

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY MARCH 22, 2023
8:30 AM

Present: Ronna Rowe Garrett, Chairwoman (VIRTUAL)
Donald L. Porter, Vice Chairman
Evelyn O. Shaw, Secretary
Christopher Davis, Treasurer

Others Present: Mick Noland, Interim CEO/General Manager
Deno Hondros, City Council Liaison
Adam Lindsay, Assistant City Manager
Amy Navejas, Exec. Director, United Way Cumberland County
Melissa Reid, Dir. of Resource Dev., United Way Cumberland County.
Melissa Levin, Vice President, Rafetlis

Absent: Jimmy Keefe, Cumberland County Liaison
Media

I. PRESENTATIONS

UNITED WAY SPIRIT OF NORTH CAROLINA AWARDS

Presented by: Amy Navejas, Executive Director United Way of Cumberland County
Melissa Reid, Dir. of Resource. Dev., United Way of Cumberland County

Ms. Justice-Hinson introduced Ms. Amy Navejas and Ms. Melissa Reid. Ms. Navejas presented the 2022 Spirit of North Carolina Award to PWC for Campaign Excellence. This is for building momentum and sustainability through engaged leadership of employees. Ms. Navejas stated this is the 17th year PWC has won this award, which is remarkable.

Every year nominations are accepted for companies that are truly engaged and creative in wanting to give back to their community. There is no greater example in Cumberland County than PWC. Ms. Justice-Hinson and her team are truly creative. PWC has the largest level of Marquis givers and the largest campaign in Cumberland County.

Ms. Melissa Reid presented to Ms. Justice-Hinson, the United Way Community Ambassador Award. This is first time this award has been presented. Ms. Reid stated no one in the community breathes United Way more than Ms. Justice Hinson does. She is out there on the radio for them, speaking to the press on their behalf. Ms. Reid thanked Ms. Justice-Hinson for being the 2022 United Way Community Ambassador.

Chairwoman Garrett thanked Ms. Justice-Hinson. She stated you do not become a pillar of the community by one or two deeds. She has a long-standing presence in the Fayetteville community. It really is her hometown. She does PWC proud by constantly representing us. Commissioner Garrett congratulated Ms. Justice-Hinson and thanked Ms. Navejas and Ms. Reid of United Way.

THE NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL PURCHASING'S 2022
SUSTAINED PROFESSIONAL PURCHASING AWARD.

Presented by: Susan Fritzen, Chief Administrative Officer

Ms. Fritzen stated everyday we get to witness the hard work of our employees. It is especially rewarding when their talents are recognized by the industry and their peers. She stated the procurement team were awarded the NC Association of Governmental Purchasing's 2022 Sustained Professional Purchasing Award. PWC is one of 18 agencies throughout North Carolina to receive this award. Ms. Fritzen stated PWC previously received this honor in 2015 and 2016. This award is given to agencies who have demonstrated excellence in purchasing standards during the calendar year. Award criteria includes procurement automation and use of technology; minority supplier program and outreach; staff education and professional certification; department and user training; vendor workshops and training and use of recycled products.

Chairwoman Garrett stated PWC has worked hard on our purchasing program. She appreciates Ms. Fritzen's leadership on this as is evident in this award. She then asked Commissioner Shaw if she would like to have words since she has taken a special interest in procurement and small business.

Commissioner Shaw stated she is especially pleased that it appears with this award that are finally tracking as we need to in Purchasing. She could not be more pleased.

II. REGULAR BUSINESS

Chairwoman Ronna Rowe Garrett called the meeting to order at 8:40 am, following the presentation of awards.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Evelyn Shaw motioned to amend the agenda by adding a closed session pursuant North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(3) for Legal Matters, as item X, and move Adjournment to Item XI. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Porter, and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Porter motioned to approve the amended agenda. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Evelyn Shaw, and unanimously approved.

III. CONSENT ITEMS

Upon motion by Commissioner Evelyn Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Donald Porter, Consent Items were unanimously approved.

