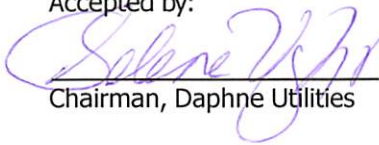


Accepted by:


Chairman, Daphne Utilities



APPROVED MINUTES

Utilities Board Meeting

Council Chambers, Daphne City Hall ♦ July 28, 2021 ♦ 5:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The regular July 2021 Board meeting for the Utilities Board of the City of Daphne was held on July 28, 2021, in the Council Chambers at Daphne City Hall and called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Chairwoman Selena Vaughn, followed by the Roll Call:

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Selena Vaughn, Chairwoman
Tim Patton, Vice Chairman
Billy Mayhand, Secretary/Treasurer
Mayor Robin LeJeune, Board Member
Councilman Doug Goodlin, Board Member

Members Absent:

Others Present: Jerry Speegle – Board Attorney
Scott Polk – General Manager
Bobby Purvis – Operations Manager
Drew Klumpp – Administrative Services Manager
Samantha Coppels – Communications Manager
Rebecca Williamson – Accounting Assistant
Lori Wilson – Executive Assistant

Others Absent: Teresa Logiotatos – Finance 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 June 30, 2021

The Chairwoman requested any additions, corrections, or deletions for the submitted minutes for the June 30, 2021, Daphne Utilities Board meeting.

With no additions, deletions, or corrections, the Chairwoman declared that the submitted June 30th minutes would stand approved.

V. OLD BUSINESS – None

VI. NEW BUSINESS –

A. **Presentation** by Michelle Harrod with Duke’s 360 – Precision I&I Microdetection Study, Manhole Inspections and SL RAT Acoustic Pipeline Inspection

Ms. Michelle Harrod with Duke’s Root Control Inc. introduced herself and gave a presentation to the Board of the results of the SSES Study, which is a different approach to identifying sources of groundwater infiltration and inflow into the sewer collection systems, and also gave a high-level overview of this program. She also answered questions from the Board at the conclusion of her presentation.

B. **COVID-Premium Pay Discussion**

Mr. Scott Polk stated that discussion with legal counsel, as long as Daphne Utilities remained under budget that the General Manager has the authority to give [COVID-Premium Pay] to everyone but himself; the Board would have to take action if they chose to give this to the General Manager. He advised that there is a budget surplus in personnel this year and this premium pay would be under the budget and would also mimic the program the City of Daphne provided for their employees through the American Rescue Plan Act. He explained the reason for the surplus in the personnel budget is due to numerous departments working short-staffed throughout the pandemic, haven’t replaced employees or the employee turn-over is greater than expected, and the managers have done a great job managing with what they have. He answered questions from the Board relating to this proposal.

MOTION by Tim Patton to approve the Incentive Pay and to include the General Manager; Motion was Seconded by Billy Mayhand.

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

VII. BOARD ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Mr. Speegle had no new or remaining matters to report, although he answered questions from the Board.

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT

Rebecca Williamson, Accounting Technician, substituted for Finance Manager Teresa Logiotatos; Mr. Polk mentioned that we were over budget for revenue as well as under budget for expenses.

IX. GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

A. **GM Report**

General Manager Scott Polk updated the Board on: the production water well at Diamante and the legal easement with Alabama Power; the Daphmont area natural gas line upgrade and replacements is nearly complete; the issues at the WRF with the reduced size of the UV chamber has caused some problems during some of the rains; the grit study has been paid for and close to being complete; no changes with the Rigsby Road Sewer Expansion; an August start date for the Douglas Road Water Tank Expansion project is planned.

He also mentioned, in regard to the Diamante well, that the well-drillers are backed up and not sure when this will be accomplished.

Mr. Polk pointed out in the Areas of Focus the importance of finding a solution to the water quality in Olde Towne Daphne area and gave an update of on-going treatments. He also answered questions from Board members.

Lastly, he noted that he has had no further communication with D.R. Horton regarding any opportunity to push gas mains through at Jubilee Farms.

B. Operations Report

Operations Manager, Mr. Bobby Purvis, recognized Larry English, [Daphne Utilities] water quality manager, for his hard work that he commits to our water quality, and Goeff Wilkins, [Daphne Utilities water reclamation facility manager] for discovering the Dukes' study and recognizing the benefits Daphne Utilities could gain from it. He also recognized Antonio Winston, [Daphne Utilities' maintenance manager] and his valuable support of the entire Utility.

C. Engineering & Consulting Reports

Mrs. Melinda Immel with Volkert gave an update on the Douglas Road Tank Expansion regarding material delays. She also confirmed Mr. Polk's statement that well-drillers' availability is booked through the end of the year, also resulting in a delay of project bids.

Mr. Robbie Strom with GMC gave a further update of projects: the bid package and design for Well #15; and the Grit Study Removal at the WRF.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – at 6:01 pm the Chairwoman opened the floor for Public Participation.

Mr. Steve Olen, (Daphne City) Councilman for District 2, addressed the Board to reiterate his comments at the previous Board meeting that Daphne Utilities says that the root cause of the brown water problem was Well #13 and noted that the long-term solution was to take Well #13 offline. He stated that the obvious problem with that solution is that the brown water problem existed for a number of years prior to Well #13 came on-line in 2017, which Daphne Utilities and many District 2 citizens are aware of this fact.

He noted all kinds of comments posted on Facebook, which he perceived that Daphne Utilities is aware of those comments. He quoted a Facebook comment from Daphne Utilities as "if we don't receive calls, crews are under the impression that the projects in Olde Town Daphne are working." He remarked that Daphne Utilities is 100% responsible for the brown water these customers are getting and continue to get, and suggested that Daphne Utilities is attempting to lay the responsibility to the customers, calling them victims, only by being made aware of a problem if they [customers] tell Daphne Utilities about it. He stated that these customers have complained and complained for years and years and years to Daphne Utilities with no resolution and no change and they are worn out, likening Daphne Utilities' position that if the Utilities' doesn't hear about it, the problem doesn't exist, and that is comparable to sticking your head in the sand like they [Utilities] did before a certain councilman started coming to these meetings several months ago and pointing out that there were many complaints. He stated that he thought it was "ridiculous for Daphne Utilities to try to flip this on these victims and say it's their responsibility to tell y'all about a problem that you're having".

Lastly Mr. Olen commented, even after mentioning this on several different occasions, on the lack of Daphne Utilities to implement any kind of relief, assistance or program to help these Olde

Towne Daphne customers that are getting the brown water in their home while working on a solution, long-term or otherwise.

Chairwoman Vaughn invited any other attendees to address the Board.

With no additional participants, Chairwoman Vaughn closed Public Participation at 6:05 pm.

XI. BOARD ACTION – Previously addressed.

XII. BOARD COMMENTS –

Councilman Goodlin had no comments.

Mr. Billy Mayhand had no comments.

Mr. Tim Patton had no comments.

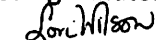
Mayor LeJeune commented that he appreciated Daphne Utilities assisting in the July 10th Daphmont and Olde Towne Daphne Community Spirit Day and cooking hotdogs for the community. He conveyed it was a good event.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussions, the Chairwoman called for adjournment at 6:06pm.

The meeting adjourned at 6:06pm.

Preceding minutes submitted to the Daphne Utilities Board by:



Lori Wilson, Executive Assistant, Daphne Utilities