



**TOWN OF OAK RIDGE
WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 28, 2023 - 1:30 P.M.
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Members Present

Jim Harton, Chair
Erin English
Todd Hall (Alternate, sitting)

Staff Present

Bill Bruce, Town Manager
Sandra Smith, Asst. Town Mgr./Town Clerk

Members Absent

Brian Hall
Francis Disney
Phil McNamara

Council Liaisons Present

Ann Schneider, Mayor
Spencer Sullivan, Council member

Other Organizations Present

Josh Powers, Envirolink

- 1) **WELCOME:** Chair Jim Harton called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
- 2) **APPROVAL OF MAY 24, 2023 MEETING MINUTES:** *Todd Hall made a motion to approve the minutes, and Erin English seconded. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously (3-0).*

Jim Harton recommended changing the order of the meeting agenda, and Committee members agreed by consensus.
- 3) **ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK AND WATER MAIN PROJECT UPDATE:** Town Manager Bill Bruce reported that the Wooten Company was slightly behind schedule due to their not being aware/understanding that the Town wanted a fire hydrant located at Oak Ridge Fire Department. The area has now been surveyed and Wooten Company is working on the engineering for the water line from the hydrant to the tower.
- 4) **WATER SYSTEM UPDATE:** Josh Powers from Envirolink reported that electricity had been run to the well at Honeycutt Reserve subdivision, and said meters will soon be needed. Town Manager Bruce said that the developer would be handling that, but first the electrical service needs to be inspected by Guilford County. Powers asked if the Town was ready for new homeowners/customers to be contacted by Envirolink. He added that Envirolink is working on a brochure to share with the developer/builders about the process to connect to water. Bruce responded that attorneys for the developer and the Town are still working on the agreement. He said the Town would not allow Certificates of Occupancy to be issued on new homes until all required steps have been completed, which would provide a safeguard for the Town.

Powers also said that the Town will want to start adding chlorine to the water to ensure safety and quality for customers. At that point, Envirolink will start billing the Town for chemicals. Harton asked if Envirolink had seen any decrease in the cost of chlorine due to the fact that natural gas prices are going down; Powers said not yet, but added that Envirolink would shop various sources to get the best price for the Town.

- 5) **REVIEW OF DRAFT INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT:** Bruce presented an overview of the draft interlocal agreement with Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Utilities. Powers mentioned some things to be aware of to ensure that the quality of the water coming into the Town is as good as possible to prevent major flushing from being required. Harton posed several questions about the agreement. Bruce said that Town Attorney Michael Thomas was reviewing the agreement, and the Committee recommended that Envirolink, Wooten Company, and consultant Tom Roberts also review it.
- 6) **REVIEW OF FINAL DRAFT OF WATER TIMELINE:** Asst. Town Manager/Town Clerk Sandra Smith presented a revised timeline; a few minor revisions were suggested. It will be posted on the Town website and be available for distribution.
- 7) **OTHER BUSINESS:** Todd Hall asked if Oak Ridge Elementary School or the owner of Oak Ridge Commons were interested in connecting to the system once water lines are installed. Bruce said the Guilford County Board of Education was aware of the possibility and was generally supportive. Running the line to Oak Ridge Commons was beyond the intersection of Oak Ridge Road and Linville Road, where the water line is currently slated to turn onto Linville Road.

Mayor Ann Schneider commented that she understood there is still \$4 million in the draft state budget that is earmarked for water in Oak Ridge.

- 8) **ADJOURN:** *Erin English made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Todd Hall seconded. The motion was approved unanimously (3-0).*