

Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water And Sewer Authority Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 12th, 2023
Palmetto- City Hall
509 Toombs St. Palmetto, GA 30268

- I. Chairman J. Clark Boddie 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 Chairman Mayor J. Clark Boddie
The Honorable Mayor Vince Williams The Honorable Councilman Brian Jones
The Honorable Mayor Mario Avery

The following members were absent:
The Honorable Councilwoman Tara Miller
The Honorable Vice-Chair Sonja Fillingame
The Honorable City Manager Tony Phillips (Arrived at 7:10 pm)

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

III. **Approval of Water Authority Minutes:**

The motion to approve the August 8th 2023 MCRW&SA Meeting Minutes was made by Mayor Williams and seconded by Councilman Jones. **Vote: 4-0; Motion Carried**

IV. **New Business:**

V. **Discussion and Approval:**

VI. **Reports:**

A. **Water Authority Attorney-**

Attorney Davenport didn't have a report from the attorney's office.

B. **Financial Report-**

Attorney Davenport presented requisition #252 in the amount of \$14,276.15.

Motion to approve Req #252 in the amount of \$14,276.15 was made by Mayor Williams and seconded by Mayor Avery. **Vote: 5-0; Motion Carried**

C. **Project Managers-**

The authority complies with the withdrawal permit. The project managers are assisting Steve Garber with the audit. They're providing Mr. Garber with the appropriate documents to be submitted to Mauldin & Jenkins.

The project managers followed up with Commissioner Browning from the August meeting. The list of questions was sent to her office, and they were asked to review it or schedule a meeting to discuss it with the authority. Once the project managers receive the meeting date, they will coordinate with the authority.

The project managers met with the Coweta Water & Sewer Authority. In 2017, the authority discussed a partnership with the Coweta Water Authority. During that time, Coweta couldn't provide information about how much water they could sell the authority or provide on a long-term or short-term basis. The authority waited several months to receive a response; however, the engineer informed the board that it would take them another nine months to provide the information. Currently, the Coweta Water & Sewer Authority has a new engineer who has completed their modeling, and they know the water capacity in the northern part of the county. They have entered into contracts with adjacent counties and received a permit further down the Chattahoochee River. Coweta Water & Sewer Authority is very interested in partnering with the authority.

Chairman Boddie stated that he doesn't have a good feeling about partnering with the Coweta Water Authority simply because of the situation that the City of Palmetto went through with them. For several years, Palmetto operated on a handshake without a physical contract. Palmetto met with the attorney. What they considered was a good agreement turned out to be different at their board meeting. Coweta inserted a penalty and doubled the cost of water per gallon. Palmetto was asking for more and settled for less. The penalty was a big harm. Palmetto spent \$175,000.00 to take care of old water to keep the city in compliance with the state. Palmetto intended to use the \$175,000.00 on their tank that was potentially coming to the city. Coweta didn't want Palmetto to do anything on their tank, and the state issued Coweta a violation for old water.

Project Manager Benz stated that within the last couple of months, Coweta Water Authority received their approval to move forward with the intake on the Chattahoochee. They're looking for the ability to help move their phases more quickly. If they're selling water, it will help them to move to their second phase. The amount of water they're looking to sell may be larger. Project Manager Benz informed the board that there were no open discussions with the Coweta Water & Sewer Authority.

Mayor Williams stated that Palmetto has had challenges with Coweta. Mayor Williams said that the authority is in a place where they would love to see the opportunity to work with the City of Atlanta. Despite the long process, this is the first time (under the new administration) that the authority has had real tangible opportunities, and they have been very receptive. He doesn't want the City of Atlanta to hear that they are conversing with Coweta.

Project Manager Benz informed the board that she was scheduling a meeting with GM Lindy Farmer and the Coweta Water & Sewer Authority to discuss what has occurred in the past and help bring him up to speed. GM Farmer received documentation from Secretary Davis and requested to meet with the authority members to discuss their thoughts, on what they would like to see this body do, and what would the board like him as the GM to further explore. Mayor Williams is very interested in solidifying a very hopeful and promising relationship with the City of Atlanta.

Councilman Jones asked if the board were to have a conversation with Coweta, would it make Atlanta more eager to jump on board or not?

Project Manager Benz stated that they will continue to wait to hear back from Commissioner Browning.

Mayor Avery informed the board that it would be more productive to stay on the course with Atlanta until the body sees where the authority is going.

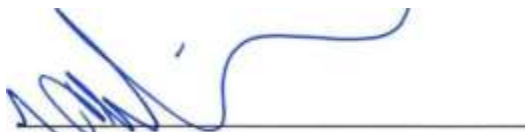
Chairman Boddie agrees with pursuing with the City of Atlanta. If the authority can get a partnership, that would be an idea for both parties. Atlanta is facing millions of dollars of expenses just to bring their system up to date.

New EPD Director: Jeff Cowan is the director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

The project managers received an email from EPA. They're seeking nominations for local government advisory committee members. If any are interested, applications are due September 30th.

Mr. Tom Owens informed the board that their bonds will become callable as of January 1st of next year. At that time, the authority will have more flexibility in terms of the outstanding debt. It can be refinanced or paid off immediately with no penalties. There may be an option for savings if interest rates are lower than the outstanding bonds. Typically, when they refinance, they go back into the period where the bonds are not callable. Refinancing is more valuable.

- VII.** The motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm was made by Mayor Williams and seconded by Councilman Jones. **Vote: 5-0; Motion Carried**



Mayor J. Clark Boddie, Chair



Jessica Davis, Secretary