such important work, providing electrical, sanitary sewer and water to the city and surrounding areas. My background in construction and real estate valuation has been useful in the role. It helps me understand the importance of utility availability and its impact on value. And I enjoy working with ECU's great employees. The organization employs 70-plus people so it's also a big employer for the city of Easley.

### 3 Easley is poised for growth thanks to its proximity to larger cities, including Greenville. How is ECU preparing for it?

We've done really well at projecting where growth is coming and working closely with the city on what developments are on the drawing board. We're covered as it relates to

water. We've got an 18-million capacity water plant and are running at 10-12 million gallons a day. Sewer wise, we operate three treatment facilities and just procured additional capacity. As a part of PMPA, we own 25 percent of the Catawba Nuclear Station Unit #2 so we've got ample power, ample water and ample sewer going forward. We're looking ahead.

### 4 Why do you love living in Easley?

It's big enough to get us to the amenities we need. We can get to Greenville in about 10, 15 minutes. But it's small enough where a lot of us know each other too. It's a great place to raise a family and be a part of a tight-knit community.

### 5 You're a real estate appraiser and a Clemson fan. What else do you enjoy doing?

I love spending time with my family. I've been married for 20 years to Anna Goodwin and we have two daughters along with a female dog and a female cat. I get out-voted all of the time.