



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS  
407 W. Broad Street, Level 2,  
Greenville, South Carolina  
November 7, 2023  
8:15 a.m.**

## GreenvilleWater

Commissioners of Public Works in attendance:  
Chairman Phillip A. Kilgore, Vice-Chairman James W. Bannister, Deb Sofield, and Wil Brasington. Absent: Mayor Knox H. White. A quorum was present.

Greenville Water Senior Staff in attendance:  
Chief Executive Officer Jeff Boss, Chief Financial Officer Phil Robey, Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Bob Schmidt, Chief Operations Officer Jeff Phillips, Director of Operational Technical Services Dr. Jane Arrington, Director of Information Technology Brad Treas, Assistant Director of Water Resources Elizabeth Pierczynski, Director of Human Resources Lisa Bryant, Controller Brian Bearfield, Internal Auditor Jacob Polson, and Attorney Adam Bach.

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The Regular Meeting of the Commissioners of Public Works was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Chairman Kilgore.

### **1. WELCOME**

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments were presented.

### **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Kilgore asked for questions pertaining to the consent agenda items. There being none, he called for approval of the items of the Consent Agenda which were the meeting minutes of the Regular Commission Meetings October 3, 2023, the Water Resources Report, the Finance Update, New Development, and New Annexations. Commissioner Brasington moved, seconded by Commissioner Sofield, to approve the items of the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

### **4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Legislative Liaison Bob Knight was unable to attend the meeting as he was helping out with the election.

### **5. 2024 OPERATING BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Chief Financial Officer Phil Robey to present the 2024 & 2025 Biennium Operating Budget. Mr. Robey explained the presentation would be two parts. The first part would cover the operating budget and the second part would cover revising one of Greenville Water's financial policies as it relates to a financial requirement.

The strategic plan provides the guiding principles used to ensure the programs and initiatives developed are looking to that plan. The budgets presented align with furthering the objectives of the strategic plan. The 2024 and 2025 budgets include the launch of several new programs and initiatives, as well as the strengthening of existing programs and areas of emphasis. These programs involve the following:

- Watersheds: to preserve and protect resources,
- Incentive bonuses and career ladder programs: for continued emphasis on offering strong and competitive pay and benefits to retain talent as well as attract new talent.
- Continuous improvement in Operations: to ensure customers are served in the best manner possible and at the same time maintaining affordable rates.
- Operations excellence: continued investment and re-investment in the system to serve the growing population safely and reliably.
- Information Technology: investments in new technology to improve efficiencies as well as strengthen existing infrastructure.
- Workplace Safety: expansion of the safety training program offerings to employees as well as implement a new safety program that rewards employees for their commitment to safety.

Mr. Robey went into more depth on each of the highlights as he went through the presentation. A five-year rate adjustment program was included in the budget. The first two years of the program would be implemented with the approval of the 2024 and 2025 Operating Budgets. The remaining three years will be at the discretion of the Commission as future budgets are presented. The program will provide financial capacity to carry out the planned investments in the system as embodied in the 2024-2028 capital improvement plan and will provide the ability to fund the ongoing operating and maintenance needs as the system continues to grow. A residential customer's base charge, over the five years of proposed rate increase, will increase by \$2.29. The volume charge (per 1,000 gallons) over the five years of proposed rate increase will increase \$0.73.

Mr. Robey took a typical residential customer's rate for 3,000 gallons in year five of the proposed rate increase and compared the cost to the current rates of other utilities in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia. The results showed that Greenville Water, even at year five of the rate increase, still has the lowest monthly rate. (See attached memo)

Another project underway is a comprehensive review of fees and charges. The review of each fee and charge will evaluate costs recovered, methodology, and comparison with other utilities. The capacity fee portion of the review is close to being complete. Staff will present a recommendation at the December meeting, with an implementation of January 1, 2024, for any changes. The rest of the review will be completed in early 2024, with recommendations in late winter or early spring for a July 1, 2024, implementation of any changes to the fees/charges.

Mr. Robey reviewed the expense highlights included in the proposed budget. In addition to the increases caused by the continued growth in customers and the expansion of the system, the increase in the budgeted amounts for materials, supplies and maintenance costs reflect the price increases experienced over the last 3 years. Line items that were hit especially hard were:

- treatment chemicals
- meters
- hydrants
- fuel
- brass fittings
- meter setters
- pipe
- lab supplies

Mr. Robey requested the Commission consider approval of the 2024-2025 budget with years one and two of the rate adjustment program. Commissioner Brasington moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Bannister, to approve the biennium budget with the rate adjustment program as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Kilgore thanked staff for speaking with the Commissioners individually to provide detailed information to allow for a comfort level on a lot of new initiatives in the budget.

As staff was preparing the CIP for presentation, management met with President and COO of First Tryon Advisors Walter Goldsmith to discuss the appropriateness of Greenville Water's financial targets, specifically the days cash on hand and debt service coverage ratio. Parameters, rating components and standards were discussed. As recommended by Mr. Goldsmith, Mr. Boss proposed updating the Debt Management Policy to increase the debt service coverage ratio from 1.75x to 2.0x. This would reinforce Greenville Water's triple AAA status even further. Chairman Kilgore asked for a motion to update the Debt Management Policy to increase the percentage from 1.75x to 2.0x. Commissioner Sofield moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Bannister, to approve the change. The motion passed unanimously.

