

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
CITY/COUNTY UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2003

At its regularly scheduled monthly meeting, the Utility Commission agenda included 11 items.

The meeting began with the Commission approving a sewer line extension project that will provide service for 31 citizens on Pineview Drive and Cecil Drive. A total of 3,676 feet of sewer main will be extended to provide service for this project. Originally, this project was brought before the Commission at the January 13 meeting, but was referred back to staff in order for the Forsyth County Department of Health to assess the situation. The County Health Department has determined that sewer line installation is a necessity as a matter of public health. This project will be constructed for an estimated cost of \$310,800.

Preliminary agreements with developers were approved for four projects where water and sewer facilities will be dedicated to the Utility Commission. These improvements are valued at \$501,980.00 and will provide service for 169 new water and sewer customers. A total of 14,970 feet of water and sewer main will be extended to provide water and/or sewer service for these projects. One developer will be eligible for a refund in the estimated amount of \$21,300.00, which will be collected from new customers as they connect to the water and sewer mains.

Main Line extension projects under the City/County Utility Commission (CCUC) Feasibility Plan totaling \$131,360.00 were awarded to provide water service in the following residential areas of Forsyth County: Bannertown Church Road, Springdale Place, and Waggoner Avenue. A total of 3,064 feet of water main will be extended to provide service for 20 water customers in existing residential areas. Each project will be constructed once the customers have paid their required capital charges.

On March 12, 2001, the Commission purchased the sanitary sewer system from Carolina Water, Inc., in Sequoia Place. Since that time, Carolina Water has been unable to obtain the easements from the property owners. Therefore, the Commission purchased the easements in order to complete the agreement with Carolina Water, Inc., in the amount of \$4,570.00. All costs associated with this purchase will be borne by Carolina Water Inc.

The Commission approved the purchase of a second easement for \$41,000.00. The land will be used as an access point for construction of the Abbotts Creek Outfall.

The Commission awarded one contract totaling \$559,287.00 to provide for improvements to the City's water distribution system along Virgilina Avenue, Glenn Avenue, Baron Lane, Wiley Avenue, Kirkwood Street, Craig Street, Gaston Street, Capistrano Court, Keswick Court, Lilian Court and Lorelei Court. This project was a previously approved feasibility project and the customers have subsequently paid their required capital charges.

A contract for the purchase of brass fittings was awarded to National Waterworks, Inc., in the amount of \$24,269.44 and Miller Supply Co., Inc., in the amount of \$143,158.80. The product will be used for water main connection repairs.

The Commission awarded a contract to Reynolda Electric Co., Inc., for the installation of the standby generator at the R. A. Thomas Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$396,637.50. The generators were purchased in October 2003 and will supply emergency power for the treatment plant, the existing pump station and the new pump station once it's constructed.

A contract was awarded to Southeast Environmental Construction, Inc., for the replacement of the Lyons Street, Commerce Street and Broad Street Pump Stations in the amount of \$220,300.00. The original budget estimate only provided for changing out equipment at these stations. A review determined that in order to comply with state mandated requirements, detailed engineering plans were needed for replacing these pump stations.

An agreement with P. F. Plumbing Contractors, Inc., was amended to include additional sewer lines to maximize the amount of grant and loan monies awarded for the Walkertown Sewer System. The additional cost of this work is estimated at \$660,107.11. Walkertown will reimburse the Commission for costs associated with this sewer project as per the previously executed agreement between the Commission and the Town of Walkertown.

A contract previously awarded to North Davidson Construction, Inc., for improvements to the water distribution system was amended to add Sauratown Road. The additional line will be installed at a cost of \$31,011.32.

The Commission approved an amended agreement with The Wooten Company to design additional sewer line footage for the Town of Walkertown Sewer System. This additional footage will allow full usage of the grant funding received from the Rural Economic Development Center and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The additional design cost to expand the project limits is \$61,000.00.

An agreement was approved by the Commission with Piedmont Natural Gas (PNG) in the amount of \$128,497.52 to provide the heating fuel source to the Northwest Water Treatment Plant. The initial recommendation was to use propane gas. However, after additional calculations due to varying natural gas and propane fuel prices, it has been determined that the better choice is to use natural gas from PNG.

On January 2, 2003, the Town of Kernersville passed a resolution whereby the Town has requested that the Commission agree to “freeze” the sewer rate established in the 1995 Agreement between the Town and the Commission, at the 2002-2003 level. According to the Agreement, these rates are scheduled to decrease over the next two years. The Town has asked that the difference between the frozen rate and the lower future rate be set aside in a special account to be used by the Town to pay for costs associated with the expansion of the Town’s utility system. The Town has acknowledged that they are financially responsible for the costs of any system expansion that are over and above the funds derived from the rates charged as per the Agreement.

In other business, the Commission approved changes to the water and sewer policy resolutions amending authority to the City/County Utilities Director to execute agreements extending water and sewer to developments. The original policy involves the approval of an agreement by the Commission and authorizes the Assistant City Manager of Public Works to sign the agreement on behalf of the Commission. The proposed change would allow the Director to sign on behalf of the Commission and Assistant City Manager of Public Works effective immediately.

John Isham of Delta Environmental (consultant to HDR, Inc.) made a presentation to the Commission assessing the corrective measures to groundwater impacts at the Hanes Mill Road Landfill. As a result of the presentation, a public meeting was set for March 25, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at the Northwest Middle School. The groundwater assessment report will be available for viewing at the Winston-Salem Downtown Central Library and the Rural Hall Library by February 21.

The Utility Commission has a regularly scheduled meeting on the second Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on March 10 at 2:00 p.m. in the Board of Aldermen Chamber, located at 100 East First Street in City Hall South, fifth floor. For more information about the Commission agenda, please view the City’s website at www.cityofws.org/meetings.