

Denton Utility Commission
Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2026

4:00 PM

I. Mr. Woomer called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM and thanked all who were in attendance.

II. Those in attendance were Councilperson Dallas Lister, Leroy Woomer, Ann Jacobs, Scott Getchell, and Annette Wales.

III. Approval of the July and September meeting minutes (October meeting).

IV. Open Issues

- a. **Sludge Management Update:** Mr. Getchell stated that the project is still in the design phase and that this process could be ongoing for another year. Discussions regarding the precise placement of the new building are progressing well and the project remains on schedule.
- b. **Fiber Optic Broadband:** No updates.
- c. **Lead Line Inventory and Replacement:** There has been no communication regarding \$3 million in funds for Lead Line replacement although the Town of Denton was on MDE's approved project list to receive the funding. In the meantime, lead line replacement will continue, as concerns and leaks necessitate.
- d. **Secretary Position:** Annette Wales agreed to serve as Secretary. The vote was unanimous.
- e. **Other Issues:** Mr. Getchell will review and update an old evaluation conducted in the early 2000s to study the proposed expansion of the wastewater treatment plant. The study will review costs and opportunities associated with a potential expansion. Discussion ensued regarding current ERU capacity.

V. **New Business**

- a. **Talkie Proposal:** Mr. Getchell stated that the proposed system was tested elsewhere and was successful. It is a wireless connection rather than cable or fiber, and there are no known competitors offering the exact same service. The company will need to complete engineering and permitting and requested the Commission's consensus before moving forward. There will be no cost to the Town. By unanimous consensus, the Commission agreed to move forward with the installation of equipment on two water towers. Mr. Getchell will oversee the project and the lease agreements.
- b. **WWTP Performance:** Mr. Getchell stated he has implemented a corrective action plan at the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) to improve overall compliance and performance. Items that are critical to daily operations are old and have created

deficiencies in equipment operations. Mr. Getchell has identified a way to fund approximately \$30,000 in equipment purchases to begin upgrading these outdated items and believes the changes will bring operational parameters into compliance by the end of the year. The latest results are where they should be, and an all-hands-on-deck approach has helped turn the situation around swiftly. This has required significant hard work and dedication from WWTP staff.

- c. **Plant Manager Retirement:** Recruitment for the position of plant manager is underway because the current plant manager is retiring.

VI. **Adjournment:** Ms. Jacobs made a motion to adjourn, and Secretary Annette Wales seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Wales, Secretary