Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water And Sewer Authority Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 13th, 2022
Fairburn- City Hall
56 SW Malone Street, Fairburn, GA 30213

I. Chairman Mayor 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 Honorable City Manager Tony Phillips
The Honorable Vice-Chair Sonja Fillingame

The following board members were absent:
The Honorable Councilwoman Tara Miller

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

III. Approval of Water Authority Minutes:
The motion to approve the November 8th, 2022 MCRW&SA Meeting Minutes was made by Vice-Chair Fillingame and seconded by City Manager Phillips. **Vote: 6-0; Motion Carried**

IV. New Business:

V. Discussion and Approval:

VI. Reports:

A. Water Authority Attorney-
Attorney Dennis Davenport did not have a report from the attorney's office.

B. Financial Report-
Attorney Davenport presented requisition #240 for $17,840.50.

The motion to approve requisition #240 was made by City Manager Phillips and seconded by Mayor Williams. **Vote: 6-0; Motion Carried**

Attorney Davenport presented requisition #241(principal and interest payment on bonds) for $2,231,362.50.

The motion to approve requisition #241 was made by Mayor Williams and seconded by Councilman Jones. **Vote: 6-0; Motion Carried**

C. Project Managers-

- **Water Withdrawal Permit**: The Project Managers informed the board that their water audit is due in March 2023. Project Manager Benz asked the authority members to keep in mind that they will need to have their audits for the district plans and that a newly updated district plan is being adopted on December 14th, 2022. They're looking for the cities to comply with the new updated measures as they move into 2023. They will be doing intergovernmental coordination meetings for South Fulton,

Coweta, and other organizations at the Palmetto Historic Train Depot on Wednesday, January 11th, 2023, from 10:30 to 12:00 pm. They're requesting the attendance of city managers, the planning department manager, the building permit, code enforcement, the facilities manager, and anyone with oversight and involvement to participate in the meeting.

- Compliance Matters (Financing and funding sources for the projects)- The project managers have been pursuing the 25-million-dollar loan from GEFA. The project managers have been communicating with GEFA. The authority was advised that the application will be pushed back to the May 2023 meeting if the authority can provide all required documentation by the first quarter of 2023.

- ARPA Funds: The project managers are awaiting to receive word on the ARPA award money. Chairman Boddie received some information from Senator Jon Ossoff's office this past month. The senator's office decided they will begin scheduling meetings on behalf of the authority with regulatory agencies, specifically for EPA Region 4, to see if grant money or potential financial money can become directed to the authority. The meetings will begin in February 2023. Project Manager Benz informed the board that Senator Ossoff has a Chattahoochee River Act Bill. A portion of the bill was in the military defense spending act. The bill was passed by the house and should appear before the senate the 3rd week in December. That will allow 90 million dollars to conduct research studies on things that could affect the Chattahoochee River. The fund's cap is 15 million dollars per project for approximately three years. Every year, GEFA sends out a request to applicants for projects to be involved in the State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan. The authority must be on this plan to be eligible for loan forgiveness that is authorized through the Infrastructure Act that was past. GEFA will be allocating money where they will be allowed to forgive loans. There will be a cap of 2-5 million dollars per cycle annually. If the authority would like to apply, the documentation is due February 28, 2023. It requires the authority to be a certified local government, up to date on audits, and other requirements to ensure the board is eligible.

Chairman Boddie briefed the board members on his conversation with Senator Ossoff's office regarding funding assistance for the water authority.

Councilman Jones discussed his trip to Kansas City for the National League of Cities. He currently serves on the Energy and Natural Resource Committee. He conversed with Viola to discuss water projects throughout the country and public, and private partnerships.

Mayor Avery asked the project managers if they were familiar with the company, Viola. The project managers are not familiar with the company but will research to gather information regarding it. Mayor Avery asked the project managers, if the company were to partner with the authority, what would their scope of work be? Councilman Jones responded to Mayor Avery's question by informing him that they will have grant writers available to fund funding for $200.00 an hour.

D. Gresham Smith (G&S)- Ms. Rebecca Lindsay will provide some updates at the January 2023 authority meeting. G&S is working on web updates and season testing. Ms. Lindsay informed the board that G&S was unaware that the authority was interested in public/private partnerships.

E. Raymond James (R&J)- Mr. Tom Owens informed the board that there is a federal program designed to allow the authority to borrow from the U.S. Treasury. Typically, the funds are for things larger than what's available from GEFA. R&J's engagement with the authority does not terminate at

the end of the month. They were asked to evaluate the project by the end of 2022. R&J's contract does not terminate, it's "as needed."

VII. The motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm was made by Vice-Chair Fillingame and seconded by Councilman Jones. **Vote: 6-0; Motion Carried**

Mayor J. Clark Boddie, Chair

Jessica Davis, Secretary