

**CHARLOTTE WATER  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
February 21, 2019**

Charlotte Water Advisory Committee met Thursday, February 21, 2019, 2:30 pm at Charlotte Water.

Members Present: Leslie Jones, Dorian Carter, Barry Webb, Frank McMahan

Members Absent: Barbara Bleiweis, Billy Royal

Staff Present:	Angela Lee	Director
	Shawn Coffman	Deputy Director
	David Czerr	Deputy Director
	Chad Howell	Chief Financial Officer
	Steve Miller	Customer Service Manager
	Keri Cantrell	Engineer Manager
	Karen Weatherly	City Attorney

**Safety Minute:** Bad Habits While Driving

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Barry Webb, and seconded by Frank McMahan, to approve the January 2019 minutes. Motion was approved.

**Finance and Budget Updates - Chad Howell**

Charlotte Water enjoyed another strong financial month, however debt service transfer and PayGo transfers have not been accounted for yet in the expenses. End of year revenue is expected to be closer to projections.

**FY20 Budget Presentation – Angela Lee**

Angela Lee presented the Charlotte Water Portfolio Budget Presentation that was shared with Marcus Jones this morning.

Last year almost 5,000 repairs were made, and Charlotte Water replaced, or upgraded, almost 23 miles of water and wastewater pipes.

Angela Lee also discussed the Strategic Priorities that are shared between City Council and Charlotte Water. The FY 2020 – FY 2024 CIP is proposed at \$1.6 billion.

Connection Fees – Construction costs have increased therefore connection fees, which are on a cost recovery basis, are proposed to increase approximately 30%. Water connection fees are increased to \$869 and sewer connection fees are increased to \$2,839.

Charlotte Water has several initiatives that link to the City’s Strategic Energy Action Plan (SEAP) such as running a well-managed government and obtaining and maintaining ISO accreditation.

Charlotte Water started the Apprenticeship Program with five individuals and the plan is to expand in FY20 into lift station and waste water plant training. Charlotte Water has also started the Pipeline Academy with the goal of 40 people per year, with two classes of 20 students.

Frank McMahan spoke to affordable housing projects and impacts to these developers with increased fees. Angela talked about what Charlotte Water can do to help income-challenged customers and partnering with some of the City programs.

Dorian Carter asks about solar power: how does it work and are we partnering with Duke? Shawn Coffman said he will address this in the next topic discussion.

The Committee requested an update on the workforce development program in an upcoming CWAC meeting.

### **SEAP – Shawn Coffman**

Shawn Coffman presented on Charlotte Water's initiatives with the City's SEAP. He began the presentation regarding "The Why": The water industry has a huge stake in resource sustainability and touched on how external stakeholder perspective is critical in balancing environmental impact and rate/fee management (affordability). He continued to present the Historical Perspective and followed with Charlotte Water's Perspective as a leader in environmental focus, for example the ESF building being a LEED Certified facility.

Shawn reviewed the Strategic Energy Action Plan FY 2019 – FY 2020 initiatives which include: a pilot program to evaluate alternative fuels for fleet vehicles, installation of additional electric vehicle charging stations, delivery of an automated vehicle location (AVL) system, a nutrient harvesting pilot to reduce energy and chemical use, and a pilot treatment plant process to minimize chemical and power use.

Shawn Coffman further discussed the quandary and asks the Advisory Committee to help them think through the costs, public perception and potential positive environmental impacts. Additional projects could include: LEED certifications on all new buildings, geothermal heating and cooling at the new Zone 4 facility, Solar farm at Irwin Creek, additional CHP generator at McAlpine, Enhanced WD Programs, as well as further ISO EMS certifications. Angela Lee noted how these projects are in line with the City's Well Managed Government initiative. The committee discussed proving the return on investments (ROI) for projects. Dorian Carter shared that some of these initiatives don't garner a high ROI and that the industry is going away from certain types of projects. Angela asked if the average CLT Water customer expects for us to be a leader in environmental initiatives or just keep rates low?

### **Open Discussion**

- Future Meeting Locations – Angela Lee handed out the 2019 locations at various CLT Water facilities. The March meeting was changed to a mid-day meeting time.

**Meeting Adjourned – 3:51 pm**