

**CHARLOTTE WATER  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
March 15, 2018**

Charlotte Water Advisory Committee met Thursday, March 15, 2018, 2:30 pm at 4222 Westmont Drive, Charlotte, NC.

Members Present: Barbara Bleiweis, Leslie Jones, William Royal, Frank McMahan, Barry Webb, Dorian Carter

Members Absent: Jim Duke

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

**Safety Minute**

Hazardous Substances

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Leslie Jones, and seconded by Barry Webb, to approve the February 2018 minutes. Motion was approved.

**Charlotte Water Community Video**

A video was presented to the Committee to showcase the value of water within the local community.

**Budget Status**

Charlotte Water's budget presentation to City Council is scheduled for April 11th. An update on the budget detailed the need to add 27 service level changes to keep pace with area growth. The department's operating budget is \$413 million, which is on par with prior years. Even though there is a request for a 3% rate increase (\$1.89 for a 7 ccf customer), the rates are still very competitive in the southeast amongst other cities. The updated budget will also allow the department to better engage the partnerships that are fostered within the City, County, community, region, and private sector.

*Monthly Financial Update*

Revenues are ahead of the weighted projections, which will continue to help the operating budget. For expenses, a \$96 million transfer to PAYGO and another \$8 million transfer to debt service have not occurred yet. It is projected that the department will have \$4-\$5 million in savings.

### **Update on Belmont/Mt. Holly Agreement**

An update was given on the Long Creek wastewater treatment plant. The current flow in Long Creek goes to Paw Creek Pump Station, and then moves to McAlpine Wastewater Treatment Plant. Building the Long Creek plant will prevent the department from incurring a major expense to expand the pipe under I-485 for heavier flows to travel to McAlpine. The towns of Belmont and Mt. Holly both have aging plants and will benefit from the construction of Long Creek. The Mt. Holly plant sits across the river from where the new plant will be located, and the Belmont plant would pump flows across the river through a pipe underground. A second pipe under the river may be added as a backup safety precaution. Clariant was an industrial plant on the river that had an NDPES permit, and the department worked to obtain sections of their permit.

The benefits that this plant will provide include protecting the environment, providing economic development in the area (building will provide the least impact on customer rates), and alleviating Belmont and Mt. Holly of the expense to upgrade their plants since they cannot remove nutrients. The department purchased nutrient allocation from Clariant to be able to remove nitrogen and phosphorus. The towns would have to transfer nutrient allocations to Charlotte Water to increase treatment limits. The tankage on the towns' property would be funded by each town (\$6-7 million each). The towns would have to decommission their plants and pay for the treatment of their flows. Initially, Long Creek plant will have the capacity to treat 15 mgd, which includes capacity for each town. The department is still working to obtain the NDPES permit modification and interlocal agreements with Belmont and Mt. Holly. After these steps occur, a Program Manager will be selected to handle the construction of the plant, which is expected to be completed in 2022.

The plans for this plant are going to Charlotte City Council sometime in April; the plans will also need to be approved by Belmont and Mt. Holly city councils.

### **Update on Apprenticeship Program**

The department is currently working with City HR to start the program, and partnering with Charlotte Works and City Works to source candidates. The program is Veteran Affairs (VA) approved and certified to ensure that all of documents and apprentices will be accepted. Hiring will start at the beginning of May and hopefully, all slots will be filled by the end of May.

### **Open Discussion**

1. Jim Dukes has resigned from his position on the board and will need to be replaced.
2. Charlotte City Council will be having a board recognition ceremony on April 9th.
3. A public budget hearing has been scheduled for May 14th. The department will be reviewing system development fees and revising the revenue manual before that hearing.
4. Work is still being done on the extension policy, as it is now more of a 2019 initiative. The department would like to get more community input due to the new City philosophy. A review of capacity fees, House Bill 436, and overcoming the issues with private streets are still major drivers behind the revision.
5. Water week is in May and scheduled to be at Discovery Place.

**Meeting Adjourned – 3:14 pm**

**KCJ**