

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Commission of the Combined Utility System
held at the office of the Combined Utility
System on Monday, November 11th, 2024.

The meeting was called to order with all commissioners present. Also present were Andy Sevic, General Manager, Ginnye Lusk, Administrative Assistant, Tripp Martin, Finance Manager, and Alex Dye, Operations Engineer. Also present were Robin Gore with Powdersville Water District, and Brad and Katherine Elrod with Seeker Solutions LLC.

The minutes of the meeting of October 14, 2024, were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Jeff Fogle, with a second by Nick Caldwell. The motion passed unanimously.

October invoices were reviewed by Nick Caldwell. The sales report and financial report for the month of October were reviewed. For the month of October, electric sales were 5.12% above budget. Water and sewer sales were below budget by 10.40% and 9.84% respectively. These reports were taken as information only.

The commission was given a Hurricane Helene status update. Flow statistics from all three wastewater treatment plants were reviewed and showed that each exceeded their maximum gallons per day limit. Staff continues to assess and work on lessons learned from the storm, as well as gather data for FEMA. This item was taken as information only.

Katherine Elrod, from Seeker Solutions LLC, provided the commission with a marketing presentation outlining their vision for ECU for the upcoming year. Highlighted goals were community conversations and education, customer engagement, and employee ownership. The presentation included an outline of strategies, opportunities, and action items which will be delivered through digital marketing, social media and content creation. This item was taken as information only.

The commission was presented with a request for sewer service outside city limits. Parcel number 5038-11-65-1725 is a single parcel off Sheffield Road near Red Berry Lane. If approved, it is likely that additional parcels will be served and there is potential for construction and installation of a force main and pump station at the expense of the landowners. Eric Goodwin made a motion to accept the request so long as the service was gravity fed. Nick Caldwell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The commission was presented with a consideration of the 2025 employee health insurance renewal and contributions. The Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA) notified employers of an 11.8% increase in employer premiums only. There is no employee increase or load factor for ECU. With no load factor, the overall premium increase is approximately 5%. Retiree and COBRA premiums are the same as PEBA's published rates. The premium for retirees that retired with 25 years at ECU and were 60 years old at retirement remains at \$125 monthly. Charges for the spouse are the incremental cost between Retiree/Spouse and Retiree only coverage. It was recommended that ECU continue to deposit monies into a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) in 2025 but with an increase as reflected below for each eligible employee.

Employee \$500
Employee/Spouse \$1,000
Employee/Child \$1,000
Family \$1,500

Nick Caldwell made a motion to adopt the recommended changes with a second by Eric Goodwin. The motion passed unanimously.

In other business:

1. Charitable contributions will be made as follows:
 - a. United Christian Ministries - \$25,000
 - b. Share - \$25,000
 - c. Samaritan Health Clinic - \$15,000
 - d. Meals on Wheels - \$15,000
2. The watershed management report was reviewed. The full watershed report is attached to and incorporated in with these minutes.
3. ECU completed its inventory of all water service lines that may contain lead in accordance with the US Environmental Protection Agency. Letters were mailed to customers whose lines were determined to be made from galvanized materials. The letter included EPA's requirements, how to reduce lead exposure, and an FAQ.
4. The GM gave a recap of the PMPA planning retreat.
5. There was an inquiry about an EV charging station.

There were no items for executive session.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, December 9, 2024.



Eric Goodwin, Chairman



Jeff R. Eogle, Commissioner



Nick Caldwell, Commissioner