A. Approve Minutes of meeting of March 8, 2023

B. Clarify approval of award for the purchase of Pole Mount Distribution Transformers Contract Calendar Year 2023 to WESCO Distribution Inc., Clayton, NC, to specify that the award allows PWC staff to increase the order quantities consistent with the bid documents.

The Pole Mount Distribution Transformers Contract Calendar Year 2023 is budgeted in Warehouse Inventory.

Bids were received January 5, 2023, as follows:

<u>Bidders</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Delivery</u>
WESCO Distribution, Inc., Clayton, NC	GE/Prolec	\$382,750.00	26 Weeks

COMMENTS: The Commission awarded the purchase of Pole Mount Distribution Transformers Contract Calendar Year 2023 (PWC2223023) to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder, WESCO Distribution Inc., Clayton, NC during its regularly scheduled meeting on January 25, 2023. The bid documents provided notice to all bidders that “During the term of the Contract, PWC reserves the right to request increases or decreases to estimated quantities for Vendor’s consideration. PWC also reserves the right to place order quantities in excess of guaranteed amounts should Vendor have production capacity.” PWC staff has confirmed that WESCO has additional production capacity. Therefore, PWC staff requests that the Commission clarify its approval of the award to WESCO Distribution Inc. to specify that the award allows PWC staff to increase the order quantities consistent with the bid documents.

C. Adopt PWC Ordinance #s PWCORD2023-01 and PWCORD2023-03 – Capital Project Budget Ordinances

The following ordinances will be effective upon adoption:

- ❖ PWCORD2023-01 establishes a \$86.2 million Capital Project Fund for various electric infrastructure projects anticipated to be funded with Revenue Bonds. This fund is needed now to establish budgets in support of awarding contracts. The timing of the funding plan and review of these projects is ongoing and will be brought forward to the Commission once the chosen path is determined.
- ❖ PWCORD2023-03 amends the Substation Rebuild Capital Project Fund. The amendment reduces project expenditures for substation projects anticipated to be funded with Revenue Bonds.

COMMENTS: Staff recommends the Commission adopt the above CPF budget ordinances

D. Adopt PWC Ordinance # PWCORD2023-02 – FY2023 Electric Fund Budget Amendment #6

PWCORD2023-02 is an Electric Fund amendment changing the fund balance as follows: The Electric Fund is decreasing by \$3,000,000 to \$273.8 million.

- ❖ Electric Fund Revenue: Total Electric Fund Revenue decreased by \$3,000,000.
 - o Transfer from REPS increased by \$464,500 to move existing projects that are REPS eligible for LED lighting conversion from the Electric General Fund to the correct REPS reserve funding source. These existing projects are for the replacement of High Intensity Discharge lighting to LED lighting for customers. This movement creates a\$0 impact to the Electric Fund balance.
 - o Appropriation from Net Position decreased by \$3,454,500 due to expenses below and the REPS eligible projects mentioned above.
- ❖ Electric Fund Expenditures: Total Electric Fund Expenditures decreased by \$3,000,000.
 - o Transfer to Electric Substation Rebuild Capital Project Fund decreased by \$3,000,000 due to resulting rate recommendations forecast, substation expenditures postponed to future years and movement of substation projects anticipated to be funded with Revenue Bonds.

COMMENTS: Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the above budget ordinance amendment.

END OF CONSENT

IV. SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FEE (SDF) DISCUSSION

Presented by: Melissa Levin, Vice President, Raftelis

Mr. Jason Alban, Director of Financial Planning and Capital Projects introduced Ms. Melissa Levin, Vice President of Raftelis. Ms. Levin stated the agenda of the presentation will consist of the following: description of System Development Fees (SDF); Impetus of the study; process to adopt fees; and overview of fee calculation and resulting fees.

What are System Development Fees? Ms. Levin stated they are One-time charge assessed against “new development” as a way to pay for “facilities” needed to support growth or to recoup costs for existing facilities that have a capacity to support growth. SDF is a mechanism for growth to help pay for growth. It is a one time charge, and its intent is to put everyone on equal footing.

Impetus of the Study. Why are we looking at these fees now?

