



**August 1, 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: Ms. Bebe Oetjen and Mr. Troy Woodis

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Bebe Oetjen explained to the Board that her water pressure had been low and, after having a plumber come to evaluate, it was discovered that her pressure regulating valve was not in a meter box and she was requesting a reimbursement from Madison Utilities for the cost of the plumber. Vice Chairman Haraway replied that it should have been put in by the developer. Water Manager Leggett agreed but added that he would send someone from Madison Utilities to look at it and would contact her with their findings.

2. CURRENT AGENDA/MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a. August 1, 2022, Current Agenda

The agenda for the August 1, 2022, Regular Meeting was presented to the Board. Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the August 1, 2022, Regular Meeting Agenda as submitted; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. July 18, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the July 18, 2022, Regular Meeting were presented to the Board. Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the July 18, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. PLATS/BONDS

a. Preliminary Project Approval
None

b. Dedication and Improvements

i. Toyota Field

Director Szmyd moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements for Toyota Field; Vice Chairman Haraway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

ii. Stadium Way

Director Szmyd moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements for Stadium Way; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

iii. Second 16" Water Main on I-565 on-ramp

Director Spears moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements for the Second 16" Water Main on the I-565 on-ramp; Vice Chairman Haraway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

iv. Outfield Drive

Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements of Outfield Drive; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

v. Moon Shot Drive

Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements of Moon Shot Drive; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

vi. Grand Slam Drive

Director Spears moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements of Grand Slam Drive; Vice Chairman Haraway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

vii. Clift Farm, Phase 7

Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements of Clift Farm, Phase 7; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

viii. Ardent (Clift Farm Phase 7a)

Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements of Ardent (Clift Farm Phase 7a); Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

ix. Heritage Hills, Phase 2

Director Spears moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements of Heritage Hills, Phase 2; Vice Chairman Haraway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Professional Audit Services FY2022 and Resolution No. WWB-115-2022

Director Spears moved to approve the Professional Audit Services for FY2022 and Resolution No. WWB-115-2022; Vice Chairman Haraway seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Haraway asked if there were any significant changes for this year and Finance Manager Sparks replied that it will be a typical audit like previous years. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Professional Legal Services Renewal FY2023

Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Professional Legal Services Renewal for FY2023; Director Spears seconded the motion for discussion.

Director Spears asked if it was standard to not have a contract proposal included from Lanier Ford for legal services like the Audit Services just presented. Finance Manager Sparks stated that both are professional services and do not need to be bid and, he added, the auditing firm requires an engagement letter prior to beginning. Director Spears then asked if Attorney Sanderson was under contract and if he had a plan for who would succeed him when he did retire and how that process would go. Attorney Sanderson remarked that currently has no plans to retire but that he is always contemplating a succession plan. Director Spears commented that she appreciates the work that Attorney Sanderson does but suggested the possibility of having other attorneys shadow his work for the Board to become more familiar.

The motion was approved unanimously.

c. Notification of Will Serve Request – 11685 Burgreen Road

New Development Coordinator Lee stated that this will serve request had been presented preliminarily to the Board at the last meeting so this time it would be for final approval. Vice Chairman Haraway asked what the capacity in that area is. Wastewater Manager Bland indicated that the preliminary look shows that it should have sufficient capacity but that it would depend on the density of the City of Madison's growth pattern and that is an unknown that is difficult to calculate. After some additional discussion, a motion was made.

Vice Chairman Haraway noted that since the motion was not made at the first request for a motion that it would annul the motion. No further action was taken.

d. Revisions to Construction Specification 00 01 12.11 E4

Director Spears moved to approve the Revisions to Construction Specification 00 01 12.11 E4; Vice Chairman Haraway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

e. Employee Group Medical Insurance Renewal FY2023 – Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Alabama

Finance Manager Sparks noted that he had included the information for the average annual escalation trend for medical insurance. He added that the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama premiums would increase by 4% but that it was not significant enough to warrant a change for the employee cost share amount. Finance Manager Sparks also stated he is still waiting for FY2023 information from Gulf Guaranty, the supplemental insurance to BCBS.

