

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FAIRFIELD JOINT WATER SEWER SYSTEM  
JANUARY 31, 2023**

**Present:** John McMeekin, Doug Pauley, Jason Taylor, Laura Johnson, Commissioners.

**Absent:** Kyle Crager, Donald Prioleau, Robert Arndt. (Mr. Crager joined the meeting by phone but did not participate in voting.)

**Others Present:** C.D. Rhodes, Patti L. Davis, Scott Elliott.

The Fairfield Joint Water Sewer Service met in regular session on January 31, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Midlands Technical College Fairfield Campus. In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (e), as amended, the following persons and/or organizations have been notified of the time, date and location of this meeting: The Independent Voice of Blythewood and Fairfield, The Country Chronicle and other individuals associated with distribution lists for the Town of Winnsboro and Fairfield County.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. McMeekin called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Item #3, the swearing in of the members, was moved to #2 in order to have the Commission properly sworn in.

**2. SWEARING IN OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES, CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE AND TOWN OF WINNSBORO REPRESENTATIVES**

The secretary performed the swearing in of Doug Pauley, Laura Johnson, John McMeekin and Jason Taylor. All members then took their seats as members of the Fairfield Joint Water Sewer System. Mr. Crager was not present and will be sworn in at the next meeting. Mr. McMeekin then welcomed everyone in attendance tonight along with the new Commissioners.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion made by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Pauley, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried unanimously 4-0.***

**4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Rhodes stated the officers of the Commission are elected at the beginning of each calendar year. The officers comprise of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and a Secretary. All officers, with the exception of the secretary, must be a member of the Commission. Mrs. Davis has graciously served as the Secretary since the Commission was formed. The floor can be opened for nominations, and there could be a slate of officers or each position can be

taken up individually. Mr. McMeekin asked for Mr. Rhodes to review the By-Laws for what was originally intended, including that originally there were five members to the Commission with two from the Town, two from the County and one citizen representative. The Mayor was suggested to be the Chairman, the Chairman of County Council was suggested to be the Vice-Chairman and the Town Manager was suggested to serve as the Treasurer. Mr. Rhodes apologized that he had not reviewed the By-Laws prior to the meeting. Mr. McMeekin stated this is not set in stone, but has historically been handled this way. Mr. Rhodes agreed in that Dr. Gaddy served as the original Chairman when the Commission started, and Mr. McMeekin has been serving as the second Chairman. The County's appointee, whether it be the Chairman or a member of Council, has historically been the Vice-Chairman. Mr. Taylor has always served as the Treasurer when he was the County Administrator and now the Town Manager. None of this is set in stone, and any of the Commissioners can serve in any of these three roles. Mr. Rhodes stated from his perspective, it generally makes sense for politicians to serve as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and it makes sense for one of the professionals to serve as the Treasurer since this is more of a "boots on the ground" type of position. As the finances of the Joint Systems are built out over the coming months, the Treasurer position will become more important. The Vice-Chairman will definitely need to be replaced as that member is no longer on the Commission, and it would be up to the Commission if it wishes to move forward with a slate or individual positions. Mr. McMeekin opened the floor for a motion either for individuals or a slate of officers. Commissioner Taylor nominated as a slate, Patti Davis to continue serving as Secretary, Mayor McMeekin to continue serving as Chairman, Mr. Pauley serving as Vice-Chairman and he will step up again and serve as Treasurer. Mr. Rhodes stated this has traditionally been done by a slate of officers. Commissioner Taylor's motion was seconded by Commissioner Pauley. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of October 25, 2022. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

#### **6. APPROVAL OF 2023 MEETING DATES**

Chairman McMeekin stated there is a single sheet of paper listing the regular meeting dates along with a calendar listing all Town Council, County Council and Ridgeway meeting dates in order to plan going forward. This Commission is extraordinarily important for this County, and he wants everyone to be able to attend the meetings. Mr. Rhodes stated there will be a number of business matters the Commission will need to attend to in the month of February and early March. He believes it would be prudent to have a couple of meetings in February and also March in order to get these business matters out of the way

and move onto the larger strategic issues that ultimately have to be addressed. Discussion then ensued concerning these meetings dates, including alternate dates. The dates for the special called meetings were agreed to tentatively be February 15 and March 23. Motion made by Commissioner Pauley, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to approve the 2023 Meeting Dates. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

**7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS (D&O) INSURANCE POLICY**

Chairman McMeekin stated this is something he has searched around the United States, South Carolina and Georgia for an appropriate individual to discuss this matter with. A meeting was held with an individual yesterday, and he will be getting back to us with a premium. They want to be sure that the insurance declaration of the policy of the Town has no overlap. There will be another meeting once this information is known. Mr. Taylor stated the search began with the traditional parties that insure public entities, such as the County Association, the Municipal Association and the Insurance Reserve Fund. These are more typical insurers of governmental organizations; however, they do not provide insurance for special purpose districts. Therefore, we must look to the private sector to provide insurance for this particular body. Chairman McMeekin stated looking into the private sector for this, we must be extraordinarily careful what insurance company is used. As this evolves, the Insurance Reserve Fund may be looked into for certain things. Before determination of action items can be made, the D&O Insurance needs to be in place. Mr. Taylor further stated the members of this Commission are covered under the insurance as they act on behalf of the Town or the County, but here, decisions are being made on behalf of this new entity, which means the members might not be covered by the existing coverage under the Town and the County. There must initially be coverage for the decisions that are made and not the assets the Joint System has as it does not yet have assets. The Commission has to get to the point where there is insurance for the assets and other liabilities. Motion made by Commissioner Pauley, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, for Commissioner Taylor and Chairman McMeekin to proceed with locating D&O Insurance. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

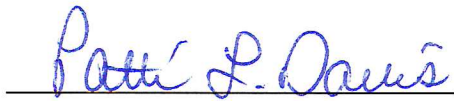
**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (The following statement is provided in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act: Subsequent to Executive Session, the Commission may take action on matters discussed in Executive Session.)**

At 6:27 p.m., it was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Pauley, to go into executive session for (A) Contractual/Legal Matter: Discussion Incident to the Negotiation of Contractual Arrangements Pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2). ***The motion carried 4-0.***

At 7:43 p.m., it was moved by Commissioner Pauley, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to come out of executive session and return to regular session. **The motion carried 4-0.** All discussion in executive session was taken as information only.

**9. ADJOURN**

At 7:44 p.m., it was moved by Commissioner Pauley, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to adjourn. **The motion carried unanimously 4-0.**



PATTI L. DAVIS  
SECRETARY



JOHN MCMEEKIN  
CHAIRMAN