

**CHARLOTTE WATER
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 27th, 2018**

Charlotte Water Advisory Committee met Thursday, September 27th, 12:00 pm at 7980 Babe Stillwell Road, Huntersville, NC

Members Present: Barbara Bleiweis, Leslie Jones, Scott Baker, Frank McMahan, Dorian Carter, William Royal

Members Absent: Barry Webb

Staff Present:	Angela Lee	Director
	Ron Hargrove	Deputy Director
	Carl Wilson	Chief Engineer
	David Czerr	Deputy Director
	Steve Miller	Utilities Manager
	Chad Howell	Chief Financial Officer

Safety Minute

Lifting Safely

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Leslie Jones, and seconded by Frank McMahan, to approve the August 2018 minutes. Motion was approved.

Budget Status

In June, consumption numbers were down, but revenue numbers are satisfactory and are ticking back up for this fiscal year. Expenses are under the two year average, which can be attributed to the interest payment that City Finance has not withdrawn yet.

The budget for FY2020 will kick off shortly, and the City has a deadline to have everything in by the end of the year.

Extension Policy

The extension policy outlines how the department's infrastructure expands, who is responsible for various sections, and how growth fits into the community's needs. The policy was first adopted in 1992, and has worked well for the past two decades and still serves its purpose today; however, the policy does not address all of the needs that have become present with the City's current growth.

The discussion around the extension policy has shifted to include social equity and affordable housing, in addition to the increase in development, particularly upwards construction, in the area. Developers now pay a capacity fee that allows them to buy into the system and covers the department's operating costs to add them on as users. Previously, an analysis was completed which suggested that the department look into options to ensure equity to service certain meter sizes, and devise a model to have the developing entity cover the cost for an infrastructure upgrade, which is currently being spread across rate payers. The department will put together an internal stakeholder group of roughly 8 to 10 members from other City departments and regional utilities to help devise a solution.

Other subjects that the extension policy hopes to address include cost sharing and joint venturing between developers and the department, putting public infrastructure in private streets and who covers repair costs, taking over private systems, and allowing the towns to handle growth in the way they best see fit. The project will take roughly 8-12 months, with the initial planning stage already underway.

Davidson

A committee on the Town Council in Davidson was formed after they discovered that they had no laws on their books to prevent growth. The committee approached Charlotte Water to request that the department stop approving water and sewer extension in their community. This subsequently created a legal scramble on both sides. The Board of Commissions in Davidson adopted a policy that states that any development that requires Charlotte Water's extension of the system in their town must go before their board. They will then vote on whether or not the project can fit into the water and sewer structure in their area. Connections will be allowed but extensions will not, as they are attempting to control outward growth. This essentially creates a zoning issue and limits Charlotte Water's operation in that area. The extension policy updates will need to include feedback from the towns, as they are currently not all on the same page.

Hurricane Florence

The storm, which started out as a category 4 hurricane but was downgraded to a tropical storm by landfall, came through the region, but did not do much damage. In anticipation of the storm, the City and County formed an emergency operations center at the Police headquarters. Charlotte Water set up a separate operations center at Zone 2, beginning on Sept. 14th. Objectives during the storm were to ensure employee safety, provide rapid response and support, and maintain service delivery throughout the storm. Those in the emergency operations center utilized Sharepoint (for sharing docs, and tracking service calls) and a GIS tool (to locate flooded streets). Field crews were out cutting trees, repairing water lines, and finding overflowing manholes.

The wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) had peak inflows of about 400 mgd (average day flow is 80 mgd). A temporary discharge had to be installed at Irwin WWTP, flows from Union County to McAlpine WWTP had to be halted until after peak flows subsided, and twelve lift stations experienced storm related issues. There were 8 sanitary sewer overflows from manhole surcharges due to the storm; the state was consulted and roughly 1.5 million gallons were reported to have spilled. Two sites had outfalls that were collapsed or washed out, and considerable amounts of debris were found on four aerial crossings. An 8 inch clay pipe collapsed in the collection system that is being repaired in three different spots. Also, Myers Park Greenway had part of its sewer washed away by the storm and a bypass had to be installed. Wastewater treatment plants returned back to normal on Sept. 24th to treat 80 mgd.

Open Discussion

1. The Advisory committee was presented with an overview and tour of the Lee S. Dukes Water Treatment Plant. The plant opened in 1998 as the North Mecklenburg Plant to provide water to Davidson, Huntersville, and Cornelius; it was subsequently renamed the Lee S. Dukes Water Treatment Plant after a past director. The plant produces roughly 15 to 16 million gallons of water per day.

Meeting Adjourned – 1:24 pm

KCJ