



**February 21, 2022
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 Steve Haraway, Director Keith Cook, and Director Connie Spears were in attendance. Also present were Secretary/Treasurer/General Manager Emory DeBord and Recording Clerk Jodie Parker. Director Rob Szmyd was absent.

Others present were Wastewater Manager Mark Bland, Water Manager Jason Leggett, Finance Manager Gary Sparks, Customer Service Manager Misty Leftwich, New Development Coordinator Reece Lee, and Attorney Woody Sanderson.

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

Registered public in attendance: None

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

2. CURRENT AGENDA/MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a. February 21, 2022 Current Agenda

The agenda for the February 21, 2022 Regular Meeting was presented to the Board. Director Spears moved to approve the February 21, 2022 Regular Meeting Agenda as submitted; Vice Chairman Haraway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. February 7, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the February 7, 2022 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board. Director Spears moved to approve the February 7, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented; Vice Chairman Haraway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. PLATS/BONDS

a. Preliminary Project Approval

None

b. Dedication and Improvements

None

4. OLD BUSINESS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Projects with Pending Dedication Update

Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Projects with Pending Dedication Update; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Revisions to Construction Specifications for Water and Sanitary Sewer

Water Manager Leggett explained that this revision is a first read only to see if the Board had any questions or concerns before it was sent to the area developers. He added that it would be coming back to the Board at the next meeting for final approval. A brief discussion ensued with Finance Manager Sparks stating that this change would not impact existing services and Water Manager Leggett concurring by saying that it would only affect any new developments which had not been through tech review. (As it was a first read only, no Board action was taken.)

c. Engineers of the South – Harvest-Monrovia Interconnection Relocation Preliminary Design Proposal

Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Engineers of the South – Harvest Monrovia Interconnection Relocation Preliminary Design Proposal; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

d. Engineers of the South – Wall Triana Highway Transmission Main Design Proposal

Water Manager Leggett commented that the existing 12” water line will be abandoned and under the widened road and that it is a fairly straightforward project. Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Engineers of the South – Wall Triana Highway Transmission Main Design Proposal; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

e. Award of Bid MU#502-2022 – Yard Repair Services and Resolution No. WWB-107-2022

Director Spears asked where the yard repairs would happen. Water Manager Leggett explained that the yard repair services are done on an as needed basis throughout our service area as service leaks, main breaks, etc. are performed. He further explained that when the bid was originally presented, it appeared there were several companies interested in participating. The day of the bid, no responses were received. Water Manager Leggett contacted all of the companies who stated they opted not to bid for various reason. When he contacted Outdoor Creations, they had wanted to bid but inadvertently missed the deadline. Attorney Sanderson briefly outlined some of the regulations regarding bid laws and competitive bid laws and stated that if the late bid was rejected, the new negotiated price with Outdoor Creations could be accepted if the Board chose to do so.

Director Spears moved to reject the late bid from Outdoor Creations; Vice Chairman Haraway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the negotiated bid from Outdoor Creations and Resolution No. WWB-107-2022; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

f. Rate Resolution No. WWB-106-2022 – Effective March 1, 2022

Finance Manager Sparks stated that the current rate resolution had been reviewed and some of the items had not been updated in the last 12-15 years. Water Manager Leggett added that the previous rate resolution did not account for the considerable increase in materials and labor costs in the past few years. There was a brief discussion of the changing line items.

Director Cook moved to approve the Rate Resolution No. WWB-106-2022 – effective March 1, 2022; Vice Chairman Haraway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

g. Proposed Pay Plan dated 2-18-2022 effective 2-22-2022

Finance Manager Sparks began by stating that there has not been a good response for applicants for field employee positions. We found that surrounding utilities, City’s and construction companies have recently increased the starting pay for similar positions. As such, a suggestion was made to change the starting pay and progression of pay in those grades without changing the top-out pay. Finance Manager Sparks briefly explained a few other changes such as changing the title of the meter readers and adding two additional positions of AMR/AMI Specialist and Facilities Crew Leader.

Director Spears moved to approve the Proposed Pay Plan dated 2-18-2022 effective 2-22-2022; Vice Chairman Haraway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. LEGAL

Attorney Sanderson presented a proposal to vacate a small portion of an easement for the Novare Apartments. He added that by adopting the resolution, the Board would be declaring the portion in question as surplus and then it would be presented at the next Madison City Council meeting for consent.

Director Spears moved to approve the vacation of the portion of easement needed for the Novare Apartment complex; Vice Chairman Haraway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Attorney Sanderson mentioned he still has a few items he is working on and that he would also consult with the City about their current drug termination policy.

7. WATER REPORT

Water Manager Leggett informed the Board that the final payment was made to the contractor for the Highland Drive project. Additionally, he added that the Western Transmission Phases 1 and 2 are complete and the line has been approved by ADEM. Water Manager Leggett concluded that the work on the Quarry Water Treatment Plant had been hindered by illness and weather and the contractor is approximately 2-3 weeks behind, but an early concrete pour was scheduled for Thursday and the neighboring HOA had been notified.

8. WASTEWATER REPORT

Wastewater Manager Bland commented there had been some inspection issues at the Wastewater Treatment Plant which could result in a budget shortage for inspections before the end of the project. He added that to minimize the cost, all concrete testing is being done in house by Engineers of the South. Wastewater Manager Bland stated that 25,829 meters within the system have been located and mapped with approximately 296 left; some of which had proved difficult to locate. He added that the meters and radios for the new AMR/AMI project will be coming in and the signs for customers are ready. Director Spears informed the Board of a recently passed City ordinance regarding yard signs and she stated she would send that information to Wastewater Manager Bland and Attorney Sanderson.

9. FINANCE REPORT

None

10. CUSTOMER SERVICE

Customer Service Manager Leftwich said that normal operations have resumed, and the first lock-offs after 6 months went well. The original list was around 300 but after the customer service representatives called and text customer to notify, the list was down to 25 affected.

11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

General Manager DeBord mentioned that he had met with Limestone County Water officials and asked them to model their systems before going forward.

12. VICE CHAIRMAN HARAWAY

Vice Chairman Haraway briefly shared a conversation about the Board approving will-serve items when there are no drawings to base approval on. General Manager DeBord asked if the Board wanted official drawings and Vice Chairman Haraway answered affirmatively. He added that it is a better way to make a decision, to approve or deny, and then if anything changes, the approval would be nullified until it came to the Board again.

13. DIRECTOR COOK

None.

14. DIRECTOR SPEARS

None

15. DIRECTOR SZMYD

None

16. **CHAIRMAN TATUM**

None

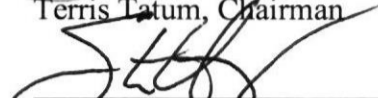
17. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:30 p.m. the Board agreed to adjourn.

Approved,



Terris Tatum, Chairman



Steve Haraway, Vice Chairman

A. Keith Cook, Director



Rob Szmyd, Director



Connie Spears, Director

ATTEST:



Emory DeBord, Secretary/Treasurer