Director Spears moved to approve the Employee Group Medical Insurance Renewal FY2023-Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Alabama; Director Szymd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

f. Notification of Will Serve Request – 12315 Burgreen Road

Vice Chairman Haraway asked how many stories each unit would be. Mr. Woodis replied that they are traditionally 2 but could be 3. He also added that they would likely not reach the originally anticipated 480 units and that it would be built in phases with the first being 240 and then later possibly another 120. Director Cook asked if the staff has reviewed and were good with the plans. Wastewater Manager Bland said yes, if the growth pattern stays linear as it currently is. Wastewater Manager Bland informed the Board he would be bringing a wastewater master plan to one of the upcoming Board meetings and reminded the Board that this was a first read only. No action was taken.

g. Proposed Pay Plan dated 07-29-2022 effective 08-01-2022

Finance Manager Sparks informed the Board that recently an application was received for a dual certified plant operator. However, with no position currently available, but not wanting to miss out on a qualified applicant, Finance Manager Sparks requested that the Board approve changing a Plant Apprentice spot to a permanent position (from 8 apprentice positions to 7 and from 8 Plant Operator II positions to 9). He added that it won't change the total number of employees but would increase payroll slightly. Wastewater Manager Bland added that there are currently three plant operators eligible to retire so it would be beneficial to have another certified plant operator in place.

Director Spears moved to approve the Proposed Pay Plan dated 07-29-2022 effective 08-01-2022; Vice Chairman Haraway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. LEGAL

Attorney Sanderson informed the Board that he relayed the revised offer regarding the McCrary Well but had not yet received a response. He also mentioned that there is a new amendment to the open meetings act which would allow a Board member to participate via Zoom if they have an illness and if there is a majority physically in place. Attorney Sanderson stated that he would draft a new policy to have in place just in case it is needed in the future.

7. WATER REPORT

Water Manager Leggett reported that the landscaping is going well with Outdoor Creations and that they are nearly caught up. He also mentioned that interviews are being conducted to try to reach full staffing, but retention has been an issue.

Water Manager Leggett informed the Board that three major tie-ins were complete at the Quarry Water Treatment Plant, with the biggest one requiring a full plant shut down. He stated that there were a few minor issues but that everything went very well.

8. WASTEWATER REPORT

Wastewater Manager Bland added to Water Manager Leggett's comment about staffing stating

that he had lost two employees, with a possible third coming soon.

Wastewater Manager Bland then presented several photos of newly developed areas where Madison Utilities infrastructure had been damaged and construction guidelines were not being adhered to. Chairman Tatum stated that all steps need to be taken to do what we can to prevent this going forward. Director Spears added that MU Staff should let her know if any help is needed from the City of Madison.

9. **FINANCE REPORT**

None

10. **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

None

11. **GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

General Manager DeBord stated that some customers are needing to set up new service who may be from another country and therefore do not have a social security number which is required. He continued that in the past, a liaison has been utilized to put the service in their name but in a recent situation that was not an option. General Manager DeBord suggested that one idea was to increase the deposit amount for someone without a social security number (which is used to bad debt a customer who terminates service without paying their final bill). Attorney Sanderson stated that he would do some research to determine if it would be in violation of any discrimination policies.

12. **VICE CHAIRMAN HARAWAY**

None

13. **DIRECTOR COOK**

None

14. **DIRECTOR SPEARS**

None

15. **DIRECTOR SZMYD**

None

16. **CHAIRMAN TATUM**

None

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:52 p.m. the Board agreed to adjourn.

Approved,

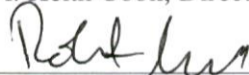


Terris Tatum, Chairman

Steve Haraway, Vice Chairman



A. Keith Cook, Director



Rob Szmyd, Director



Connie Spears, Director

ATTEST:



Emory DeBord, Secretary/Treasurer