

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Commission of the Combined Utility System
held at the office of the Combined Utility
System on Monday, October 9, 2023.

The meeting was called to order with all commissioners present. Also present were Andy Sevic, General Manager; Ginnye Lusk, Administrative Assistant, Tripp Martin, Finance Manager, Alex Dye, Operations Engineer, and Scott Barnes, Wastewater Treatment Supervisor. Also present were Robin Gore with Powdersville Water District, Rick Tate, and area residents from the Brown Drive – Sheriff Mill Road area.

The minutes of the meeting of September 11, 2023, were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Jeff Fogle with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous.

September invoices were reviewed by Eric Goodwin. The sales report and financial report for the month of September were reviewed. Electric sales were 3.15% above budget, water sales were above budget by 1.16% and sewer sales were above budget by 1.97%. These reports were taken as information only.

Scott Barnes, ECU Wastewater Treatment Supervisor, presented the commission with an update on several projects taking place at the Middle Branch WWT facility. These projects include Headworks Improvements, UV Replacement, and Sludge Thickener. All projects are going as planned with the UV Replacement and Sludge Thickener scheduled for completion in the next few weeks. This item was taken as information only.

The commission was presented with a discussion on the ReWa Georges Creek plant capacity. Several years ago, ECU entered into an agreement and purchased 500,000 GPD of capacity in ReWa's Georges Creek facility. Currently we are at 481,252 GPD allocation in that plant. Part of the agreement states that when we reach 500,000 GPD, we collect the new account fee for new developments and remit that fee to ReWa. ECU was informed in July that ReWa only had 300,000 GPD capacity remaining and 300,000 GPD more would get them to the 80% capacity mark, and they are unwilling to move past that mark at this time. ECU has several developments that want to utilize that capacity. After discussions with several of the developers and with ReWa, ECU has asked to purchase additional capacity (over 500,000 GPD) of the remaining plant capacity at the new account fee rate. ReWa has agreed for ECU to purchase approximately 200,000 GPD additional capacity. This capacity will be "reserved" for the developments that have approached ECU for sewer service. Anything above the approximate 200,000 GPD additional capacity (and under the 300,000 GPD capacity) will be first come first serve. The commission instructed the general manager to bring the new agreement back to them prior to signing.

The commission was presented with a request for sewer service outside the city limits of Easley. The development will be at the old Greenville-Pickens Speedway and will be of commercial use. Wastewater flow from this property flows to ReWa's George's Creek. The total requested flow for all 10 buildings totals 30,039 gallons per day. Eric Goodwin made a motion to approve the request with a second by Jeff Fogle. The motion was unanimous.

The commission was presented with a consideration of the 2024 employee health insurance renewal and contributions. The Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA) notified employers of a 3.7% increase in employer premiums only for 2024. ECU's load factor decreased from 1.055 to 1.033. With the load factor calculated in, the premium for ECU will increase slightly by 1%. To comply with the DOL rules and regulations on wellness programs and employee insurance premium contributions, it was recommended to adjust the Base level for both the Savings and Standard plans, and Level 1 of the Standard plan. Retiree and COBRA premiums are the same as PEBA's rates but with the addition of ECU's load factor. The premium for retirees that retired with 25 years at ECU and were 60 years old at retirement remains at \$125 monthly. Charges for the

spouse is the incremental cost between Retiree/Spouse and Retiree only coverage. It was also recommended that ECU continue to deposit monies into a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) in 2024 at the same levels as 2023 for each eligible employee. Eric Goodwin made a motion to adopt all recommended premium contribution changes and to continue funding eligible employees with an HRA. Jeff Fogle seconded the motion and it was unanimous. The new rates are attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.

The commission was presented with two amendments to the ECU Employee Handbook. The first amendment modifies the PTO policy as shown below to be effective January 1, 2024.

Years of Service	Paid Time Off
Initial Hire	If hired before June 30, receive 10 days to be taken after 90 days. If hired after June 30, receive 5 days to be taken after 90 days.
1-4	15 Days
5-9	16 Days
10-12	17 Days
13	18 Days
14	19 Days
15-19	20 Days
20-24	21 Days
25-29	22 Days
30 and up	25 Days

The second amendment allows employees in the electric and water/sewer departments to work 4-10 hour days year-round effective immediately. Jeff Fogle made a motion to adopt both amendments as presented. Eric Goodwin seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

The commission was presented with a discussion on ECU owned property on North C Street. This was the site of a water tank years ago. ECU has been approached by a neighbor of the property interested in buying it. There is no clear title to the property. The commission tabled the discussion and instructed the general manager to get further information on the property from ECU's attorney.

In other business:

1. A request for sewer service for a proposed development on Old Pendleton Road may come before the Commission in November.
2. ECU's trademark has been approved by the Patent and Trademark Office for another 10-year term.
3. The watershed management report was reviewed. The full report is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.
4. Miscellaneous items were reviewed to include several important event dates and Master Plans completion timelines.

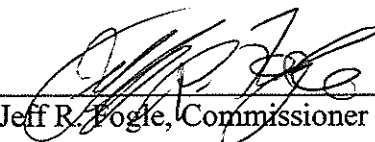
The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 13, 2023.



Nick Caldwell, Chairman



Eric Goodwin, Commissioner



Jeff R. Fogle, Commissioner