- Ratification of House Bill 436 – “An Act to provide for uniform authority to implement system development fees for public water and sewer systems in North Carolina...”
- Signed into law on July 20, 2017
- Amended Chapter 162A, Article 8 of the General Statutes “System Development Fees”
- Sets forth process for establishing system development fees
- Requires preparation by a “financial professional or licensed professional engineer...”
- *Requires update of the study every 5 years*
- *Revisions have been made to original legislation since 2017*

Process to Adopt Fees

- ✓ Calculate System Development Fees based on written analysis.
- 45 days prior to consideration of adoption, post written analysis on Web site and solicit written comments
 - *By April 3, 2023*
- Preparer to consider written comments
- Conduct public hearing - *May 24, 2023*
- Adopt fees - *June 14, 2023*
- Fees effective - *July 1, 2023*

Allowed Methodologies for Fee Calculation

1. Capacity Buy-In Approach
 - Focuses on existing facilities with available capacity to serve new customers
 - Analysis based on fixed asset records
2. Incremental/Marginal Cost Approach
 - Focuses on additional facilities required to meet anticipated growth
 - Analysis based on capital improvement plan
3. Combined Approach

PWC selected the *Capacity Buy-In* for both the Water System & Sewer System. Existing assets have enough capacity to serve new customers for both systems for the next five years.

Overview of Fee Calculation

1. Determine methodology to be used
2. Identify cost of facilities
3. Consider/make adjustments as necessary
4. Derive system development fee per residential service unit
5. Establish equivalency or conversion table for various categories of demand

Cost of Facilities (with Adjustments)

- Start with net book value (NBV) of all fixed assets.
- Escalate NBV to today's dollars based on service date.
- Calculate replacement cost new less depreciation.
- Remove non-core assets (meters, equipment, vehicles, etc.), contributed/grant funded capital and annexation contributions.
- Remove outstanding debt principal related to core assets.

Replacement Cost New Less Depreciation (RCNLD)		
Asset Category	Water	Sewer
Assets	\$499M	\$840M
Less: Specific Assets, Contributed Capital, Annexation Contributions	-\$156M	-\$263M
Less: Outstanding Debt Principal	-\$130M	-\$139M
TOTAL NET ASSETS (RCNLD)	\$213M	\$438M

Cost Per Unit (Gallon)

	Water	Sewer
Net System Value	\$213M	\$438M
Total Capacity (MGD)	57.5	46.0
Cost per Gallon per Day	\$3.71	\$9.53

Equivalent Unit Calculations

- SDFs are assessed based on meter size
- The equivalent residential unit (ERU) for a single-family water customer is 205.72 GPD based on the following:
 - 138 GPD per RU based on Master Plan
 - X 1.44 system max day peaking factor
 - X 1.03 water loss factor
- The ERU for a sewer customer assumes 194.51 GPD based on the following:
 - Used 138 GPD per RU based on Master Plan
 - X 1.41 inflow and infiltration
- Fees scaled by meter size based on PWC meter equivalency factors

Maximum SDF Fee For ¾" Meter

	Water	Sewer
Cost per Gallon Per Day (GPD)	\$3.71	\$9.53
ERU (gallon per day)	205.72	194.51
Maximum SDF Fee for ¾" Meter	\$763	\$1,853

Current SDF fee for ¾" Meter \$634 \$1,107

Fee Calculations – Water

Meter Size	Current	Max Calculated	Difference (\$)	Difference (%)
¾"	\$ 634	\$ 763	\$ 129	20.3%
1"	\$ 995	\$ 1,198	\$ 202	20.3%
1.5"	\$ 2,720	\$ 3,272	\$ 553	20.3%
2"	\$ 3,620	\$ 4,356	\$ 735	20.3%
2.5"	\$ 6,340	\$ 7,628	\$1,288	20.3%
3"	\$ 9,060	\$ 10,900	\$ 1,840	20.3%
4"	\$ 18,113	\$ 21,793	\$ 3,680	20.3%
6"	\$ 36,227	\$ 43,586	\$ 7,359	20.3%
8"	\$ 63,400	\$ 76,279	\$ 12,879	20.3%
10"	\$ 99,627	\$ 119,865	\$ 20,238	20.3%
12"	\$ 125,722	\$ 151,261	\$ 25,539	20.3%

