

**DOUGLASVILLE-DOUGLAS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**September 13, 2022**  
**MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority was held September 13, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the WSA Administration Building.

Members present:

Peggy E. Baugh, Chairman

Nia Brown

Cindy Fedack, Vice Chairman

Christopher Flowers

Joseph Fowler, Board Attorney

Dr. Romona Jackson-Jones, Chairman, Douglas County Board of Commissioners

Helen McCoy, Secretary/Treasurer

Rochelle Robinson, Mayor, City of Douglasville

Richard Segal

Gilbert Shearouse, Executive Director

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Shearouse introduced Lindsey Mercer, who attended with her dad, Attorney Scott Mercer. Ms. Mercer is seeking to obtain an Eagle Scout badge and attended the meeting to fulfill two merit badge requirements: Citizenship in the Community and Communications. She is a member of the local all-female Boy Scout group and would be one of only three females here to achieve this status. Chairman Baugh welcomed and commended her, and Ms. Mercer responded to questions and comments from Dr. Jones and other Board members.

The first item of business was the approval of the minutes of the August 23, 2022 minutes. A motion was made by Chairman Baugh and seconded by Vice Chairman Fedack to adopt the minutes as presented. There were no corrections or additions, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Shearouse reminded members that the Board's Fall Workshop will be held October 21-22 at Stone Mountain Park, beginning at 10 a.m. on Friday and ending by 3 p.m. Saturday.

He also provided additional information on Mr. Jack Baggett's attendance at the August 23, 2022 Board meeting, where Mr. Baggett questioned why he received a letter to pump his septic tank when it was pumped in 2019. Mr. Shearouse said WSA was not informed that the tank had been pumped and responded by letter to Mr. Baggett on August 25, 2022 to adjust and push the date forward to reflect the five-year pumping requirement for residents living in the Dog River Basin. Mr. Shearouse provided a copy of the letter to the Board in the August 29, 2022 Work Session email for information only.

Chairman Baugh asked if the Authority had heard back from Mr. Baggett, and Mr. Shearouse responded that they hadn't and did not expect to, given the issue was resolved.

### **STATUS REPORT**

There was nothing to add to the written report.

At this time, Chairman Baugh introduced the following resolutions:

#### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF THE LOW INCOME HOUSING WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES.**

A motion was made by Ms. Fedack and seconded by Ms. Robinson to adopt the resolution as presented. Dr. Jones noted that Ms. Fedack said, "Georgia Department of Human Resources" instead of "Georgia Department of Human Services," which Ms. Fedack then corrected. Mr. Shearouse brought to the Board's attention that this agreement is only signed by himself due to the State requiring an electronic signature. Traditionally, resolutions are executed by the Executive Director and the Board Chair, he said, but the increasing demand by organizations and businesses to use electronic signatures may require a Bylaw change, which will be discussed at the Board's Fall Workshop. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed by a vote of five members, with Mr. Segal abstaining from the vote due to a possible conflict of interest.

#### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF BUILDING PERMIT FEES TO DOUGLAS COUNTY FOR THE PRIMARY INTAKE AND BACKUP INTAKE STRUCTURES ASSOCIATED WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE DOG RIVER RESERVOIR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,283.76.**

A motion was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Ms. Brown to adopt the resolution as presented. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE ORDER TO XYLEM WATER SOLUTIONS, USA, INC. TO REBUILD A FLYGT SUBMERSIBLE PUMP FOR THE SOUTHSIDE LIFT STATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$68,983.41.**

A motion was made by Chairman Baugh and seconded by Mr. Flowers to adopt the resolution as presented. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Shearouse opened discussion about a conversation he recently had with two Board members regarding WSA's perception in the community. He said that WSA has greatly increased its presence at community events but identified two areas that the Authority is working on improving.

One proposal is for WSA to rejoin as a paying member of the Westside Homebuilders Association. Mr. Shearouse emphasized that, while WSA is represented at the group's monthly meetings, engaging and

partnering with them could prove valuable in intangible benefits. Membership cost is \$550 a year, he said. Discussion followed.

Mr. Shearouse said the other action to undertake is to be more intentional and proactive in sharing WSA news with the City and County elected officials, specifically the Douglasville City Council and the Douglas County Board of Commissioners. Several ways to do this were suggested by Ms. Robinson and Dr. Jones, as well as Mr. Segal, including giving project updates, anticipating the questions City and County officials will be getting from the public, attending Council and Commission meetings and retreats, and providing talking points of information for them to relay to constituents. A case in point, Dr. Jones mentioned the asbestos removal associated with the Lee Road Widening Project and if the Authority could communicate information to the public to allay possible concerns. Deputy Director Brian Keel responded that the asbestos removal is being performed by a specialty contractor and overseen by a specialty consultant. Mr. Shearouse offered to relay that, and other safety precautions being taken, should questions arise. He added that the Authority's communication plan is on the agenda for further discussion at the Board's Fall Workshop.

There was no further business before the Board, so Chairman Baugh called the meeting to an end. There was no objection, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Helen R. McCoy, Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by

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Peggy E. Baugh, Chairman