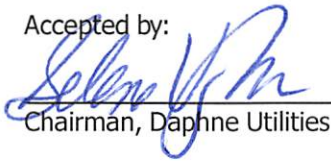


Accepted by:

  
Chairman, Daphne Utilities



# APPROVED MINUTES

## Utilities Board Meeting

Council Chambers, Daphne City Hall ♦ March 2, (for February) 2022 ♦ 5:00 p.m.

### I. Call to Order

The regular February 2022 Board meeting for the Utilities Board of the City of Daphne was held on March 2, 2022, in the Council Chambers at Daphne City Hall and called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairwoman Selena Vaughn, followed by the Roll Call:

### II. Roll Call

**Members Present:** Selena Vaughn, Chairwoman  
Billy Mayhand, Secretary/Treasurer  
Mayor Robin LeJeune, Board Member  
Councilman Joel Coleman, Board Member

**Members Absent:** Tim Patton, Vice Chairman

**Others Present:** Jerry Speegle – Board Attorney  
Scott Polk – General Manager  
Bobby Purvis – Operations Manager  
Lexus Carlee – Finance Specialist  
Teresa Logiotatos – Finance Manager  
Lori Wilson – Executive Assistant  
Rebecca Williamson – Accounting Assistant

**Others Absent:** Drew Klumpp – Administrative Services Manager  
Samantha Coppels – Communications Manager

### III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairwoman led the Board and meeting attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### IV. Approval of Minutes

#### A. Utilities Board Meeting Minutes January 26, 2022

The Chairwoman requested any additions, corrections, or deletions for the submitted minutes of the January 26, 2022, Daphne Utilities Board meeting.

With no additions, deletions, or corrections, the Chairwoman declared that the submitted January 26<sup>th</sup> minutes would stand approved.

### V. OLD BUSINESS – No Old Business

## VI. NEW BUSINESS –

- A. Recommendation for Approval of:** Requisition R41-022422LS for purchase of Lift Stations at various locations from: Jim House & Associates in the amount of \$259,350.00 (Board Action: MOTION)

Daphne Utilities' Buyer, Marinda Turner, explained to the Board regarding the Water Reclamation/Wastewater Collection departments upgrades to the lifts stations this year, noting that each upgrade is treated as an individual project with some upgrades costing over the \$50,000 threshold; as a result and for purchasing aspects, all the projects were compiled into one purchase requisition, pointing out that this was included in the capital improvement budget.

*MOTION by Billy Mayhand to award the bid [for Requisition R41-022422LS for purchase of Lift Stations at various locations] to Jim House & Associates in the amount of \$259,350.00; Motion was Seconded by Councilman Joel Coleman.*

Staff answered questions from board members regarding budgeted amounts and pump brand distribution and the advantages of pump standardization.

**AYE:** Coleman, LeJeune, Mayhand, Patton, Vaughn **NAY:** **ABSENT:** **ABSTAIN:** **MOTION CARRIED**

## B. Discussion of Gas Promotions

Mr. Bobby Purvis advised that he researched business growth in various neighborhoods as well as continuing discussions with legal regarding rebate situations. He informed the Board members that aid-to-construction is an established incentive to bring gas service to a customer based on how many installed appliances would require natural gas. Mr. Purvis did offer that after reviewing data for the past five years, our gas service has more than doubled in the past two years. Mr. Polk reminisced that conversations had taken place with D.R. Horton regarding their natural gas appliance purchasing practices for new home construction with not a very positive feedback. Mr. Polk stated that discussions regarding installation of natural gas in the new retirement community being built on Dale Road has been favorable. He noted that several State programs are being reviewed. Mayor LeJeune stated he would look for an update once additional information is received.

## C. Utility Rates Review

Mr. Polk advised that after reviewing the monthly updated figures, he is comfortable at keeping rates where they are currently without any negative impact. However, he stated that going into fiscal year 2023, rates will need to be addressed in order to avoid adversely affecting at least one of our services which would be prohibitive as evidenced by facts and figures. He reminded the Board that this organization has not had a rate increase since October 2015 while most utilities have already raised their rates and that Daphne Utilities' rates has remained below the median in both water and sewer across the lower Alabama area. The Chairwoman suggested we coordinate a date to meet to discuss, to which the members agreed.

## **VII. BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mr. Speegle had no new or remaining matters to report but offered to answer any questions the Board may have.

The Chairwoman offered Mayor LeJeune the opportunity to address and inquire about the property issue for the animal shelter expansion. Mayor LeJeune requested that Daphne Utilities donate the property to the City of Daphne and asked what the necessary legal requirements would be to accomplish this. Mr. Speegle suggested getting a property appraisal and noted that the Utilities is prohibited from giving away property for public use, so an equitable payment in some form would be necessary; he offered that in the past, permanent signage or advertising for the Utilities was payment, reiterating that under our statute the Utilities is unauthorized to make charitable contributions to any organization. Mr. Speegle noted that he would work the City Attorney, Mr. Jay Ross, on an agreement and Mayor LeJeune requested Mr. Polk to obtain an appraisal of the subject property. Mr. Billy Mayhand requested to view a plat map of the subject property.

