

Denton Utility Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2024

4:00PM

- I. Mr. Woomer called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM and thanked all that were in attendance.
- II. Those in attendance were Leroy Woomer, Lee Tillery, Adam Jones, Scott Hollingsworth, Scott Getchell, Mark Chandler, Don Mulrine, and Councilperson Lister.
- III. Minutes for January 24, 2024, meeting was approved on motion by Mr. Hollingsworth and seconded by Mr. Woomer. No discussion and unanimously approved.
- IV. Open Issues
 - a. **Waterworth** – Mr. Getchell reported that this new service is a work in progress with data still being input to produce analysis of the current state of financial picture and future need.
 - b. **Water Main Replacement Project** – Mr. Getchell mentioned the progress update regarding Franklin Street. The town is hoping the project will be wrapped up by April 2024.
 - c. **Water/Sewer Extensions (ARPA Funding)** – Mr. Getchell noted that there has been a lot of progress. The contractor broke a section of the WWTP effluent pipe located by the Denton Elementary School. The pipe was repaired on the same day. The event was reported to MDE. So far, only sewer installations have been completed.
 - d. **Water & Sewer Budgets** – Mr. Getchell reported that budget preparations are underway now for FY25 and it is a work in progress.
 - e. **Simple Fiber** – Mr. Getchell noted that Simple Fiber is actively installing additional fiber throughout the town. No additional updates from the last meeting.
 - f. **Natural Gas Discussion** – No new updates.
 - g. **Water System Redundancy** – Mr. Womer requested an explanation of the backups in place on the water system to prevent a total system failure. Mr. Getchell explained that the town monitors and tests the water system daily to prevent future interruptions. Mr. Getchell feels very strongly that we

have adequate monitoring and preventative maintenance in place to prevent failure.

h. **Other Open Issues** - None

V. New Business

a. **Third Pillar Floating Solar** – A representative from Third Pillar presented a floating solar installation concept for the WWTP. The concept of the system is to install a floating solar array on the town's wastewater storage lagoons. The total area of the lagoons is 6 acres, and the town would lease the area to Third Pillar. The solar array would produce 3.66 megawatts of electricity DC and 2.75 megawatts of electricity AC. The lease would be a 6-year lease at \$30k per year with a 2% escalator and a \$15k one time payment to the town up front. The life expectancy on the panels is 35 years and there would be a bond put up after several years that would be in place if needed for removal of the equipment. In addition to annual payment the town would receive some electricity benefits from Delmarva power (the electric tie in for the power) and Third Pillar would also extend some of the savings to customers of Delmarva Power. After the presentation the commission made a recommendation to proceed with the installation and to proceed to the Town Council for final approval. There was a motion by Mr. Jones with a Second by Mr. Hollingsworth, unanimously approved.

b. **Other New Business** – No other new business.

VI. Adjournment

a. Motion to adjourn by Mr. Hollingsworth, Second by Mr. Jones. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Jones, Secretary