

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, May 15, 2023.

The meeting was called to order with all commissioners present. Also present were Joel Ledbetter, General Manager; Ginnye Lusk, Administrative Assistant, Andy Sevic, Finance Manager; and Alex Dye, Operations Engineer. Also present were Jay Lusk, Christ Church Episcopal School student, ECU customer Toby Lawson, and area residents Daniel McKinney, Bill McKinney, Cindy Oates, Laura Hinty, and Dawn Crooks.

The minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2023, were read. A motion was made by Eric Goodwin to adopt these minutes with a second by Jeff Fogle. The motion was unanimous.

April invoices were reviewed by Nick Caldwell. The sales report and financial report for the month of April were reviewed. Electric sales were 1% below budget, water sales were above budget 2% and sewer sales were below budget by 1.8%. These reports were taken as information only.

ECU customer Toby Lawson appeared before the commission to discuss the low water pressure at his residence at 321 Linden Hall Lane. Mr. Lawson recently submitted a service request through SmartHub regarding the low pressure and the inability to adequately run his sprinkler system or use more than one appliance at a time (e.g. dishwasher, shower, washing machine). Mr. Lawson stated that he felt he should not be charged the same rate as other customers since he was not, in his opinion, provided with the same service. ECU personnel checked the pressure at his residence on May 9<sup>th</sup> and found that it was within the expected range for water pressures in the Linden Hall area. Staff explained to Mr. Lawson that ECU meets regulatory requirements for water pressure as set forth by SCDHEC and suggested looking into installing a pressure tank at his home. In addition, ECU is in the process of conducting a water system study and will make a recommendation to the engineers to include this issue in the study. Staff will provide Mr. Lawson with the findings once the study is complete.

The commission presented Jay Lusk with the 2023 Energy Audit Scholarship. Jay is an Easley resident but attends Christ Church Episcopal School in Greenville. He is one of five seniors who received the award. The commission congratulated Jay and wished him well on his future endeavors.

The commission was presented with Resolution 2023-02 which authorizes new signatories and authorized representatives from ECU for the custodian and trust accounts held at Truist Bank. Jeff Fogle made a motion to adopt the resolution with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous. Resolution 2023-02 is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.

The commission was presented with a notification of award of the South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) Grant. The grant is for the Georges Creek Trunk Sewer Line in the amount of \$10M. Eric Goodwin made a motion to accept the award and grant authority to the general manager to execute the Grant Agreement. Jeff Fogle seconded the motion, and it was unanimous. ECU will receive bids for the upcoming project on June 13, 2023.

The commission was presented with an offer to purchase 5.62 acres it owns on Fuller Dr. The offer was \$7,000 per acre or \$39,340 for the entire tract. In 2003, ECU purchased the property for \$7,400 per acre. The commission discussed the offer with no action being taken.

The commission was given an update on projects and studies that are currently underway. This item was taken as information only.

In other business:

1. Gar-Con submitted the lowest bid for the Sheffield Road waterline replacement. Jeff Fogle made a motion to award the job to Gar-Con with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion was unanimous.
2. ECU received a Waste Load Allocation for the Golden Creek WWTP for discharges of 1.0 MGD and 1.2 MGD. The Commission approved a process review at Golden Creeks to determine if the plant treatment capacity can be updated.
3. Naturaland Trust sent a letter of thanks to the Commission for their continued support of protecting the watershed of the upper Saluda River. The letter also praised the works of ECU general manager, Joel Ledbetter for his leadership.
4. The watershed management report was reviewed. The full report is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.
5. The commission agreed to sponsor a half-table for the Prisma Health Baptist Easley Foundation Summer Gala.

The commission entered executive session to discuss contractual and personnel matters.

Upon returning to public session Jeff Fogle made a motion to offer the position of General Manager to Andy Sevic beginning on July 1, 2023, and to authorize the Chairman to negotiate an Employment Contract with Mr. Sevic for later review and approval by the Commission. The motion was seconded by Eric Goodwin and passed unanimously.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 10, 2023.



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Nick Caldwell, Chairman



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Eric Goodwin, Commissioner



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Jeff R. Fogle, Commissioner