

**MINUTES
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
FAIRFIELD JOINT WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 28, 2019**

Present: Roger A. Gaddy, Don Wood, Neil Robinson, Jason Taylor, Kyle Crager, Commissioners.

Others Present: C. D. Rhodes, Patti L. Davis, John Fantry, Davis Anderson, Ty Davenport, Chris Clauson.

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (e), as amended, the following persons and/or organizations have been notified of the time, date and location of this meeting: The Independent Voice of Blythewood and Fairfield, The Country Chronicle and one hundred thirty one other individuals.

1. CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of a duly elected Chairman, Mr. Taylor called the Organizational Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. BACKGROUND OF THE FJWSS

Mr. Taylor turned the meeting over to Mr. C. D. Rhodes with Pope Flynn Law Firm, who gave the history of the Commission. Mr. Rhodes congratulated the members on creating the newest political subdivision in South Carolina. For the benefit of all members, Mr. Rhodes then gave the background of how the commission got to where it is now. The Town and County have been in discussions concerning a joint water sewer system for quite a while. For various reasons, this did not happen. Several iterations have occurred over the last two years, and it now appears to be moving in the right direction. This is a very flexible structure provided by S.C. Law for multiple municipalities to come together and run a water/sewer system. For the time being, this commission will be focused on wastewater, which is the biggest need of the County from both the quality of life and economic development perspective. There is a grant from the Department of Commerce to fund an engineering study with the goal of identifying how to get wastewater to Commerce's Mega Site on I-77. This will be the primary goal. The Town and the County have both adopted Resolutions to commit themselves to this process and agree it is a good thing for the citizens. An agreement has been made as to how the Commission will be formed. This consists of two individuals appointed by the Town, the Mayor and the Town Manager; two individuals appointed by the County, the Chairman and the County Administrator; and one individual who is jointly appointed by the County and the Town. By Resolution, all members have now been appointed. Tonight, the Application for Incorporation will be signed, which will go to the Secretary of State's office, and hopefully by the middle of next week, the Certificate of Incorporation will be in place. Mr. Rhodes has some thoughts concerning the election of officers.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Per Mr. Rhodes, at the present time, Mr. Taylor is listed as the agent for service of process and the County Administration Building as the address. In speaking with Mr. Taylor and Mr. Wood, the meetings will probably be held at this location, and it would make sense for the secretary to be housed here in the County. It was discussed that Mrs. Davis could serve as the Secretary. Two officers can be commissioners but do not have to be, and these are the Treasurer and Secretary. The Chairman and Vice Chairman are required to be Commissioners. The Treasurer will ultimately need to be a finance professional, and this can be revisited in the future. For now, Mr. Rhodes would suggest that Mr. Taylor serve as the Treasurer. The Town certainly needs to have a significant role in the administration, so Mr. Rhodes recommended that Mayor Gaddy serve as Chairman and Mr. Robinson serve as Vice Chairman. The Commission was agreeable, and Mr. Robinson made a motion for the following Election of Officers:

Chairman: Roger Gaddy
Vice-Chairman: Neil Robinson
Treasurer: Jason Taylor
Secretary: Patti Davis

Motion was seconded by Mayor Gaddy. ***The motion carried unanimously 5-0.***

4. APPLICATION OF INCORPORATION

Chairman Gaddy then turned the floor over to Mr. Rhodes to discuss the Application of Incorporation. Mr. Rhodes distributed the form for all to review. Mr. Crager made a motion to appoint Mr. Taylor as the agent with second by Vice Chair Robinson. ***The motion carried unanimously 5-0.*** The members then signed the Application for the Formation of a Joint Authority Water and Sewer System. Mr. Rhodes distributed the latest edition of the By-Laws, which will need to be adopted at the next meeting.

Chairman Gaddy then directed Mr. Taylor to discuss the engineering update prior to discussing the meeting schedule. This may give us a better idea of how frequently meetings will be needed. Mr. Taylor stated there are some pressing matters and proposals that may necessitate more frequent meetings at the beginning.

5. MEETING SCHEDULE

After discussing the engineering and other updates, Chairman Gaddy feels the meeting schedule can now be discussed, keeping in mind how

expeditiously we need to move. Mr. Taylor stated Commerce is very interested in the process, and they ask on a regular basis how things are going. Chairman Gaddy feels it is important that this entity give them all the reassurance they need for the continued plans of financial support. Periodic follow up should be given to Commerce to keep them informed. Mr. Taylor suggested meeting once a month. After discussion, the third Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. was agreed upon. Therefore, the next meeting will be Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. This was acceptable to the members. In the future, if work sessions or special meetings are needed, these can be scheduled. Mr. Taylor suggested formulating a rational way to populate the agenda. Chairman Gaddy suggested Mr. Taylor and Mr. Wood get together to form the agenda and then it can be discussed. Mr. Rhodes also noted that these meetings should be handled the same as far as FOIA purposes, so the Town and County both would post the agenda on their websites and in every other way regular agendas are posted along with the notification process. Mr. Wood stated next week the pumps will be turned on to the Broad and testing will begin. It will be operating very soon. Mr. Crager would also like to review the strengths and weaknesses of the County going forward. Perhaps the engineering firm can attend the next meeting. Vice Chair Robinson is very excited. He feels this is showing growth from the Town and the County and that both are on the right path.

6. ENGINEERING UPDATE

Mr. Taylor stated the County for a long time has known it would have to address water and sewer issues to prepare for growth. Without foundational water and sewer infrastructure, the County cannot realize its potential. The County has a great location being near I-77, but if water and sewer cannot be provided, marketing to attract industry would not be possible. This idea has been pursued in the past, and some of the previous studies geared the County toward spending \$75M or \$80M. This involved pairing with other counties. When the State began approaching us, we began looking at the old plans and pushed back pretty hard to say we didn't want to hook ourselves to other counties. It would be better done in-house to create our own system. This is why the focus was concentrated on more of the "home-grown" system. The State finally agreed this was the better solution, and it is critical that the County partner with the State. The State has given the County \$2M to start the surveying of the site and the engineering of a new sewer plant. Thomas and Hutton has been hired, the preliminary engineering process has begun and a potential site for the plant is being located. Per Mr. Davenport, there are multiple areas along one possible creek available for discharge. It is now a matter of finding a piece of property that will work and afford future growth. Mr. Rhodes believes

Thomas and Hutton is close to the point of applying for the discharge permit, which is a three to four month process. Per Mr. Taylor, attempts are being made to cut off lead times in the event someone is interested in the Mega Site. The County has also worked out an arrangement with Great Falls for 250,000 gallons of capacity that has been purchased. The County paid \$512,000 for this for 30 years. Chairman Gaddy would like to see some of the plans, and for this reason, Mr. Taylor feels meetings should be held more frequently to start with. Maps of the County will also need to be studied to see every existing water line, every sewer line and to start strategizing future paths of new lines and interconnectivity. The point of this board is to get rational water and sewer service delivery to the County. Other providers will also be approached to see if there is an opportunity to work with them. Chairman Gaddy feels it would be best to look at the plans for the new sewer authority and at the same time work on the water to bring everyone up to speed.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION (SUBSEQUENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION, COMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.)

Executive Session was not needed at this initial meeting.

8. ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 5:37 p.m., the Organizational Meeting was adjourned by motion of Vice Chair Robinson and seconded by Commissioner Wood. ***The motion carried unanimously 5-0.***

PATTI L. DAVIS
SECRETARY

ROGER A. GADDY
CHAIRMAN