

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE SEWERAGE COMMISSION - OROVILLE REGION**

(Held at the Commission office on September 29, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.)

1. Call to Order ❖

Vice-Chairman Fairbanks called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call ❖

Commissioners present were Commissioners Fairbanks and Mastelotto from the Lake Oroville Area Public Utility District, Pittman from the City of Oroville (on Zoom), Hatley and Wristen from the Thermalito Water and Sewer District. Staff present was Manager Glen Sturdevant, Plant Supervisor Mikah Salsi, and SC-OR Attorney Scott Huber. Commissioner Reynolds was absent.

3. Salute to the Flag ❖

Plant Supervisor Salsi led Commissioners and staff in the salute to the flag.

4. Acknowledgment of Visitors ❖

None

5. Board Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 25, 2021 ❖

Upon motion by Commissioner Hatley to approve the minutes of the meetings, and second by Commissioner Wristen, the minutes of the August 25, 2021 regular meeting were unanimously approved.

6. Minutes of the Employee Safety Meetings held on August 24 and September 14, 2021 ❖

Upon motion by Commissioner Hatley to approve the minutes of the meetings, and second by Commissioner Wristen, the minutes of the August 24 and September 14, 2021 regular meeting were unanimously approved.

7. Authorization of Warrants ❖

Commissioner Mastelotto met with Manager Sturdevant and checked the warrants, and having found everything to be in order made a motion for their approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hatley. Warrants 26984-27035 in the total amount of \$308,162.04 from August 26 to September 29, 2021, including Commissioner fees and electronic fund transfers, were unanimously approved and ordered paid.

8. Fiscal Reports ❖

Manager Sturdevant stated the fiscal reports for July and August 2021 were in the packets for review. There were no questions and nothing further to report.

9. Possible Date Changes for November and December Meetings ❖

Manager Sturdevant said that every year the board considers moving the November and December meetings so as not to conflict with the holidays. The November meeting can change to November 17 and December 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hatley to the change of dates and times of the November and December meeting. The November meeting will be moved to November 17th at 5:00 pm, and the December meeting will be held on the 15th at 10:00 am. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wristen, and approved by unanimous consensus

10. Resolution 08-21 (Setting the Regional Facility Charge) ❖

Manager Sturdevant reported that every year in September we review the RFC or connection fee to determine if it needs to be raised. This year we feel there should be no change.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hatley to adopt Resolution 08-21 – Setting the Regional Facility Charge; the motion was seconded by Chairman Wristen, and passed by the following vote: Fairbanks – Yes, Hatley – Yes, Pittman – Yes.

Commissioner Wristen asked if keeping it the same is appropriate for SC-OR. Manager Sturdevant said that he believes it is reasonable and does not need to be increased at this time. Attorney Huber said there is some danger in setting the RFC too high. Manager Sturdevant said that the engineers did a study and the \$6,638.00 is what they had determined it should be.

11. Hourly Wage Schedule (Appendix II) ❖

Manager Sturdevant stated that the hourly wage schedule has been adjusted to reflect the cost-of-living allowance of 5.0% effected September 1, 2021. This new wage schedule needs board approval. The actual cost-of-living was 5.6%, but the policy states that the maximum amount for the cost-of-living is 5.0% unless the employees wish to open up negotiations, which they have chosen not to do.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hatley to adopt the updated wage schedule, Appendix II, effective September 1, 2021 with a cost-of-living adjustment of 5.0%; the motion was seconded by Chairman Mastelotto, and passed by the following vote: Fairbanks – Yes, Hatley – Yes, Pittman – Yes.

12. Attorney's Report ❖

Attorney Huber said that he will have a conflict with our December meeting, as he has another client who has their board meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month during the day, which he needs to attend. He will have a colleague attend our meeting.

Commissioner Pittman asked Attorney Huber regarding a letter that the city received concerning Oroville Hospital. Attorney Huber stated that because the hospital provides a service to the public, there is a provision in the government code that allows a private or public company that provides a public service to go out for bonding through a public agency. Oroville Hospital asked the City of Oroville to access tax exempt bonds in the market for them. There is no liability on behalf of the city if there is a default on the bonds. The city received a letter from the Construction Company (Modern Construction) stating that they have demanded that the hospital prove they have the financial ability to pay them for the cost overruns. The bond rating for the hospital was downgraded, and when Modern consider the cost overrun and the downgraded bond rating, that has resulted in them getting nervous, which is why they sent this letter. They have the ability to walk off the project without any financial liability, but they don't want to do that. The hospital has not given them any proof that they are capable of paying their bills. It was asked if this will affect SC-OR. Attorney Huber said that if the hospital has not paid connection fee, the city can refuse to issue an occupancy permit until all fees are paid, including SC-OR's connection fees.

13. Manager's Report ❖

Manager Sturdevant said the influent pump station project is on schedule so far, and we are pretty happy with Gateway Construction.

He reported on the California WaterReuse Conference that he and Plant Supervisor Salsi attended. They found it extremely valuable. While there, they met with the Chairman of the Water Board and told him that SC-OR wants to be a leader in the north state. They also met with the head of Water Resources for California Water Service; Cal Water is in the process of doing audits to find potential reuse or recycled water options for the north state. They were scheduled to do that in 2023, but after our conversation they are moving that to the beginning of 2022 to work with us to see if there are any options for reuse and recycled water use with them.

The biggest thing learned from our conversations is that we will be told "no" many times before we are told "yes", and not to give up.

They made a great contact with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority. They are part of a JPA, and went through an upgrade trying to get to recycle and reuse water as a member of a JPA, so they will be a valuable resource for SC-OR when we get to that point.

They also met with the head of operations for Metropolitan Water, which is the largest water agency in the United States. They are undergoing a \$30 billion dollar project to get all of Southern California on recycle and reuse water. He told them that funding is not an issue; regulations are the issue.

He and Mikah toured the Orange County Water Reuse Plant, and it was amazing. The technology is something that all wastewater plants will be doing within the next 15 to 20 years.

They appreciate that the Board supported them in attending this conference to learn more about what SC-OR needs to do in the future.

A Power point presentation was given showing picture of the influent pump station project progress.

14. Visitor Comments ❖

None

15. Commissioner and Staff Comments

None

16. Closed Session ❖

Adjourned to closed session at 5:35 pm and reconvened to open session at 6:00. Vice-Chair Fairbanks reported that there was an evaluation of the General Manager. There was a motion by Commission Hatley to give Manager Sturdevant a positive review, seconded by Commissioner Mastelotto. The motion passed by the following vote: Fairbanks – Yes, Hatley – Yes, Pittman – Yes.

16. Adjournment ❖

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m. to the continued regular meeting scheduled for October 27, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



GLEN E. STURDEVANT, CLERK