

Water Committee
Minutes
July 13, 2022
8:30 A.M.

Committee Members Present: Vanessa Tigert, Vice-Chair
Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Jeff Hill
Clinton Holland
Bill Holland
Jim Poff

Absent: Bryan Keller

Committee Non-Voting Members: Dennis Davenport, County Attorney
Aaron Capelouto, Arcadis

Staff Present: James Munster, Capri Reeves, Carrie Gibby, John Caldwell, Lindsey Choisnet

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Vanessa Tigert at 8:30 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from the June 8, 2022 meeting
Bill Holland made the motion and Clinton Holland seconded to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 8, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Drought Response
Vanessa Tigert reviewed our routine drought monitoring parameters via the National Integrated Drought Information System website. The U.S. Drought Monitor map is updated each Thursday to show the location and intensity of drought across the country. The drought monitoring parameters and conditions for Fayette County can be found at www.drought.gov/states/georgia/county/Fayette.

3. System Updates
James Munster shared that AT&T is expected to install 980,000 linear feet of fiber optics in Fayette County this year with more projected in following years. Historically, utility locates were done in-house and budgeted at \$25,000/year for a 3rd party to assist when there was a surge in locates. For Fiscal Year 2023, we had to increase that budget to \$200,000. Steve Rapson added that a lot of this has to do with the broadband push at the state level and federal dollars associated with it. We are talking with AT&T about the possibility of entering into an agreement to have them pay a 3rd party for locates. Our utility-locate budget is not solely for AT&T so they understand that it is a problem for us to keep up with their demand.

Capri Reeves discussed the reorganization of our Business Operations. Billing was combined with Customer Service and is now known as Customer Support. We are currently working to get three phone lines added to our phone group for customer calls, which will increase efficiencies and workflow.

Carrie Gibby informed that our Fiscal Year 2023 budget is effective as of July 1. We introduced new fee structures for meter connection, accessibility, and service fees. Our irrigation rates increased to remain compliant with the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District's

requirements. Water rates did not increase.

On the topic of budget, Mr. Clinton Holland asked if we have a reserve for unexpected, emergency expenses. Mr. Rapson answered the budget should be 100% accurate because it was just approved, but we do have money that we account for in the reserve, which is just shy of \$1,000,000. It takes a very special occasion and unique phone call to the County Administrator in order to use those funds. The approved budget is published on the county website.

4. Director's Report

Ms. Tigert shared that we are at the end of our process with vendor selection for Automated Metering Infrastructure. We will make the final selection after we check references and will report that selection at our next meeting.

We completed the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District Audit with the help of Carrie Gibby, staff, and the Environmental Management Department.

5. Public Comment

No public comment.

6. Adjournment

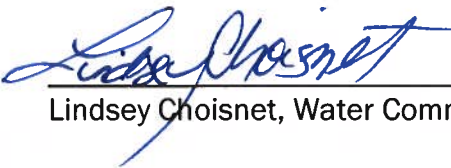
Jeff Hill made the motion and Steve Rapson seconded to adjourn the Water Committee meeting on July 13, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

The July 13, 2022 Water Committee meeting adjourned at 9:04 a.m.



Bryan D. Keller, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 10th day of August, 2022.



Lindsey Choisnet, Water Committee Clerk