

A MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BAMBERG BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS ON MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2023, AT 5:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Buzzy Bunch, Commissioner Bo Griffin, Commissioner Craig Walker and Manager Gregg Griffin. VISITORS: John Taylor, Timmy Wilson, Randall Maxwell, Victor Johnson and Camden Kittrell.

Chairman Bunch called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Commissioner Walker made the Motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2023, meeting to be amended at a later date if needed. Commissioner Griffin made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

Commissioner Walker made the motion to approve the financials reports for February to be amended at a later date if necessary. Commissioner Griffin made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

Manager Griffin asked Chairman Bunch for permission to move Item 4 of the Agenda below Item 6 to allow for better flow as he moves into the Manager's Report. Commissioner Griffin made the Motion to move Item 4 after Item 6 on the Agenda. Commissioner Walker made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

Manager Griffin informed the Commissioners that he felt the timing was such that the Board needed to do a deep dive into reviewing rates and consumption patterns. Manager Griffin said in light of that he would like to engage an outside consultant to perform a rate study. Manager Griffin said the Board has previously engaged Navillas Utility Consulting. Manager Griffin stated that he would like to get the Board's approval to move forward with pursuing a study on all the commodities.

Manager Griffin said there was many things going on from a technical perspective to enhance the deliverable interface that the customer sees and help them better understand their accounts. Manger Griffin asked Camden Kittrell to present a Power Point regarding Sensys' Customer Portal. Mr. Kittrell explained the purpose of the customer portal and demonstrated the features and the benefits it would provide to customers in monitoring their monthly consumption. Mr. Kittrell provided examples of instances in which the Board was able to help customers identify problems within their homes, as well as provide the customer with times and dates of usage.

Manager Martin asked Victor Johnson for an update on progress on meter change outs. Mr. Johnson informed Commissioners that 1770 electric meters are installed and 126 remain to be installed with residential meters being completed. Mr. Johnson said supplies are still coming in. Mr. Johnson said 327 gas meters had been installed so far and he hoped to start installing more now that the temperature were warming. Mr. Johnson said Tuesdays and Thursdays have been



dedicated to water meter change outs and there are about 200 meters to still be installed. Mr. Kittrell explained that electrical components were difficult to obtain due to the chip shortage. Mr. Kittrell said the larger utility companies tend to get supplies first and that has delayed some of the change outs.

Commissioner Walker asked what was the time frame for customers to be able to use the portal to monitor their usage. Mr. Kittrell stated that the Board does not currently have that part of the interface package, but customers are able to call the Board or come in and the customer service representatives are able to check consumptions. Commissioner Walker said he would like to see this interface in place for customers to check on their usage beforehand. Commissioner Walker said he would like to see the rate study done to see where the Board stands and if the Board rates are in line with other utilities. Victor Johnson further elaborated on the system's ability to alert the Board of any problems with water leaks and high temps on electric meters which allows them to meet with the customer and inform them of problems that may affect their usage. Manager Griffin said the technology is there and the capabilities of the system to assist customers, and the Board is working toward having this technology there for the customer. Commissioner Walker asked if the customer can see the graph that Mr. Kittrell presented when they come to City Hall with a question about their bill. Mr. Kittrell said the customer service representative can show them that information. Randy Maxwell asked if he could speak. Mr. Maxwell stated he had an issue with a water leak and it was on his side and told him within seconds how much water had been used and at what time. Timmy Wilson said as a customer service representative he is able to look at your account and see an average and see even from that the possibility of a leak and then look at Sensys and confirm the leak.

Commissioner Griffin made a Motion to engage in a rate study for a review of the Board's rates. Commissioner Walker made the second. All approved. The Motion carried.

There was no executive session.

#### MANAGER REPORT

Manager Griffin congratulated Camden Kittrell on his election to the Board of Directors for SCRWA. Manager Griffin stated that the crews had been very busy month. Manager Griffin informed Commissioners that the Board has been dealing with the SCAT Park and the Consent Order involving Swiss Krono. Manager Griffin stated that unfortunately Swiss Krono has been sending bad batches of sludge and wastewater which has caused problems. Manager Griffin said they have been meeting with DHEC and some new officials. Manager Griffin asked Camden Kittrell for a further explanation. Mr. Kittrell stated under the Consent Order 2020 which involved wastewater parameters which were broken due to some materials Swiss Krono had sent to the Board. Mr. Kittrell said in 2023 the Board has had some DMRs with PH violations and resulted in the Board receiving an enforcement letter. Mr. Kittrell said this industry has had problems with construction that they are trying to correct along with Swiss Krono. Manager Griffin said the landscapers are working at City Hall, a painter has been contracted and the lettering has been ordered for City Hall and the warehouse.



Manager Griffin also called Commissioners attention to the South Carolina Regional Development Alliance and the ownership aspect of the spray fields at the SCAT park. Manager Griffin said on a positive note, a possible industry has asked if the Board has capacity to handle them at the SCAT Park. Manger Griffin stated however, that unfortunately with the issues involving Swiss Krono, the Board could not handle another industry at the SCAT Park at this time.

Manager Griffin said he is planning on having some summer internships on the human resources side and still actively recruiting for customer service positions, water technician, GIS laborer and possibly a lineman. Manager Griffin said the Board received a \$5,800 credit on the Workers Compensation audit and \$33,000 on the auction items. Manager Griffin also proposed a fire hydrant painting contest for citizens to paint hydrants around town. Manager Griffin said there was a meeting with Patricia Izlar to discuss off loading the bank statements beginning May 1.

Manager Griffin asked Victor Johnson for an update on the pump station on Dickerson Street. Mr. Johnson said the pump was refurbished for \$25,000.00. Mr. Johnson said the pump had been down due to excessive use of non-flushable wipes. After writing letters and meeting with the nursing homes, they have reduced the amount of wipes tremendously.

Chairman Bunch asked for questions from the press or audience. Randy Maxwell asked if he heard correctly that the Board could not handle any new industry. Manager Griffin stated that the Board could not handle any new industry at this time at the SCAT Park due to the issues with Swiss Krono. Manager Griffin said there was plenty of capacity in the City of Bamberg for industry at this time. John Taylor asked would the applications for the fire hydrant painting going out to everyone. Manager Griffin said he had just received the information before the meeting but they would get the word out to the public.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk

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Chairman-BPW

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Commissioner-BPW

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Commissioner-BPW