

Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority
Board Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2024

Chairman Chris Nichols convened the Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on October 10, 2024.

Member Attendees: Chairman Chris Nichols, Vice Chairman Tommy Benton, Wade Johnson, Dave Ehrhardt.

Also Present: Attorney Paul Smart; Authority Staff - Joey Leslie, Mark Dudziak, Judy Smith, Harold Garrison, Karen Long, Caleb Baughcum, Amy Bales, Ronna Berrong, Matt Wyatt.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Vice Chairman Benton made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2024 board meeting

Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was carried with no objection, and all board members present voted.

Operating Reports

Director Judy Smith presented operating reports for September 2024, highlighting:

- 200.2 million gallons purchased, 151.1 million gallons sold.
- 27.8 million gallons used for flushing.
- 2.2 % increase in billed water usage, 4.8% increase in billed sewer usage, compared to a year ago.
- Gain of 28 water and 30 sewer customers.
- Workorders completed - 582
- Backflow tests completed – 51
- Aging meter change out – 67
- New installations – 47

New Business

Blakley II Water and Wastewater Preliminary Application

Chairman Nichols stated the developers requested to withdraw their application.

Theft of Service Fees

Manager Leslie reported that recently we have had numerous occurrences where contractors have erroneously placed the incorrect hydrant meter upon our hydrants. Often, they have a hydrant meter rented from JCWSA but fail to install the correct hydrant, especially in instances where there is a Jefferson address. He said for example, Allied Paving recently used a Jefferson hydrant meter on a JCWSA hydrant near Traditions.

Manager Leslie said the fee for an illegal hydrant connection is \$5,000 for the first offence and \$10,000 for the second offence. He said currently, someone is treated equally if they connect directly to the hydrant with no meter and backflow. This can rack up extensive fees even if someone mistakenly puts the wrong hydrant meter on our hydrant.

Manager Leslie said Staff recommends the following:

Add two new rows to the fee schedule, only applicable where (1) the offender has a hydrant meter currently out on rental from JCWSA, and (2) the offender is caught using another jurisdiction's hydrant meter and backflow assembly. In this case, the threat to public health is lessened rather than connecting directly to a fire hydrant and we believe a lower fee is justified. These would be in addition to any criminal offenses and not exclusive.

- Unauthorized/improper hydrant installation \$2500 for first offence and \$5,000 for subsequent offenses.

Manager Leslie said staff would also like all Service Theft charges to revert to the first event after no offenses occur over a period of 5 years.

Member Johnson made a motion to approve the Theft of Service fees as presented with the added conditions of additional damages as they occur at cost and requirement of a backflow.

Member Ehrhardt seconded the motion. The motion carried with no objection, and all board members present voted.

Jackson County and JCWSA Governmental IGA

Manager Leslie said the IGA is currently under review by the Attorneys.

Department Reports

Wastewater

- MOWWTP Total gallons treated: 22.74 million Monthly Average : .758 mgd Monthly Peak: .874 mgd
- Sewer Connections Inspected in September: 30
- Completed 391 work orders last month
- Wastewater plant staff conducted tours with the City of Jefferson schools and Leadership Jackson last month.
- Collections staff is working on finishing right of way maintenance as well as continuing to work on issues at lift stations caused by wipes.
- MOWWTP Total Gallons Treated 22.74 million, monthly average 758 mgd, monthly

Water

- 974 tasks completed
- Installed three meter stubs
- 963 valves exercised

- Removed old motor and installed new motor at Highway 60 pump station
- Checked for two leaks
- ROW mulching in various locations
- Repaired two service line leaks hit by cable contractors
- Spotted tee at Highway 60 and Highway 124 in preparation for relocation of line
- Installed 300 feet of 2-inch line and installed blocking and flush hydrant on Smith Lane
- Processed 1245 locates
- Marked– 331water and 133wastewater
- 36 ongoing large projects

IT

- Inventorying and documentation of all our devices.
- Upgrading devices from Windows 10 to Windows 11

Engineering Report

Engineer Hester reported:

- Ben, Matt and Josh were all recognized for getting licenses
- Service line inventory has been submitted and completed
- Joey has been working hard as the chair engineering committee at UOBWA

Managers' Report

- Received our new Moody's rating – will break into two separate bonds for a total of \$160 million for the Upper Oconee expansion. The design is going well.
- GAWP coming in February to present our spotlight award
- Always looking for funding sources. We did received a million-dollar grant for Upper Oconee
- Went out for seed grant of \$75,000 through EPA for West Jackson well

Chairman

Chairman Nicholes asked for an update on Parks Creek. Engineer Hester said there has not been a meeting for a while. They are working on GEFA funding. Manager Leslie said he will check in with them and report back.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Karen Long
Board Secretary