

Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water And Sewer Authority Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 16th, 2021
Union City-City Hall
5047 Union St., Union City, GA 30291

- I. Chairwoman Mayor Elizabeth Carr-Hurst called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- II. Roll Call was taken by Secretary Jessica Davis with the following board members present:

The Honorable Chairwoman Mayor Elizabeth Carr-Hurst

The Honorable Mayor J. Clark Boddie	The Honorable Councilwoman Laura Mullis
The Honorable Mayor Vince Williams	The Honorable Councilwoman Shayla Nealy
The Honorable City Manager Sonja Fillingame	The Honorable Councilman James Whitmore (Councilmember Whitmore arrived at 7:05 PM)

The attendance of the board constituted a quorum and the meeting proceeded.

III. Approval of Water Authority Minutes:

Chairwoman Carr-Hurst asked the secretary to include Mr. Tom Owens and Mr. David Gray's last name in the minutes. The motion to approve the July 19th, 2021, Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water and Sewer Authority (MCRWSA) Meeting Minutes with the abovementioned corrections were made by Mayor Boddie and the second was provided by Councilwoman Mullis.

Vote: 6-0; Motion Carried
(Councilman James Whitmore was absent during the vote)

IV. New Business:

Attorney Dennis Davenport informed the board that as of August 11th, the City of Palmetto adopted their GEFA application resolution. The City of Union City has the GEFA application resolution on their City Council Agenda to adopt at the August 17th City Council Meeting. Chairwoman Carr-Hurst informed both Attorney Davenport and the board members that the City of Fairburn will present the GEFA application resolution at their August 23rd City Council Meeting. Project Managers Laura Benz and Andrea Gray and representatives from Krebs Engineering and the authority's finance team will attend the City of Fairburn's Council Meeting to make the Fairburn Council aware of where Fairburn stands with the water authority and the future issues involving payment to the authority.

V. Discussion & Approval: Water Authority Secretary Equipment-

City Manager Fillingame reviewed the Secretary's equipment list presented to the board and stated that the request is reasonable and standard with Secretary Davis' duties. Councilwoman Mullis agreed with City Manager Fillingame. The motion to approve the Water Authority Secretary equipment was made by City Manager Fillingame and seconded by Councilwoman Nealy.

Vote: 7-0; Motion Carried

The authority agreed to allow Councilwoman Mullis to purchase the secretary equipment for Ms. Davis to utilize and will reimburse Councilwoman Mullis.

VI. Reports:

A. Water Authority Attorney-

- a. Attorney Davenport did not have a report as the authority attorney.

B. Financial Manager-

- a. Financial Manager Dan Post presented two items to the authority.
 1. July Financial Statement
 - Financial Manager Post distributed the financial report and informed the board that the authority currently has \$4.365 million dollars in the PNC bank.
 2. Requisition # 222
 - Financial Manager Post presented to the board, Requisition #222 in the amount of \$13,840.20. The motion to approve requisition #222 was provided by Mayor Boddie and seconded by Mayor Williams. **Vote: 7-0; Motion Carried**

C. Project Managers-1225

Project Managers Laura Benz and Andrea Gray distributed the updated memo. Next month, they will begin coordinating with USGS to discuss the water withdrawal permit fees. The zoom EPD Meeting with Krebs Engineering is Friday, August 20th. Krebs Engineering is presenting the treatability study and the preliminary engineering report. The Project Managers are hoping to receive feedback from EPD to allow the project managers to see if adjustments are needed. Project Manager Gray asked Attorney Davenport if there were any limitations on the meeting regarding the board's attendance. Due to the meeting being held by zoom to discuss the authority business, there are no limitations.

Project Manager Benz received Union City's cost estimate for the infrastructure improvements to connect to the Authority's wholesale system. Union City's engineering company anticipated \$11 million dollars of upgrades without including the easement and engineering cost. Union City's estimate will increase to about \$13 million dollars once the 20% is included in the cost estimate. Project Manager Benz received the City of Fairburn's cost estimate on August 16th. It has a 30% contingency. The City of Palmetto is awaiting results from EPD before moving forward. City Manager Fillingame stated that the tank caused the amount to increase. Chairwoman Carr-Hurst informed the board that the City of Fairburn's estimate will increase once the right-away acquisitions are in the report.

Project Manager Benz provided updates on the mitigation. The Mulberry Creek was supposed to be issued by the end of last month. It is awaiting the final signatures. Once final signatures are received, the project managers will provide the number of credits anticipated to be sold. The project managers distributed an updated mitigation spreadsheet for Blue Creek. It reflects about \$351,000 in payments that were received last month. The project managers will adjust the number of credits sold for the allocation of the authority. Currently, it's about 30% to 33% and will increase to 40%-50% of the credits sold per sale. The project managers will revisit the subject in September.