Fee Calculations – Sewer

Meter Size	Current	Max Calculated	Difference (\$)	Difference (%)
¾"	\$ 1,107	\$ 1,853	\$ 746	67.4%
1"	\$ 1,738	\$ 2,910	\$ 1,172	67.4%
1.5"	\$ 4,749	\$ 7,951	\$ 3,202	67.4%
2"	\$ 6,321	\$ 10,582	\$ 4,261	67.4%
2.5"	\$ 11,070	\$ 18,533	\$7,463	67.4%
3"	\$ 15,819	\$ 26,483	\$ 10,664	67.4%
4"	\$ 31,627	\$ 52,948	\$ 21,321	67.4%
6"	\$ 63,254	\$ 105,897	\$ 42,643	67.4%
8"	\$ 110,700	\$ 185,328	\$ 74,628	67.4%
10"	\$ 173,954	\$ 291,225	\$ 117,271	67.4%
12"	\$ 219,518	\$ 367,506	\$ 147,988	67.4%

Ms. Levin stated a lot of the fee increases are really due to the fact there has been inflation when it comes to capital costs. The value to replace the assets that are in the ground has significantly increased over the last couple of years.

Commissioner Donald Porter stated he is concerned how this is communicated to our customers. Ms. Levin stated they are in the process of drafting a report which explains the calculations in detail. It will be posted to the website for 45 days. Customers will be able to see, react to it and provide their comments and formulize their opinions of the fees. She also stated these are the maximum fees that can be charged, but you do not have to implement these fees. Raftelis is just telling you through the analysis the maximum you can charge. You can always charge something less, but you will have to be unilateral in charging all classes of customers.

Ms. Kathy Miller, Customer Care Interim Chief Officer stated a lot of this impacts developers, and we will reach out to them to let them know of the change, as well as the wholesale customers.

Commissioner Donald Porter stated a lot of businesses and residents come to Fayetteville because of our rates, or what they perceive as the lowest rates in the area. Ms. Justice Hinson stated customers in our annexed areas have a six month window they can connect without the system development fee (SDF), and it is always communicated to them that if they connect outside of that window, they will pay whatever the current SDF fee is at the time of connection. Mr. Noland stated this is an equity issue for the customers who are coming on. It is a way of catching them up to the existing customers. It has also been five years since the fee has been looked at, and whenever you have that time period of what you had and where you are today, inflation and the cost of doing business will increase substantially. Costs are steadily increasing, and we are required to ensure the customers who are using the facilities pay their fair share.

Commissioner Garrett asked for clarification that the analysis and the potential rates will be published on our website.

Commissioner Shaw stated she wanted to ensure that we all recognized the distinction between the fact that this is a system development fee and not a rate. This is more of a cost of doing business matter in terms of the information presented this morning.

Commission thanked Ms. Levin for the presentation.

V. SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FEES FOR MAY 24, 2023

Commissioner Christopher Davis motioned to set the Public Hearing for the System Development Fees for May 24, 2023. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Donald Porter, and unanimously approved.

VI. PFAS REGULATORY UPDATE

Presented by: Mick Noland, Interim CEO/General Manager

Mr. Noland stated PFAS has been in the news quite a bit in the last few years. One of the things that brought it to a head was the issue that became known with Chemours and GenX. The discovery that it was out there, and the impacts it had on the Wilmington residents, as they are downstream. Mr. Noland noted that the plant is downstream of our water intake.

There has been atmospheric devastation around the plant that has created well water problems. The issue has always been one that has been under consideration, but the mushroom has brought it to the forefront.

PFAS - Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances referred to as forever chemicals because they are very resistant, and they do not break down. There are about 5,000 distinct categories of PFAS compounds and GenX is just one of them. These compounds are used in numerous products including anything that has any stain or water resistant properties to them, including food wrappers, garments, carpets, make-up, or non-stick cookware. It works well, which is why it is used in so many products.

