

The regular Commission meeting of the SJWD Water District was held at 307 Spartanburg Highway, Wellford, South Carolina with the following present:

**Commissioners:** *Buddy Carlton, Wanda Fowler, Barry Frost, Brian Leonard, and Frank Nutt.*

**Staff:** *Kim Fortner, Billy Cothran, Larry Christopher, Julie Gillespie, Josh Fulmer, Corey Bennett, and Jeff Diaz .*

**Guests:** *Eddie Tallon from The Tallon Group and Shayne Newcombe and Martie Watts from WattsNew Power Washing*

The agenda for the meeting was emailed to WSPA TV and the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal* and posted in the lobby and on SJWD's website.

Buddy Carlton called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

#### **RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT**

Buddy Carlton opened the floor for public comment.

Eddie Tallon reported that Senate Bill 604(American Rescue Plan funding) was approved and sent to the House with amendments and should be voted on soon. This bill will appropriate more ARPA money to RIA. Any funding decisions resulting from the passage of the bill would be delayed a little longer.

Shayne Newcombe and Martie Watts shared slides and videos of a drone pressure washing of the Reidville elevated storage tank on Apple Valley Road. WattsNew Pressure Washing did the work free of charge to demonstrate the capabilities of the technology.

#### **APPROVAL OF MARCH 21, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Frank Nutt made a motion, which was seconded by Brian Leonard, to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2023 regular meeting. The motion was approved.

#### **UPDATE/STATUS: MONTHLY FINANCIAL AND OPEN CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT**

Staff presented the monthly financial reports for the period ending March 31, 2023, and the Open Capital Projects Report.

Barry Frost made a motion, which was seconded by Wanda Fowler, to move agenda item 7 (Miscellaneous Administrative Matter) to item 5 (Executive Session to Discuss Potential Property Acquisition) and adjust the remainder of the agenda accordingly. The motion was approved.

## MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- Billy Cothran reminded Commissioners of the memorial rock dedication honoring Commissioner John Sexton on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9AM at the Water Treatment Plant water feature. This will take place prior to the regular commission meeting at 10:30 a.m..
- Larry Christopher informed Commissioners of Commission Workshop to be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. This workshop will focus on the strategic plan and the CIP plan.
- Billy Cothran updated Commissioners on Lyman United Methodist Church's request for a rental contract for Sunday Lodge rental. Both parties have come to an agreement which should begin in May.
- Billy Cothran presented to the commission the results of the SJWD Employee Culture Survey held in March 2023. Results show that 90% of those who took the anonymous survey were satisfied with the culture at SJWD. A follow-up survey was used to gain further inside into specific areas for improvement, namely communication. Presentation of survey results led to a discussion of workforce hiring. Brian Leonard suggested staff examine possible community outreach options to fill future job openings. Guest Shayne Newcomb recommended the Upstate Warrior Programs as a workforce source.
- Frank Nutt reminded the commission of a potential property acquisition along Berry's Pond that could be revisited at a later date.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION

At 11:38 a.m., Brian Leonard made a motion, which was seconded by Frank Nutt, to enter Executive Session to discuss potential property acquisition. The motion was approved.

At 12:09 p.m., Barry Frost made a motion, which was seconded by Frank Nutt, to exit Executive Session. No action was taken in Executive Session.

## DISCUSS/APPROVE ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION, IF ANY

Barry Frost made a motion, which was seconded by Frank Nutt, authorizing Billy Cothran to sign a Letter of Intent to negotiate the purchase of the property as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed with a 4/1 vote.

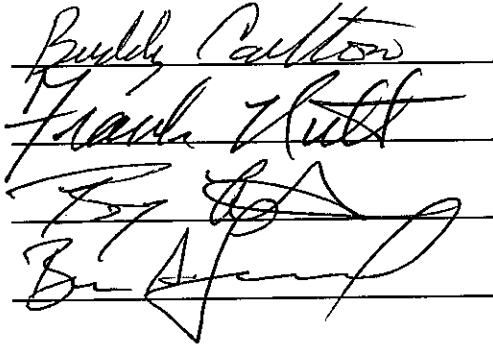
The following Upcoming Events were discussed:

- Commissioner Workshop – May 2, 2023
- John Sexton Rock Dedication – May 16, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.
- AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition – June 11-14, 2023 in Canada

At 12:14 p.m., Frank Nutt made a motion, which was seconded by Brian Leonard, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved.

The next regular meeting is Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

Read & Approved



Wanda Fowler  
Secretary