The project managers received the final modification documents for the \$10.5-million-dollar loan. It accomplishes three things

1. Changes the name to the correct name
2. Updates the schedule
3. Updates the budgets

The GEFA application requires Chairwoman Carr-Hurst, Attorney Davenport, and Secretary Davis' signatures and requires a motion to adopt the amendment.

The project managers were tasked with carrying out the new GEFA application for \$25 million dollars (federal funds). Project Manager Gray put together a complete application for signatures. If the board members approve the application, the project managers will file before the September 1st deadline. GEFA will review and decide at their November 4th meeting. If the authority is selected, GEFA will provide another loan packet which will require adoption and the submission of more resolutions from the cities. The interest rate for the loan is 1.13%. The authority's interest rate will begin upon the signing of the loan agreement.

Councilwoman Nealy asked if the authority will have ample time to submit the loan application if concerns are reported after the review process? Project Manager Gray informed the board that the GEFA application doesn't require preliminary engineering reports. The application requires engineering information such as budgets and schedules. The project managers will have ample time to correct any errors before the application's deadline. The other component of the application is that the authority will have to provide a financial report regarding how they will fund the project moving forward. Mr. Tom Owens distributed a draft financial report to the board members.

Environmental Information Document

Project Manager Benz informed the board that an EID (Environmental Information Document) is required. The authority will need a jurisdictional determination completed on the pipeline routes since it's expired. Another requirement is a lip survey on the cultural resources. Per Project Manager Benz, Mr. RS Webb stated he felt comfortable that they could be doing their lip survey for less than \$2000.00. Mr. Webb completed the original cultural resources for the reservoir and the intake and treatment site. As far as doing the delineation, project manager Benz reached out to firms and will come back with various proposals for the two different distribution lines. Councilwoman Nealy asked Project Manager Benz if information regarding the firms will be available on the authority's website? Project Manager Benz stated she wanted to bring the information to the board for consideration as to the timing and whether the authority needs to do a formal RFP giving the circumstances and costs.

Project Manager Gray informed the authority members that the Governor's applications are due at the end of this month. The project managers put together an application for the board to review and make comments. The project managers guesstimated \$25 million dollars since this will be the initial asking price in 2022. The project managers are seeking clarification from the board regarding the requested amount. Per Project Manager Gray, a match is required, and the higher the match, the better the rank. The match counts for 15% of the overall score. The project managers leverage the money that the authority received. It will have to be expended by 2024 and obligated by 2021. The anticipated completion year is 2026. The board must decide how they will proceed with the implementation process to assure compliance with federal requirements. The application asks how the authority will administrate the implementation process. The board will have to report quarterly or annually if selected. If the authority receives more than \$5 million dollars, then quarterly reporting is required. If it is less than \$5 million dollars, then the board will have to report annually. Mayor Williams provided verbiage suggestions for the application. The project managers spoke with Ms. Deborah Smith who's willing to have further discussions regarding the grants.

Project Manager Benz contacted the authority cities about the impact caused by COVID-19. The project managers didn't receive a response due to the information not being available. They reference the cities general demographics, income, housing, etc. Mayor Williams and City Manager Fillingame expressed the importance of the authority having its own water supply.

Project Manager Gray informed the board that Judge Thrash ruled in Georgia's favor against Alabama. Alabama filed suit stating that Georgia was misusing water and causing impacts downstream. Per Judge Thrash, there is no evidence to support the case. Alabama has the option to appeal. Earlier this year, the Supreme Court ruled in Georgia's favor over Florida. The third lawsuit is Alabama versus Georgia. The case has not been settled.

The motion to authorize the modifications to the \$10.5 million-dollar GEFA loan and authorize the Chair to execute those documents on their behalf was made by Mayor Boddie and seconded by Mayor Williams. **Vote: 7-0; Motion Carried**

The motion to file a grant application for \$25 million dollars under the CARES ACT was made by Councilwoman Mullis and seconded by Councilman Whitmore. **Vote: 7-0; Motion Carried**

The motion to file the new GEFA loan for \$25 million dollars before the September 1st deadline was made by Mayor Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Mullis. **Vote: 7-0; Motion Carried**

Mayor Williams thanked Ms. Rebecca Lindsay and the water professionals who joined the board in Savannah, GA. Mayor Williams asked the authority to keep Mayor Jack Longino and his family in prayer. Mayor Longino is in the hospital on a ventilator. God has done some miraculous things with people in this position. Mayor Williams further stated the importance of getting vaccinated with this new variant ripping out communities throughout this country.

Chairwoman Carr-Hurst informed the board that Mayor Dial (Tyrone, GA) is battling an illness that has taken a toll on him. Let's keep him in our prayers also.

- VII.** The motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm was made by Councilwoman Mullis and seconded by City Manager Fillingame. **Vote: 7-0; Motion Carried**



Mayor Elizabeth Carr-Hurst, Chair



Jessica Davis, Secretary