

# HILTON HEAD NO.1 PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT

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## MINUTES COMMISSION MEETING SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

**I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Frank Turano at 9:00 a.m.**

**II. Those in attendance were:**

Mr. Frank Turano	Chair
Mr. Jerry Cutrer	Vice Chair
Mr. Stuart Bell	Treasurer
Mrs. Patti Soltys	Secretary
Mr. Andy Paterno	Commissioner
Mr. Ibrahim Abdul-Malik	Commissioner
Mr. Michael Marks (via Zoom)	Commissioner

Present by request:

Mr. Pete Nardi	General Manager
Mr. Bill Davis	Operations Manager
Ms. Amy Graybill	Finance Manager
Mr. Ryan Lewis	IT/GIS Manager
Atty. John Wilkins	Coltrane & Wilkins
Ms. Connie Whitehead	Commission Recording Secretary
Ms. Amy Vitner	First Tryon Advisors

Visitors:

Mr. Herbert Ford  
Mr. Morris Campbell  
Mr. Taiwan Scott

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Frank Turano led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

None

## **V. Adoption of Draft Minutes of the August 23, 2023, Regular Commission Meeting**

### Action

- Mrs. Soltys moved to adopt the minutes of the August 23, 2023, regular meeting as presented. Mr. Paterno seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VI. GO Debt and Benchmarking Review**

### Key Discussion Points

- As part of the FY'24 budget, staff identified a list of capital projects to potentially be funded by a GO debt issuance. The board adopted the budget and, in July 2023, adopted a resolution to petition Beaufort County to approve the District to issue GO Debt in an amount not exceeding \$23,000,000, which represents the amount of the statutory GO debt limit as of FY'22. The petition is pending third reading on Oct. 9.
- The PSD's SCIIP grant projects are due to go to bid in early 2024. Once the bids are received, staff will finalize a proposed project list for the GO debt issuance and work with the District's financial advisors and bond counsel to propose a final funding plan, including determining how much of these projects, if any, should be funded from cash reserves versus through the GO debt issuance. Once the funding plan is approved, the District's bond counsel will prepare the appropriate bond resolutions for Commission approval and the District's financial advisors will seek competitive bids for the issuance.
- In preparation for this issuance, Ms. Amy Vitner of First Tryon Advisors gave a presentation on the PSD's current debt position, the potential impact should the PSD utilize the entire \$23,000,000, and a review of the District's benchmarks in relation to other S.C. water and sewer utilities. A copy of the PowerPoint is included in the agenda packet.

## **VII. Commission Redistricting**

### Key Discussion Points

- The S.C. Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA) has created a draft map of new PSD Commission voting districts based on passage of Act 93 of 2023. Staff presented the map and sought input from the Commission in order to seek any changes to the draft map on the part of RFA.
- The draft map has set the population of each voting district to approximately 3,500 people. The RFA can produce one or two more revised drafts. A final map must be approved prior to the November 2024 general election.
- Mr. Cutrer presented a draft list of goals for the board to consider when redrawing the map:
  - Single member districts
  - Compliance with federal and state requirements
  - Transparent process with public input
  - Deviation of less than +/- 5% in target of 3,606 per district

- To the extent possible
  - Contiguous districts
  - Create geographically compact districts
  - Preserve existing neighborhood representation
  - Maximize opportunity for a minority represented district (Black/Hispanic)
- The Commission discussed their thoughts on the current draft map:
  - Mr. Turano: He feels the map should allow commissioners to represent the bulk of their area while staying within the population goals.
  - Mr. Cutrer: If any commissioners are not seeking re-election, they should communicate that privately to the GM, since these maps are drawn with current commissioners in mind. Also, he plans to move to The Cypress and would like to see District 4 include The Cypress community.
  - Mr. Bell: Indigo Run is a very connected community but is being split by the current map. The map should preserve neighborhoods where possible.
  - Mrs. Soltys: A section of Port Royal is divided into a different district. It makes more sense to include whole communities. She supports revising the map to allow commissioners to represent their own community, but not necessarily for the purpose of accommodating a particular individual.
  - Mr. Paterno: He is comfortable with the map, particularly his district which remains largely intact.
  - Mr. Abdul-Malik: He is not overly concerned with the current draft but will seek input from his community.
  - Mr. Marks: He has no concerns, but would support the change Mr. Cutrer is seeking, which would allow his district to include The Cypress.
- The Board decided to hold a public work session in October prior to the board meeting to allow an opportunity for public input regarding revision of the draft map.
- Mr. Ford, former commissioner and resident of current Voting District 1, commended the Board for holding this discussion in open session rather than executive session, as it's critical to have public perspective. He provided the American Civil Liberties Union's principles as they relate to redistricting. He emphasized: one person, one vote; continuity; communities of interest; and constituent consistency. He stated that, while the current maps were designed with the communities of interest in mind, the new draft map degrades minority representation of what is now District 1. He urged the Commission to advertise public meetings on redistricting through more than just the usual forums. Mrs. Soltys asked for Mr. Ford's recommendation on how the lines should be drawn to ensure representation. Mr. Ford's opinion is that District 1 should remain the same, but the line can be drawn in a way that retains the minority members while removing the majority to keep the count at the 3,600 people population goal.
- Mr. Morris Campbell addressed the board. He supported Mr. Ford's comments and also commended the board for holding this discussion in open session. He said that the best interest of the community should supersede the personal interest of any individual commissioner.

- Mr. Taiwan Scott addressed the board. He was present as president of the local chapter of the National Action Network. He is a plaintiff in the federal redistricting case against Congressional District 1, which will go before the Supreme Court Oct. 11. He stressed to the board that the minority community must be able to elect representation. He urged the board to keep the redistricting process as open as possible and that the maps be drawn as equitably as possible. He said that representation of the people should be priority over individuals, and that commissioners wishing to represent a particular area should consider relocating to that area.

### **VIII. General Manager's Monthly Report**

#### Key Discussion Points

- Mr. Nardi presented the General Manager's Monthly Report. A copy is included in the agenda packet.
- Mr. Bill Davis gave a presentation to more than 90 utility staff members at the S.C. Rural Water Association's Lowcountry section meeting in Orangeburg last month. He discussed the PSD's hurricane preparedness and response protocols and our response to Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

### **IX. New Business**

None

### **X. Executive Session**

#### Key Discussion Points

- Mr. Cutrer moved to enter into executive session for the purpose of receiving legal advice on proposed sale or purchase of property related to the PSD SCIIP projects. Mr. Paterno seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Executive session began at 11:16 a.m.

### **XI. Regular Session Reconvened**

#### Action

- Regular session reconvened at 11:45 a.m.

### **XII. Adjournment**

#### Action

- The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.