

JOINT UTILITIES & TECHNOLOGY AND SPECIAL CALLED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 | 2:00 p.m.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WARDINE T. ALEXANDER, COMMITTEE CHAIR
COUNCILORS DARRELL O'QUINN & HUNTER WILLIAMS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councilor(s) Present: Alexander, O'Quinn, Williams

DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM, DISCUSSION ITEMS WERE RECEIVED AS INFORMATION ONLY.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Council President Alexander.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action Taken:

Due to Lack of Quorum, Approval of Minutes Delayed.

3. ALABAMA DIGITAL EXPANSION TEAM – ANETA LEE, FUSE EXECUTIVE FELLOW

Aneta Lee presented information to the Committee.

ADECA is hosting a technical assistance program kick-off meeting, January 23, 2023, 9:00a – 2:00p at the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (County Office).

The technical assistance program will prepare the County and State to receive infrastructure funding.

They will engage more with elected officials and community members.

A phone survey will be launched/incorporated.

Broadband asset mapping, funding and countywide analysis will be included.

The technical assistance timeline is January through March 2023.

The broadband deployment fund is part of the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill from 2021.

A broadband mapping will determine to amount of funding the State will receive.

Each state received BEAD five-year planning funds and has one year to come up with a digital equity plan. The State of Alabama received its five-year planning funding on December 19, 2022 (close to \$6 million).

The timeline for funding is very intentional for covered population.

Ms. Lee is recommending that the City of Birmingham invest in a digital equity officer as well as in small internet infrastructure project.

Action Taken:

No Action – Information Only.

4. OLD BUSINESS: STATUS OF ONGOING PROJECTS

1. ALABAMA POWER

Blair Sullins presented an update.

APCO continues to partner with the City of Birmingham, working with Parks and Recreation to help upgrade lighting in some of the parks.

Action Taken:

No Action – Information Only.

2. BIRMINGHAM WATER WORKS

Rick Jackson presented an update.

Michael Johnson, Lucien Blankenship, Iris Fischer, Derrick Murphy, Jeff Thompson

To date, BWWB has not disconnected any ratepayer's water.

BWBW has over 4K miles of pipe and 1K miles of service lines.

MINUTES

FY 2023 Capital Budget – Current System Assets

The 2023 Capital Budget totals \$72,307,526

- \$18,000,000.00 for general capital, technology, and distribution projects. This includes to funding to explore automated meter reading.
- \$18,269,100.00 for maintenance and repair projects.
- \$25,000,000.00 for distribution main replacement program
- \$11,038,426.00 for capitalized O&M.

BWVB has received rewards for quality/safe water

BWVB has a 3.9% rate increase for FY2023.

There has been an increase of \$12.3 million in delinquent accounts since January 2022 (\$4.4 million in water and \$7.9 million in sewer).

BWVB is resuming disconnect services, but will only disconnect water as a last resort.

Three, six and twelve months installment plans have been implemented for customers who need assistance with bill pay.

BWVB is fully staffed with meter readers, and bill editing departments.

99% of customers are receiving timely bills.

Customers' credits are currently being posted to account.

Customers' refunds are currently being processed and mailed.

BWVB is back to normal operations.

The phone hours have been extended from 7:00a – 7:00p. The lobby is open 8:00a – 12:00p on Saturdays.

3. JEFFERSON COUNTY SEWER

No Report

4. AT&T

No Report

5. VERIZON

No Report

6. TMOBILE

No Report

7. SPECTRUM

Robert Smith presented an update.

Spectrum continues to make sure that the network is sound, solid, safe and delivering.

Every home within the City of Birmingham has access to Spectrum's service.

Action Taken:

No Action – Information Only.

8. SPIRE

No Report

9. CROWN CASTLE

No Report

10. TRAFFIC ENGINEER

No Report

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned by the Committee Chair, Council President Alexander.