



**August 19, 2024  
Regular Board Meeting**

The Regular Meeting of Madison Utilities convened at the Madison Utilities' Office located at 101 Ray Sanderson Drive with Chairman Terris Tatum presiding. Vice Chairman Kerry Straub, Director Larry Miles, and Director Connie Spears were in attendance. Also, present were Secretary/Treasurer/General Manager Emory DeBord and Recording Clerk Jodie Parker. Director Al Sullivan was absent.

Others present were Wastewater Manager Mark Bland, Finance Manager Gary Sparks, New Development Coordinator Reece Lee, Assistant Finance Manager Drew Greene, and Attorney Chris Pape. Attorney Woody Sanderson was absent.

Chairman Terris Tatum called the Regular Board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Registered public in attendance: Madison City Engineer Michael Johnson and Mr. Tate Welch from Community Insurance

**1. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**2. CURRENT AGENDA/MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

a. August 19, 2024 Current Agenda

The agenda for the August 19, 2024, Regular Meeting was presented to the Board. Vice Chairman Straub moved to approve the August 19, 2024, Regular Meeting Agenda; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. August 5, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the August 5, 2024, Regular Meeting were presented to the Board. Director Miles moved to approve the August 5, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**3. PLATS/BONDS**

a. Preliminary Project Approval

i. 7 Brew Coffee

Vice Chairman Straub moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for 7 Brew Coffee; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

ii. Ardent Daycare at Town Madison

Director Spears moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for Ardent Daycare at Town Madison; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

iii. Bellawoods Phase 4

New Development Coordinator Lee stated this is for 50 residential lots for sewer only. Vice Chairman Straub moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for Bellawoods, Phase 4; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

iv. Bradford Station Phase 4

Director Spears moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for Bradford Station Phase 4; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

v. Lolas Cocina at Town Madison

Director Spears moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for Lolas Cocina at Town Madison; Director Miles seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

vi. Murphy Oil

Vice Chairman Straub moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for Murphy Oil; Director Miles seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

vii. Town Madison Phase 15

Director Spears moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for Town Madison Phase 15; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Dedication and Improvements

None

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

a. CY2025 Holiday Schedule

General Manager DeBord stated that there are very few conflicts with holidays and Board meetings in the coming year. Director Spears moved to approve the CY2025 Holiday Schedule; Director Miles seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Benefit Renewals FY2025

Finance Manager Sparks reminded the Board that it is the time of year for benefit renewals and that more would be coming, but currently the only final figures available were from Blue Cross Blue Shield and Gulf Guaranty. He added that he had requested a lower rate than the 7.7% increase but it was declined based on the previous year's claims. Finance Manager Sparks stated that a better plan has been chosen by Gulf Guaranty last year, but that they were increasing their rate as well. The Board was advised of an option to increase employee cost sharing on the Gulf Guaranty plan but was not pursued.

Director Miles moved to approve the Benefit Renewals FY2025; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Finance Manager Sparks added that a change to plan for vision insurance with Principle is currently being considered as requested by some employees. Finance Manager Sparks also shared a new offering being considered called Safe Harbor and that it was a derivative of the Section 125 Cafeteria Plan that we currently have. Tate Welch explained some of the benefits of the Safe Harbor legislation and how it would mitigate some of the cost for employees and generate additional revenue for the utilities.

c. FY24 Professional Audit Services and Resolution No. WWB-110-2024

Finance Manager Sparks presented the Engagement Letter from Dyer & Smith, LLC for FY2024 Professional Audit Services. Vice Chairman Straub moved to approve engaging Dyer & Smith LLC for FY2024 Professional Audit Services and Resolution No. WWB-110-2024; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**6. LEGAL**

Attorney Chris Pape presented a Permissive Use Agreement (PUA) with the City of Madison for Board consideration. Wastewater Manager Bland briefly explained the need for the PUA and that it would be a benefit for both MU and the City of Madison. He added that if the Board approved, it would be presented at the next City Council meeting for official approval.

Director Miles moved to approve the PUA with the City of Madison for the Browns Ferry/Burgreen Roundabout; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Attorney Pape also provided a brief update on the status of the Sanderson condemnation stating the property owners have 30 days to appeal.

Attorney Pape updated the Board on the well issue in Town Madison which is currently subject to the covenants of the neighboring subdivision. After a brief discussion, Vice Chairman Straub moved to have New Development Coordinator Reece Lee decline to incorporate the landscaping demands that were requested and if that is unacceptable, he is to pursue condemnation of the property; Director Miles seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**7. WATER and WASTEWATER REPORT**

Wastewater Manager Bland updated the Board on the current sale of water by Madison Utilities to Harvest. He stated that there has not been enough rain for their wells to be recharged and that they are also purchasing water from Huntsville.

Wastewater Manager Bland informed the Board that the developer is working on the preliminary punch list for final items at the Quarry Water Treatment Plant and that a walk-thru for the Keene Water Treatment Plant Expansion had taken place. He added that bids were being sent out next week for bids to expand the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**8. FINANCE REPORT**

Finance Manager Sparks stated that he would be bringing the preliminary capital budget to the next meeting. He briefly discussed the current CPI and added that a COLA is being considered. Wastewater Manager Bland added that whatever adjustments other area utilities make, may necessitate coming back to the Board for an adjustment.

**9. CUSTOMER SERVICE**

None

**10. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

General Manager DeBord stated that he and Customer Service Manager Leftwich would be meeting this week with customer Mr. Smith (who attended the previous meeting) and his legal counsel. He added that they were supposed to send their questions 3-days prior to the meeting but MU had not yet received that information.

**11. VICE CHAIRMAN STRAUB**

None

**12. DIRECTOR SULLIVAN**

None

**13. DIRECTOR MILES**

None

**14. DIRECTOR SPEARS**

None

**15. CHAIRMAN TATUM**

None

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:22 p.m. the Board agreed to adjourn.

Approved,



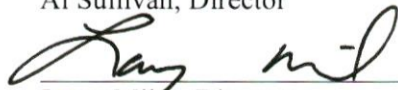
Terris Tatum, Chairman



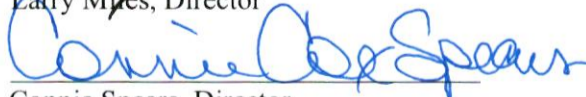
Kerry Straub, Vice Chairman



Al Sullivan, Director



Larry Miles, Director



Connie Spears, Director

ATTEST:

  
Emory DeBord, Secretary/Treasurer