

## ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT Kevin Bronson

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR WESTMINSTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

July 19, 2024

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP)

In 2022, the City was awarded almost \$5 million in SCIIP grants funds to make improvements to the city's aging sewer infrastructure. The project is now ready to solicit bids for the improvements. The solicitation for the bids can be found here <a href="https://westminstersc.org/departments/administration/#bids">https://westminstersc.org/departments/administration/#bids</a>.

#### SC Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) Backup Generator Grant

In late 2023, The City of Westminster was awarded a grant of \$286,260 (\$257,634 grant, \$28,626 local) by SCEMD to install backup electric generators at City Facilities. The solicitation for bids can be found at <a href="https://westminstersc.org/departments/administration/#bids">https://westminstersc.org/departments/administration/#bids</a>.

#### **Heirloom Farms Water and Sewer Project**

The City is providing water and sewer to service to a new subdivision, Heirloom Farms, located about a mile to the East of Westminster City Limits on Seed Farm Road near HWY 11. The project has been engineered and published for bid. The Solicitations for bids can be found at: <a href="https://westminstersc.org/departments/administration/#bids">https://westminstersc.org/departments/administration/#bids</a>.

#### This Week in Rec: An Update from Recreation Director Herb Poole

- Late registration is available at an additional fee for fall sports.
- The Recreation Department will continue to provide sports equipment to athletes in need. Items include volleyball knee pads, baseball and softball bats, and various sizes of batting helmets.
- Community Tree will have a school supply and bookbag pickup on July 27 at the Recreation Department
  beginning at 8:30am on a first come-first serve basis. Updates about the program and how to donate can
  be found on their Facebook page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/p/Community-Tree-1-100069683239914/">https://www.facebook.com/p/Community-Tree-1-100069683239914/</a>
- The 10U Softball State Champions will be recognized at the August 13 City Council Meeting.

#### **USDA-RD Water System Projects**

Two contractors are being utilized to install the water system improvements funded by the USDA-RD. Both contractors are on schedule.

Arrowood General Contracting is responsible for a grouping of projects entitled Division 1.

- The project areas for Division 1 are: Dawn Drive; Dixon Rd; Phillip Lear; and Dr. Johns Rd.
- Dixon road is complete, and all customers are now hooked up to the new line and some new customers have been connected.
- They finished installing the line on Dr. Johns Rd and have connected it to the Tabor Road.
- Arrowood has successfully pressure tested this section and bacteriological testing came back negative for bacteria. These tests were sent to SCDHEC and approval to operate has been received.

- Arrowood currently has approximately 1000' of pipe yet to be installed.
- Service connections have begun on Chauga Road and Philip Lear Road. Arrowood is bringing in an additional crew to expedite service connections.

Payne, McGinn, and Cummins is responsible for Division 2.

- The project areas in Division 2 are: sections of Highway 76; Welcome Church Rd to Berry Farm Rd; and Berry Farm Rd to Cleveland Pike Rd.
- All lines and connections on Division Two are complete and the contractor has left the area.

#### **Westminster Planning Commission**

The Planning Commission met on July 15th.

#### **OJRSA**

#### **Regional Feasibility Planning Study**

August 5, 2024, 4pm at the City of Seneca Gignilliat Community Room, 621 North Townville Street, Seneca, SC The analysis of the current governance structure, the financial health and current infrastructure of sewer within the system and the individual municipalities that connect to OJRSA's truck line system is a critical piece to enabling the Master Plan to move forward with success. Additionally, this study is an honest overview of how to better align with governance standards and provide the best possible service. The study team includes WK Dickson, Bolton & Menk, and Willdan.

The OJRSA Finance and Administration Committee will meet on Tuesday, July 23 at 9:00am. Prior to the meeting, the agenda will be made available at https://www.ojrsa.org/public-info-archives/.

#### **PMPA**

Nothing to report.

#### PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

July 23, 2024 at 9:00 am Finance & Administration Committee at OJRSA (PMPA is not scheduled to hold a Board Meeting in July)

August 5, 2024 at 4:00 pm OJRSA Board Meeting at City of Seneca Gignilliat Community Room, 621 North Townville Street, Seneca

#### August 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm Westminster City Council Meeting at the Westminster Fire Department

August 22, 2024 at 10:00 am PMPA Board Meeting at PMPA

August 19, 2024 at 6:00 pm Westminster Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall

August 21, 2024 at 8:30 am Operations & Planning Committee at OJRSA

#### **City Council Meeting Schedule**

August 13, 2024	6:00 PM	November 12, 2024	6:00 PM
September 10, 2024	6:00 PM	December 10, 2024	6:00 PM
October 8, 2024	6:00 PM		

#### **Special Events Calendar**

July 25, 2024 from 4:00-7:00pm, Farmer's Market – the Depot

Also on the following evenings:

- August 8
- August 22

August 3, 2024 from 10:00am-4:00pm, The Bluebird Nest Birthday Celebration - Retreat Street Park

(The Bluebird Nest will be celebrating its first birthday with pop-up vendors at Retreat Street Park)

August 27, 2024 from 5:30-8:00pm, Oconee Chamber of Commerce Boosted After Hours - Retreat Street Park and the Bluebird Nest

(more details to come)

September 6-7, 2024 South Carolina Apple Festival – Downtown Westminster

(more details to come)

October 11-12, 2024 South Carolina Bigfoot Festival – Downtown Westminster

(more details to come)

October 31, 2024 Boo on Main - Downtown Westminster

(more details to come)

December 6, 2024 - Westminster Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting

(more details to come, rain makeup scheduled for December 13)



# **Board of Directors Meeting July 19, 2024**

- I. WELCOME
- II. APPROVAL OF MAY 2024 OEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
- III. JUNE 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT
- IV. INQUIRIES, LEADS, PROJECTS AND WINS
- V. BUSINESS RETENTION AND ENGAGEMENT (BRE)
- VI. MARKETING AND OPERATIONS
- VII. DISCUSSION
- VIII. ADJOURN



### May 17, 2024 OEA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes:

- Chuck Perry opened the meeting at 9:05 and welcomed everyone.
- Minutes for February and March meetings were approved.
- Chuck presented the financials and they were approved.
- Jamie Gilbert reviewed 2024 prospect activity for ongoing, new, and lost projects to date.
- Tyler James reviewed new leads that have come in.
- Jamie discussed Business Development.
  - Leadership Oconee 4 project offered choice was Farm Center business incubator.
- Jamie reviewed business Retention and Engagement.
  - Visits and engagements
  - o Job Fair with 94.1 The Lake
    - Met with Brandon Kessler to discuss:
      - How to gain better attendance
      - How to get more industries involved
- Marketing and Operations
  - Newest OEA video
    - So much good raw footage that another 2 videos are planned.
  - Viewpoint Project w/ Dennis Quaid
    - Business development standpoint
  - o GCCP
    - Package to highlight regional assets with Morgan is planned.
  - OEA website refresh or replacement
    - All four met with so far are economic development exclusive web developers.
    - Project would be paid for using OEA funds
- Tyler presented information on Placer A.I.
  - Location data source company.
  - Could help with gathering data pertinent to park geo targeting/counting

- o Project could allow us to target local workforce and keep them local.
- o Also helpful for local communities for retail and tourism tracking.
- Completed and upcoming events were reviewed.
- Jamie reviewed current operations
  - o Impact Housing building is available
  - o Current status of clearing and grading of GCCP pad site was discussed
- Questions/Comments
  - O How much land is still available at OITP?
    - Around 100+/- acres
- The meeting adjourned at 10:04am.