There were six identified that need to be regulated, they are PFOA, PFOS, PFHXS, PFBS, PFNX, and GenX. The valuation of the ways individuals was exposed to these compounds shows that approximately 70% of the exposure comes from all of the other things that these PFAS compounds

are being used. It is ubiquitous. So 70% is related to consumer products, and 30% is pertained to drinking water compounds. When they speak of drinking water, they refer to 2 liters a day for a lifetime. PWC has been monitoring our source water and drinking water for several years realizing these regulations were going to be proposed, and we needed to understand where we are and where the gap is from where we are and where we need to be. Our water treatment plants were not designed to remove these compounds. These results have always been included in our water quality report, which we refer to as our customer confidence report. It shows all our analytical results and proves we are in compliance with the drinking water standards.

Mr. Noland stated PWC was the first utility in the state to be recognized with EPA's Partnership Drinking Water Director's Award (we have received this award for 20 consecutive years). We are consistently at the forefront of complying and meeting customer and regulatory expectations. Up until this point the guidance they had out was 70 PPT. They have changed that number to 4PPT. The level of those compounds in the Cape Fear River is higher than 4PPT, but Mr. Noland emphasized that we have been in compliance with the guidelines, and recognize they are being changed and we have to react to it.

Last week EPA announced it has proposed national primary drinking water regulations to establish legally enforceable levels of those six compounds that are known to occur in drinking water. Mr. Noland stated they refer to them as MCL (maximum contaminant level) for PFOA and PFOS is 4PPT. This was established because there are analytical limitations as how low you can go. The other four (PFHXS, PFBS, PFNX, and GenX), rather than have an individual number for each, they derived a formula where you calculate which is referred to as a hazard index. The EPA wants the hazard index number to be 1. We have been anticipating because it has been in the news and the EPA has indicated it was of critical importance to drinking water.

Mr. Noland went on to state for that reason we have been analyzing and monitoring the levels. We also recognize we cannot meet those levels unless we install additional treatments. We have determined that the appropriate advanced treatment is GAC (Granular Activated Carbon). We set up a pilot study in both plants to evaluate different types of GAC and their effectiveness in removing PFAS compounds. We needed to run those pilot plants for a year through variations in water quality, temperature, and seasonal climate. We have completed that testing and have shown that GAC will be effective in meeting the EPA requirements.

Now, the regulations will go into public notice for 60 days; a public hearing will be held, and the EPA expects to have their regulations finalized by the end of 2023, early 2024. There will be a time period we will have to design, bid, and build facilities to comply with these regulations. They are expecting it within a three year period. But our understanding is if you are making satisfactory progress, and are under construction, but you are not finished within three years, they will be okay.

Mr. Noland stated there is no negotiating on whether we do this or not. The anticipated cost of constructing the upgrades in Glenville and Hoffer is currently estimated to be \$75M. This is a cost that will have to be factored in, not only into the rates but also into the fees. In addition to that, these systems are expensive to operate. The GAC absorbs these contaminants. You have to take the GAC and have it rejuvenated and put back into the system, and those costs are \$12M. So it is very expensive to operate and maintain. Obviously, this is based on today's dollars. We have supply chain issues, contractor availability issues. There will be a lot of demand for construction. It is estimated that there will be 6,000 utilities nationwide that will have to construct something to supply with this. Everyone will be lining up to have these designed, constructed and built, and we cannot predict how much it will actually cost when it comes time to build.

The EPA is considering future regulations for the wastewater. So, this issue is continuing, and PWC is committed to complying with all the regulatory requirements because our customers are of the utmost importance.

Commissioner Davis stated the PFAS issue has been out there for a long time, and PWC may now have a \$75M cost to address the issue overtime. Is PWC postured and positioned to see if the EPA or other agencies are willing to help PWC and other companies come online. With addressing these new emerging health issues, these are obvious challenges we see being fixed based on things we necessarily did not do. So partnership between the federal government, as well as the bad actors are paramount to our ability to address, not only the present challenges, but future emerging challenges with PFAS and these other forever chemicals. He asked if PWC is lobbyist wise positioned to have those conversations, and have we had any feedback with state or federal government agencies, acknowledging that we did not make this problem, but they will help us fix it.

