

Town of Chapin 2.4 MGD Wastewater Facility UPDATE



As many of our area residents probably know, the Town of Chapin began a process to expand and upgrade the Town's wastewater treatment facility. The process began with proposals received to provide a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) in February, 2016. Hussey Gay Bell (HGB) was selected to generate the PER. After completion of the PER, HGB was tasked to provide the necessary design, permitting and construction documents to allow bidding and construction of the new facility. In October, 2017, MB Kahn Construction (MBK) was selected to construct the new facility.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held and construction began in March, 2018. Construction



continues as of this publication, with the facility now approximately 80% complete. The project is still within original budget constraints, however due to inclement weather and some difficult excavations, completion has been slightly delayed from the original target date. Startup and testing of critical equipment will commence in September, 2019 and continue until project completion and the plant is placed into operation.



This project has been the most extensive project undertaken by the Town of Chapin, with a completed cost of over \$14 million. The costs are necessary due to the 35% reduction in discharge limits by SCDHEC, the over-sale of capacity that has occurred over the last twenty years, and to ensure continued optimal performance of the wastewater system for our customers in the future. Upon completion, this state-of-the-art facility will be an environmentally friendly resource for treating wastewater in the Town's service area. The discharge of solids and oxygen consuming matter typical to domestic sewage will be less for this facility running at capacity than the old aerated lagoon that the Town currently operates, running at half the capacity of the new wastewater plant.

Water Rates to increase

Rates for water customers are expected to rise pending approval by Town Council at the September 3 Council meeting. A public hearing will be held just prior to the regularly scheduled council meeting. The public hearing will begin at 7:00 PM.



In a recent article by Rachel Layne, a freelance reporter, it was documented that rates for water and sewer service are on the rise nationwide. The article states that Americans will pay an average of \$104 per month in water and wastewater bills this year. That is up more than 30% in less than a decade, a rate that is higher than the annual rate of inflation.

Each glass of water, shower, or flush costs more than it did just eight years ago, and the bill is likely to go up again next year, according to the article. As for Town of Chapin customers, that scenario is very likely. Chapin buys water in bulk from the City of Columbia. The City has indicated that rates will be raised annually for the foreseeable future. In order to remain solvent, the Town is forced to raise its rates accordingly.

The rate increase proposed by Chapin Utilities to Town Council is for 7.1%, which is a direct pass through of the 7.1% increase to the Town effective July 1. The increase for the average customer using approximately 6,000 gallons of water per month would be \$53.89 or an increase for the average customer of \$3.73 per month.

Water Quality

Over the last several months, customers have notified the Chapin Utilities Department regarding issues with water quality in the Town's water distribution system. Customers have expressed concern regarding odors and taste of drinking water on different occasions.

Earlier in the summer, the issue of odiferous water was a result of low chlorine residuals in the water supplied to Chapin by the City of Columbia. Columbia Water and Chapin Utilities embarked on a rigorous flushing campaign. It was determined that the root cause was in Columbia Water's chlorine feed. The problem has subsequently been addressed by the City, and chlorine monitoring telemetry has been installed at the point of delivery to the Town of Chapin, which will alert both Columbia Water and Chapin Utilities of potential issues.



Recently, some customers have voiced concern over an earthy taste of the drinking water. This problem is similar to that reported by Columbia Water several weeks ago in the downtown area due to broken mains. It is believed that water with the earthy odors have migrated through the City system and into the Chapin supply. Also, the City recently determined that an algae bloom in Lake Murray was adversely affecting the water supply with respect to taste. Very few species of algae are toxic, and the algae present in Lake Murray was determined to be non-toxic. The City has implemented measures to treat and remove the algae from the finished water. The use of filtered water pitchers or faucets can also be beneficial in removing unpleasant tastes from drinking water.

Chapin Utilities strives to provide quality drinking water meeting or exceeding all federal and state

Continued on page 3

Water Quality (Continued)

requirements for contaminant removal. Utility Department staff constantly test, monitor and flush water lines to insure that the highest quality possible of drinking water is provided. Currently, the Utility Department is involved in collecting samples for its yearly lead and copper testing program as required by the US EPA. Bacteriological testing is performed on a monthly basis throughout the system. Hydrants and blow off assemblies are routinely flushed to maintain fresh, pure water to everyone.



