

The Minutes of the Budget Retreat of the
Commission of the Combined Utility System
held at the office of the Combined Utility
System on Monday, February 10, 2025.

The meeting was called to order with all commissioners present. Also present were Andy Sevic, General Manager, Ginnye Lusk, Administrative Assistant, Alex Dye, Operations Engineer, and Tyler Morgan, Operations Engineer

The minutes of the meeting of January 13, 2025, and February 6, 2025, were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Nick Caldwell, with a second by Jeff Fogle. The motion passed unanimously.

January invoices were reviewed by Nick Caldwell. The sales report and financial report for the month of January were reviewed. Electric sales were 9.33% above budget. Water sales were below budget by 3.07%. Sewer sales were above budget by .73%. These reports were taken as information only.

The commission was presented with the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget for consideration. Included in the budget is a 2% water rate increase and a 3% increase for water districts. In addition, there is a sewer rate increase of up to 5.7% for inside city customers. Rates are effective for bills mailed on or after April 1, 2025. Eric Goodwin made a motion to adopt the FY 2026 Budget, with a second by Nick Caldwell. The motion passed unanimously. The budget is attached to and incorporated in these minutes.

The commission was presented with a request for approval of a cash reserve target level of \$15.2 million in accordance with the Cash Reserve policy. The policy states that ECU shall maintain a minimum cash reserve balance as working capital to pay routine and non-routine operating and capital expenditures. Nick Caldwell made a motion to approve the cash reserve target level of \$15.2 million for FY 2026. Jeff Fogle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The commission was presented with two amendments to the Purchasing Policy. The amendments are as follows:

1. Advertising system improvements in excess of \$100,000 will now be online through South Carolina Business Opportunities.
2. At the discretion of the general manager, contract agreements may be extended to allow work beyond the original contract terms.

Jeff Fogle made a motion to adopt the amended Purchasing Policy with a second by Nick Caldwell. The motion passed unanimously. The updated policy is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.

The commission was presented with a consideration of a Sewer Service Policy. The purpose of this policy is to give clear direction on servicing new developments both within the city limits of Easley and the surrounding areas. It is broken down into the four basins; Golden Creek Sewer Basin, Georges Creek Sewer Basin, Middle Branch Sewer Basin, and ReWa Georges Creek Sewer Basin each with their own requirements. Jeff Fogle made a motion to adopt the Sewer Service Policy with a second by Nick Caldwell. The motion passed unanimously. The policy is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.

The commission was presented with a consideration of an Emergency Pay Policy. The purpose of this policy is to establish a comprehensive plan for pay, leave, and reporting requirements during an emergency declared by ECU. It is intended for short-term situations and shall go into effect after an emergency declaration has been made by the Commission. It will cease when schedules return to regular shifts or as determined by the General Manager. Eric Goodwin made a motion to adopt the Emergency Pay Policy with a second by Nick Caldwell. The motion passed unanimously. The policy is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.

The commission was presented with a Capitalization Policy for consideration. ECU will capitalize assets with individual costs of more than \$5,000 that has a useful life greater than one year. Groupings of similar items less than \$5,000 but when purchased together is greater than \$100,000 and has a useful life greater than one year will also be capitalized. Nick Caldwell made a motion to approve the Capitalization Policy with a second by Jeff Fogle. The motion passed unanimously. The policy is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.

The commission was presented with a review of water, sewer and conveyance capacity fees with recommended increases.

Water Capacity Fee – Increase \$1,200 for a 5/8” water meter to \$2,250.

Other capacity fee charges:

Meter Size	5/8" Meter Equivalent		Capacity Fee
1	2.5	\$	5,625.00
1.5	5	\$	11,250.00
2	8	\$	18,000.00
3	16	\$	36,000.00
4	25	\$	56,250.00
6	50	\$	112,500.00
8	80	\$	180,000.00

Sewer Capacity Fee- Increase \$2,500 per REU to \$3,750 beginning April 1, 2025, and then \$5,000 April 1, 2026. This is excluding the ReWa Georges Creek basin.

Conveyance Capacity Fee – Charge a conveyance capacity fee to customers in the ReWa George’s Creek basin area at \$1,000 per REU.

Jeff Fogle made a motion to approve the recommended fee increases beginning April 1, 2025. Nick Caldwell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

In other business:

1. The watershed management report was reviewed. The full watershed report is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.
2. There was a community meeting with residents of Heathwood S/D regarding blasting for the Georges Creek trunk line.
3. Disaster recovery assistance from FEMA continues to be ongoing.

Nick Caldwell made a motion to enter executive session for the discussion of legal and contractual items in nature with a second by Jeff Fogle. The motion passed unanimously. The commission returned to public session with no action being taken in executive session.



 Eric Goodwin, Chairman



 Jeff R. Fogle, Commissioner



 Nick Caldwell, Commissioner