

**CHARLOTTE WATER  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
May 19, 2016**

Charlotte Water Advisory Committee met Thursday, May 19, 2:30 pm at 4222 Westmont Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Members Present: Jim Duke, Leslie Jones, Frank McMahan,  
Ron Charbonneau, Barry Webb  
Members Absent: Pride Patton

Staff Present: Barry Gullet Utilities Director  
Jennifer Frost Assistant to Director  
Shawn Coffman Deputy Director  
Melissa Hershberger Interim Business Manager  
Carl Wilson Chief Engineer  
Regina Cousar Utilities Continuous Improvement Officer  
Karen Weatherly City Attorney

**Safety Minute**  
Smoke Alarms

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Leslie Jones, and seconded by Ron Charbonneau, to approve the April 2016 Minutes. Motion was approved.

**Dixie Berryhill Proposed Rezoning**

In 2003, the Dixie Berryhill Strategic Plan was to provide the framework for future growth on the west side of the City. Now, about 1400 acres of land are proposed by developers as a possible mixed- use area for office, retail, hotel, and, residential space. Charlotte Water is engaged in the planning process and the rezoning request filed by the developers. Currently, there is little public water/sewer service available in the general area of the proposed development. Charlotte Water has included several water mains in previous Community Investment Plans that would help serve the area. Those projects are being reviewed in the context of the proposed development. Charlotte Water staff has also prepared a comparative evaluation of water/sewer service needs with the current zoning and with the proposed rezoning. The evaluation found that the two scenarios are comparable in terms of the water/sewer treatment and conveyance capacity required. It should also be noted that the vast majority of water/sewer lines in the area will be constructed and paid for by the developer and donated to Charlotte Water.

**Budget Update**

Charlotte Water has proposed an increase of \$2.54 per month charge in the fixed part of the residential water/sewer bill for the FY17 budget City Council held their budget adjustment

workshops where councilmembers proposed and discuss possible adjustments to the City Manager's proposed budget. Charlotte Water was asked to respond to two scenarios from those workshops. One scenario was to identify the impacts of no future water/sewer rate increases. The result of that evaluation was that the capital investment program would need to drastically reduce (by approximately \$65M/year) and there would likely be immediate, widespread moratoriums imposed on new water and sewer service connections. The second scenario was to identify the impact of no rate increase for the upcoming budget year with rates set to "catch up" the following and subsequent years. The results of that evaluation were a reduction in capital projects for FY17 and a much larger rate increase needed in FY18 and subsequent years. There would also be potential water/sewer service moratoriums related to capacity limitations where capital projects were eliminated or delayed. Council will hold a "straw-vote" session to advise the City Manager as to which scenarios he should include in the final budget document which is to be considered for approval on June 13

### **Financial Update**

For the month of April, water & sewer sales are both slightly higher than the 3-year average and continue to be consistent with budgeted revenues and expenses. Capacity and Connection fees in April have again significantly exceeded 3-year averages and are showing significant surpluses for the year when compared to the 3-year average.

### **Hot Topics**

*Belle Isle* – Charlotte Water is convening a meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> to work toward a better understanding and potential resolution of concerns about water availability and fire protection in several areas around the lake. Town managers from Davidson, Cornelius, Building Standards personnel, County Fire Marshal, Duke Energy Lake Management staff have all been invited to help define the desired outcome for providing fire protection around Lake Norman.

*Wesley Heights* – News coverage has taken place in the last few days on Summit Avenue in the Wesley Heights community referencing water quality issues. This area of town was developed in the 1920's and Charlotte Water has been working in the area for quite some time to rehabilitate and replace older water pipes. About 13,500 feet of pipe have been rehabbed in the community at a cost of about \$2M. As a result of proactive work Charlotte Water staff did in the community there were some unintended consequences. One of the lines had closed valves which did not allow water to circulate.

*JD Power & Associates* - For the first time JD Power & Associates has done a customer satisfaction survey of water utilities that included customers of 84 public utilities. It was announced on Wednesday, May 18, that Charlotte Water was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the south region and 10<sup>th</sup> in the country. Raleigh was the only other North Carolina city surveyed.

*Water Quality Report* - The annual water quality report that will summarize all data from 2015 will go out in June. Charlotte Water is planning a news conference on June 6 to announce the release and to help build trust in water quality.

Meeting Adjourned 3:54 p.m.

TGN

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