## **6. PFAS CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT RESOLUTION**

Chairman Kilgore called on Chief Executive Officer Jeff Boss to present information regarding the Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS) Class Action Settlement Resolution. Mr. Boss explained that 3M and DuPont have a class action settlement resulting from problems caused by PFAS, a group of chemicals used to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. Greenville Water does not have a detect on PFAS in any water sources currently, and therefore desires to preserve the right to enter a lawsuit at a later date by opting out of the class action settlement. This has been recommended by the South Carolina Water Quality Association and Greenville Water's attorney.

Commissioner Brasington moved, seconded by Commissioner Sofield, to approve the resolution. Vice-Chairman Bannister abstained from the vote. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

## **7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Mr. Boss presented details and progress pictures of 72-inch main break near the Adkins Water Treatment Plant on November 3, 2023. Chairman Kilgore asked Mr. Boss to convey

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to the team the Commission's deep appreciation for all the hard work and the effort made to get the main online so quickly.

A rate change informational billing insert was provided to the Commission. Mr. Boss asked for any questions or comments.

Greenville Water will be passing out hams and turkeys to employees for Thanksgiving on November 16, 2023. December 14, 2023, will be the date for the employee Holiday Breakfast from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. Mr. Boss welcomed any Commissioners that wanted to participate in either event. The Greenville Water float application was approved by The City of Greenville for participation in the Poinsettia Christmas Parade. Float building is underway.

### **8. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Chairman Kilgore reminded everyone that the day was Election Day and encouraged everyone to get out and vote. Commissioner Sofield congratulated Chairman Kilgore early on his landslide win.

### **9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Sofield moved, seconded by Commissioner Brasington, to enter executive session to discuss a legal matter. The motion passed unanimously.

(Executive Session)

Commissioner Brasington moved, seconded by Commissioner Sofield, to go out of Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously. No action was taken.

### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 9:33 a.m.

  
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 Phillip A. Kilgore, Chairman

  
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 Kimberly Haufer, Executive Assistant



# GreenvilleWater

## Memorandum

**Date:** November 7, 2023  
**To:** Commissioners  
**From:** Jeff Boss, Chief Executive Officer  
**RE:** Greenville Water 2024 Rate Increase

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Greenville Water will implement a rate change effective January 2024. The rate change will have a \$1.31 per month (\$15.72 per year) impact on a household that uses 3,000 gallons. This change allows Greenville Water to continue to undertake critical capital improvement projects that improve our water system infrastructure, strengthen our commitment to the sustainable conservation of 30,000 acres of pristine watersheds that source our water, and benefit our community.

Greenville Water has among the lowest water rates in the nation. The 2024 rate change will result in an average monthly bill of \$13.60 per customers using 5,000 gallons of water. Of all surface water systems in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia, Greenville Water has the lowest average monthly bill.

Comparison of Surface Water Systems		
State	Systems	Average Bill < GW
South Carolina	226	0
North Carolina	204	0
Georgia	99	0

**COMMISSION OF PUBLIC WORKS OF  
THE CITY OF GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**A RESOLUTION TO OPT-OUT OF CERTAIN CLASS ACTION  
SETTLEMENTS RELATED TO THE DETECTION OF PFAS IN CERTAIN DRINKING  
WATER PROVIDED BY PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS.**

**WHEREAS**, class action settlement agreements have been entered into between defined Class Representatives and The Chemours Company, The Chemours Company FC, LLC, DuPont de Nemours, Inc., and E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company (the "*EIDP Settlement*"); and 3M Company (the "*3M Settlement*");

**WHEREAS**, these class action settlements are in regard to aqueous film-forming foams product liability litigation in which the presence of PFAS, known as "forever chemicals," have been detected in drinking water supplied by public water systems;

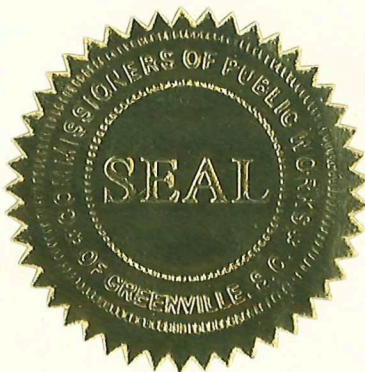
**WHEREAS**, as an active public water system in the United State of America that does not have an impacted water source as of the settlement date, but serves more than 3,300 people, Greenville Water System (the "*System*") qualifies as a Settlement Class Member who must participate in the class action settlements, unless the System submit timely Requests for Exclusion; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners have evaluated the risks and benefits of participating in the settlements and have determined that it is in the best interests of the System to submit a Request for Exclusion for both class action settlement agreements.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Commissioners, in a meeting duly assembled, that Requests for Exclusion should be filed in both the EIDP and 3M Settlements as soon as possible.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commissioners authorize Jeff Boss, Chief Executive Officer, to submit all requisite documents on behalf of the System and take all reasonable and necessary action to exclude the System from the EIDP and 3M Settlements.

The above Resolution, upon motion duly made, was passed and approved by the Commissioner of Public Works of the City of Greenville, South Carolina, at a regular meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.



**COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR  
THE CITY OF GREENVILLE, SC**

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Chairman