## **VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Finance Specialist Lexus Carlee, reviewed for the Board the revenue figures, expense, and total net income comparing each against the budget figures; she clarified three payments on the Check History Report and offered to answer any questions from the Board members.

## **IX. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **A. GM Report**

General Manager Scott Polk reviewed and updated for the Board: the Project Updates consisting of the I-10/US90 Sewer Line, the new production water well at Diamante, the rehab of Well #2, the WRF tertiary filter and enhanced UV projects, the WRF grit removal system upgrade, the 4<sup>th</sup> Street sewer expansion and the Stanton Road tank rehab; the Areas of Focus involving water quality due to the Stanton Road tank rehab – Mayor LeJeune asked about crediting this affected group through May or until the project is complete. Mr. Polk answered that a review would be conducted of the usage to see if that would be possible, and that daily manual flushing would take place in this area until an automatic flusher can be installed.

Mr. Polk continued and commended Mr. Bobby Purvis for being recognized as the 2021 Community Leader of the Year by Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce; he announced Daphne Utilities' partnership with the South Alabama Workforce Development Council to offer summer internships for rising high school seniors; he pointed out the expiration of the contract with Park City Water Authority in July, noting that with their renewal they will have a slight rate increase. He highlighted the Utilities' participation in the various fundraising runs and marathons as well as with the Baldwin Connect Career Expo.

### **B. Operations Report**

Mr. Purvis expressed his satisfaction with all the projects that have been progressing. He spoke about the Leadership Academy, recognized all the participants and invited the elected member, Mr. Johnny Grimes, to recite what all the members wrote that they had gleaned from the course. Mr. Grimes expressed a collective gratitude for Mr. Bobby Purvis' time in mentoring and presenting this worthwhile course. Mayor LeJeune congratulated the participants and thanked Bobby Purvis for his direction.



## **C. Engineering & Consulting Reports**

**X. BOARD ACTION** – Previously addressed.

### **XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –**

At 5:40pm, the Chairwoman opened Public Participation inviting anyone who wished to address the Board.

Mrs. Joan Scott addressed the Board, giving a history of her experience with brown water at her house in Potters Mill, which was built in 1988, stating that she's never had a problem until December 2020. After speaking with someone at the "water department", she followed instructions by running the water for it to clear. When it happened again in January, she "googled" brown water and decided she needed a new hot water heater, then new piping to the hot water heater. She indicated in May of 2021, Steve Olen attended the Potters Mill Association meeting to talk about the brown water, to which she was surprised to learn it was the water coming from Daphne and not her house. She referenced several other instances of experiencing brown water and relayed it to Steve Olen. She noted that she just wants clean water.

Chairwoman Vaughn impressed upon her to call Daphne Utilities every time it happens in order to piece together the issue. Mrs. Scott asked if it was safe to drink and is it being tested, to which Mr. Purvis noted that it is tested daily throughout the whole system. Mayor LeJeune pointed out that this issue has been ongoing for over a year. Mr. Polk stated that we will have an automatic flusher installed as soon as possible.

Mr. Steve Olen, 437 Village Drive, Daphne; Mr. Olen clarified that as soon as Mrs. Scott emails him, he forwards them to the board members and staff so they are being notified, also stating that the Board and staff received an email from Mr. Robert Brown emphasizing that Mr. Brown does not live next to the Scott's and in fact lives further up a hill in Potters Mill. He pointed out that it is not beneficial for Mrs. Scott to call each time she has brown water or the more than 80 emails that he has forwarded because these customers are frustrated that nothing has happened to fix this problem, even though there has been some improvement. He expressed annoyance that Daphne Utilities considers the problem resolved because there are no complaints. He conveyed that what the group wants is to get what they pay for and they're not getting it; they shouldn't have to repeatedly deal with the same problem in their homes and they need an effective, permanent solution now. He commented that emails are sent to him in order to keep track because it seems Daphne Utilities does not know there is a problem unless someone tells them they have a problem.

Mrs. Scott commented that she was informed to check on Facebook for alerts of this issue; she informed the Board that she does not have Facebook and suggested an alert system.

Mr. Polk responded that Daphne Utilities uses the Everbridge Alert System for water main breaks or flushing alerts as well as posting on social media.

With no additional participants, Chairwoman Vaughn closed Public Participation at 5:54pm.

### **XII. BOARD COMMENTS –**

Mayor LeJeune empathized with Mrs. Scott and the issues she's experienced and specified that he's looking to see staff's long-term solutions. He congratulated Bobby Purvis on his Leadership award as well his dedication to the Daphne Utilities employees.

Councilman Coleman asked about the effectiveness of the automatic flushers and staff answered.

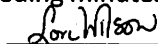
Mr. Billy Mayhand requested to discuss this water quality topic at the work session, listing all solutions that have applied and those solutions that need to be implemented and try to find a solution to this problem.

### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further discussions, the Chairwoman called for adjournment at 6:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Preceding minutes submitted to the Daphne Utilities Board by:



Lori Wilson, Executive Assistant, Daphne Utilities