Mr. Noland referred to the bi-partisan infrastructure legislation that congress passed in the last year and they are making billions of dollars available through a loan/grant program to do the very thing that Commissioner Davis is referring to as far as helping local utilities to put these facilities in place. We have been working with a consulting firm to make sure we are getting our fair share of those funds to offset the costs to our customers. We are also advocating with the professional associations to make the case we need to be certain about what we are doing and to emphasize the fact that if the utilities do not get federal assistance to help, it will be a very tough road to travel.

Commissioner Davis asked if there is a timeline, we are looking to begin to have these discussions. He stated we are having them here, and we are doing internal planning, but he asked if we are having conversations with those above us. Mr. Noland stated the consultant firm was brought on board to ensure they were following the development of the regulations as well as the development of the application process the state has in place. Those representatives have been in touch with the State Infrastructure Group regarding these very issues to ensure they understand what our needs are. Mr. Noland stated we will look at what else may be available and will ensure we get our requests in.

Commissioner Shaw asked Mr. Noland, given all he has explained to the Commission, not only today and in other settings, about the dangers of PFAS and the unfunded mandate from the EPA. She asked Mr. Noland if he can share if the lobbyist we are using (as well as others) are making any headway in educating the legislators that there is going to have to be state regulations put in place to keep the manufacturers upstream of us from the dumping problems we have seen which are contributing to water quality downstream.

Mr. Noland replied we have a legislative liaison who stays in contact with our local delegation and has been in conversation with them regarding this issue. Mr. Noland stated one of the wonderful things about the Cape Fear River is it is a wonderful resource. It is also a big river basin and there are a lot of others upstream from us who use it as we do. We are closely following what is going on with the wastewater discharges upstream of us who have draft permits going out, who for the first time are actually including criteria and requirements to monitoring these PFAS compounds as well as 1,4 Dioxane. There will be new requirements on those dischargers upstream to stay on top of the discharges. We are following very closely what is going on with them.

Commissioner Shaw stated she knows Mr. Noland has been on the forefront of this for many years. And it appears that there will have to be some real effort of our legislative body as a whole, because this is not going away and it is going to have to be addressed from the standpoint, if it is a regulation

that the EPA is requiring, we will have to do it, but we will be ham strung from a certain extent if there are bad actors who are not doing their part. Also, she asked because of the cost Mr. Noland has outlined for the Commission, has there been any discussion or thinking of what may happen to those smaller utilities who may have to enact those same protections. Do we expect to see requests from those smaller utilities to provide some type of service they cannot afford. Mr. Noland replied as of now we are providing service to Stedman, Hoke County, as well as Spring Lake. We are to some extent a regional system now, and we are working with them and through them to help them meet the requirements because we will do the heavy lifting. The other aspect deals with the legislation and funds that are being made available. Approximately 40% is being earmarked to help the small and medium size utilities to help them meet the regulations.

Commissioner Shaw asked Mr. Noland to restate the timeframe for the build out. Mr. Noland stated when we are looking at building new facilities, we use a 20 year planning window, and the facilities will be sized to make sure we are ready for that when the time occurs. Sometimes 5-year plans do not last long because of the different issues and opportunities that come along.

VII. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Mick Noland asked Ms. Justice-Hinson to update the Commission on our upcoming 9th Annual Power and Water Expo. She stated this is a great way for customers to get conservation tips and tools as well as access to our employees and information. We will have employees from our water department, and electric department. We will have conservation experts, customer service reps and more. We will be there from 10am to 8pm on Friday, which happens to be 4th Friday.

She also stated regarding PFAS we have information on our website regarding the upcoming regulations. We have a description of PFAS as well as our testing results.

Mr. Noland updated the Commission on PWC's visit to Washington, DC. He stated a contingent (City of Fayetteville, Cumberland County, FSU, Cumberland County Schools, FCEDC and PWC) traveled to DC to discuss initiatives and grants for communities. We were all there to advocate and show unity. While they were in DC, Mr. Noland stated they discussed PFAS quite a bit with the EPA. Mr. Noland stated he expressed with the Assistant Administrator Mr. Surrey the concerns we have. We are all for protecting the consumers from PFAS, through a mechanism that is relatively straight forward which is removing it from people's drinking water, but it will be expensive and a nationwide need. Mr. Surrey recognized that, and part of the discussion included there needs to be more money made available through the Federal Government, and not just at the local level. The EPA discussed some things we may be able to take advantage of and it was a very timely meeting.

