



**April 4, 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 Rob Szmyd, Director Keith Cook, and Director Connie Spears were in attendance. Also present were Secretary/Treasurer/General Manager Emory DeBord and Recording Clerk Jodie Parker.

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. April 4, 2022 Current Agenda

The agenda for the April 4, 2022 Regular Meeting was presented to the Board. Director Spears moved to approve the April 4, 2022 Regular Meeting Agenda as submitted; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. March 21, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the March 21, 2022 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board. Director Cook noted that there was an error listing him as absent under section 14 for the previous meeting. Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the March 21, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes with the noted change; Director Spears 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. Purchase of Mini-Jetter and Resolution No. WWB-110-2022

Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Purchase of a Mini-Jetter and Resolution No. WWB-110-2022; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Proposed Changes to MU Drug and Alcohol Procedure

General Manager DeBord explained that this is the proposed policy change that was discussed with the Board a few meetings ago. He added that it is similar to the policy in place at the City of Madison and it was recommended by legal counsel. Attorney Sanderson stated that the proposed changes were not being presented for final Board approval and vote, but rather, for the Board to simply approve the posting for employees to review for the required five (5) days. The Board concurred that it should be posted, and no formal vote was taken.

c. Proposed Changes to MU Apprenticeship Program

General Manager DeBord stated that this recommend change was discussed at the previous Board meeting. Finance Manager Sparks added that this is just the general policy regarding the Apprenticeship Program and the details of the program would be addressed in item e of the agenda. The Board agreed that the MU Apprenticeship Program proposed changes should be posted for employee review, and no formal vote was taken.

d. Proof for Water Quality Report – 2021 Reporting Year

Water Manager Leggett stated that the Water Quality Report (or CCR- Consumer Confidence Report) is required by ADEM to be distributed prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>. This report compiles all of the testing and system information from the previous year. Water Manager Leggett also noted that there were no violations or compliance issues to report. Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Proof for the Water Quality Report – 2021 Reporting Year; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

e. Plant Apprentice Program

Wastewater Manager Bland explained that he had used some information from the program used by the National Rural Water Association and then adjusted that program to fit the goals of MU. He added that everyone on the MU Staff has reviewed and that if the Board approved the first reading, the official version would be brought back to the Board for approval. The Board agreed to move forward, and no formal vote was taken.

**6. LEGAL**

Attorney Sanderson reviewed a few of the outstanding legal items including an update on the McCrary Well agreement. After a brief discussion of several alternatives, Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve making an offer of a lump sum of \$18,000 to purchase the lot surrounding the well, rather than making small payments over the course of 3-5 years; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**7. WATER REPORT**

Water Manager Leggett reported that the Quarry Water Treatment Plant construction was still on schedule. He did add that a large bore was completed on March 28<sup>th</sup> that a few of the nearby residents were not happy with. Water Manager Leggett had contacted the Edgewater liaison to explain that with a bore of that size, it was imperative that it start in the early morning hours in order to be completed and that MU is making every effort to minimize the inconvenience to customers as much as possible.

Water Manager Leggett also mentioned that the list of yard repairs had backed up since we were between contractors, but we now have a new contractor, and they will be getting started and hopefully will be caught up soon.

**8. WASTEWATER REPORT**

Wastewater Manager Bland stated that there are now three full crews working on the Wastewater Plant expansion project and it is progressing more quickly. He also informed the Board that the first shipment of radios for the new AMR/AMI project were shipped and should arrive this week.

**9. FINANCE REPORT**

None

**10. CUSTOMER SERVICE**

None

**11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

General Manager DeBord informed the Board that there was one customer who had expressed interest in opting out of the radio read meter system which will be installed in the coming

months. He explained that opting out is not really an option and would defeat the primary purpose of changing to this system which will eliminate the need for employees to go out and manually read meters. General Manager DeBord spoke with other GMs who operate similar systems and they do not have an option for opting out, except for Huntsville Utilities. Additionally, he added that Alabama does not have a law which requires a utility to have an option to opt out either. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed that MU should keep moving forward.

General Manager DeBord mentioned that he and Water Manager Leggett would be attending a conference in Mobile, AL in the upcoming week.

**12. VICE CHAIRMAN HARAWAY**

None

**13. DIRECTOR COOK**

None

**14. DIRECTOR SPEARS**

Director Spears discussed with the MU staff a complaint that she had received from a constituent. Finance Manager Sparks and Water Manager Leggett stated that they had been made aware and were working on a resolution.

Director Spears also mentioned a customer who would like to tie-on to the Madison Utilities sewer system. Wastewater Manager Bland shared a brief history of the process which had occurred in the past and stated that he would be happy to meet with interested parties and look at a map and what the associated cost would be for gravity sewer.

**15. DIRECTOR SZMYD**

None


**16. CHAIRMAN TATUM**


Chairman Tatum shared with the Board that he and members of the MU Staff had gone to Montgomery to meet with several members of the Alabama Legislature. He indicated he thought it was a productive and informative meeting and that they seemed willing to do what they can to help move forward with securing a portion of the ARPA funds from ADEM.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:40 p.m. the Board agreed to adjourn.

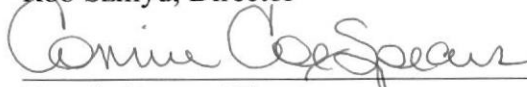
Approved,

  
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Terris Tatum, Chairman


  
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Steve Haraway, Vice Chairman

  
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A. Keith Cook, Director

  
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Rob Szmyd, Director

  
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Connie Spears, Director

ATTEST:

  
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Emory DeBord, Secretary/Treasurer