VIII. COMMISSIONER/LIAISON COMMENTS

Council Member Deno Hondros

Council Member Hondros commended the Commission on the presentations, and the discussion. He stated he appreciates the discussion. He stated between the staff and Commission, they are on the forefront of the PFAS and other forever chemicals.

Commissioner Chris Davis

No Comments

Commissioner Evelyn Shaw

Commissioner Shaw asked where and when will the Linemen's Rodeo be held this year. Staff will ensure Commission has the date. She recommended her fellow Commissioners attend this wonderful event.

Commissioner Donald Porter

Commissioner Porter wanted to welcome Commissioner Davis as the new Commissioner, and he no longer has that distinction. He also stated PWC staff is one of the most responsive that he has had the chance to serve with. Our community is very educated and attentive. We receive a lot of questions, and though he cannot answer all of them, when he calls Mr. Noland or other senior staff, and they give a quick and good answer. He thanked staff for all they do.

Commissioner Porter congratulated Ms. Justice-Hinson again. He stated everyone knows Ms. Justice-Hinson.

Commissioner Ronna Rowe Garrett

Commissioner Garrett stated she has found true transparency from the CEO's office. She evaluates it from the leadership.

She provided an update on the CEO recruitment. She expects for there to be a slate of candidates in about two weeks, and will begin the interview process. The process is moving along nicely.

Commissioner Garrett also provided an update to the visit to the National Capital. She stated it was a truly successful event and meeting. She enjoyed being a part of the Fayetteville delegation. Commissioner Garrett stated the commitment and partnership across the community stood out to her.

Dr. McKoy who is a Fayetteville native, and the DOE Under Secretary, came to PWC to visit with us little while ago. We talked about some of our projects, and he invited us to DC. She and the Mayor decided to make it a community partnership. Dr. McKoy made a statement during their 2 hour meeting. They educated us on the availability of funding; assistance and help on key issues. He made a statement, that in all his time there he has never seen a community, a planned effort, a large contingency as we brought forward. He commended them for that, and looked forward to the specific plans they will bring back as a community effort. She believed it was a successful effort for our community.

Mr. Noland stated he failed to mention that part of our PWC contingency included our Chief Officer of Electric, Jon Rynne. He stated that Dr. McKoy mentioned that a lot of times we have community groups to come up, but normally they do not bring their utility, and he commended us for being inclusive as many times their plans include the utility, but they are not at the table.

IX. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. Payment by Payment Type – February 2023

B. PO Report – February 2023

- C. Career Opportunities
- D. Approved N.C. Department of Transportation Encroachment Agreement(s):
 - Encr. #19087 – 3-Phase Underground Primary Installation @ SR1611 (Andrews Rd, nr. US Hwy 401 (Ramsey St)
- E. Actions by City Council during the meeting of March 13, 2023, related to PWC:
 - Approved Bid Recommendation – 1st and 2nd Stage Bucket Sets for GE 2001P Gas Turbine Project
 - Approved Bid Recommendation – Conductor 500 MCM
 - Approved Bid Recommendation – Pole Mount, Single Phase & Three Phase Pad Mount Distribution Transformers Contract Year 2024

(Added by amending the agenda)

X. CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NC GENERAL STATUTES 143-318.11(A)(3) FOR LEGAL MATTERS.

Commissioner Donald Porter motioned to enter closed session pursuant North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(A)(3) for Legal Matters. Motioned was seconded by Commissioner Evelyn Shaw, and unanimously approved at 10:02 am.

There being no further discussion, upon motion by Commissioner Evelyn Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Donald Porter, the meeting returned to open session at 10:28 am.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, upon motion by Commissioner Donald Porter, seconded by Commissioner Evelyn Shaw, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 am.