A yearly water quality report is made available to all customers of the Chapin Water System. The current report for the 2018 year was completed on July 31, 2019 and is available for viewing or download on the Town of Chapin website at the following link:

<http://www.chapinsc.com/DocumentCenter/View/1668/Chapin-Water-Quality-Report1---2018>

Should you have questions, you are encouraged to contact the Chapin Utilities Department.

Capital Improvement Projects Progress

The Town of Chapin Utilities Department has begun several projects listed in its Capital Improvements Program. In addition to the Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion, a 10-inch force main is being constructed along Old Lexington Highway from Quail Walk Drive to Indian Cove Road. This new force main will eliminate excessive pressures in the existing force main and allow the system to function in a more stable manner.

Capital Improvement Projects Progress

(Continued)

The project is being constructed by Lake Murray Utilities. Construction began in July, and is approximately 25% complete.

The East Chapin Sewer Project will be constructed in two phases. Both phases are in the design phase. The 12-inch force main from Chapin Place to near the intersection of Wessinger Road and Dutch Fork Road is being designed by HB Engineering. Design is approximately 75% complete. The 16-inch force main will be a continuation of the 12-inch force main and will run along Chapin Road to Crooked Creek Road, then to Holly Oak Lane to the Town's Wastewater Plant. This project will benefit the entire Chapin wastewater system, balancing flows and relieving pressure in lines during times of peak flow. The project is being designed by American Engineering Consultants, and is approximately 90% complete. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid 2020.

Utilities relocations for the new roundabout at Murray Lindler and Old Lexington Highway were completed in June. The project was time consuming and cumbersome, as many utility conflicts were encountered, however, the project was completed for the original contract amount, due to diligent management by the Town and the Contractor, Site Concepts, Inc.



Other Capital Improvement Projects will be forthcoming in the future. A new outfall line for the Wastewater Plant is needed within the foreseeable future, as well as a sewer force main on Primrose Drive. A Wastewater Master Plan is also needed, and a Request for Qualifications will be sent to potential vendors in the near future.

Utilities Department Contacts

Main Office (803) 345-0416
Emergency Response (803) 605-9711
(After Hours and Weekends)

Andy Metts - Director
Susan Wright – Utilities Coordinator
Theresa Hiott - Billing
Dan Lambert, PE – Town Engineer
Rey Angoluan – Inspections
Richard Young – Water System Maint.
Selina Sexton – Utility Locates
Russell Wright – Operations Supervisor
Eddie Gable – Lead Operator
Matt Cameron – Maintenance Supervisor
Jeff Smith – Maintenance
Chuck Gunter – Wastewater Operator
Anthony Andrade – Public Works
John Walston – Public Works

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER



Sat. Aug 31 – Mon. Sept. 2
Town of Chapin Labor Day Festival. See the Town's website at www.chapinnc.com for information on specific events such as live music, the Justin Pepper 5K, and the annual Labor Day Parade.



Chapin Downtown Farmers Market

Sat., Sept. 7 – Clark St.
9:30 AM-1:00PM



Sat. Oct. 5 – Clark St.
9:30AM – 1:00PM
This is the final Farmers Market for the 2019 season



Thurs. Oct. 31 - Halloween



Mon., Nov. 11 – Veterans Day
(Town Hall closed)

Upcoming Town Council Meetings
(Town Hall - 1st Tuesday each month @
7:00 PM)

Sept. 3 - Oct. 1 - Nov. 5



**KNOW WHAT'S BELOW!!!!
CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!!!!**

REMINDER!!

- + The Town of Chapin prioritizes the protection of the environment from pollution, including overflows in the sanitary sewer system. If you see what you suspect may be a sewer overflow occurrence, please notify the Chapin Utilities Department in as timely a manner as possible, so our staff can investigate and minimize environmental consequences. **YOU** play a vital part in helping us keep our system operating smoothly!
- + Please remember to refrain from pouring oil and/or grease from cooking or automotive maintenance down sewers. Our wastewater facility can not accommodate the discharge of significant quantities of oils or grease.

UTILITY DEPARTMENT RECOGNITIONS

The Town of Chapin Utilities Department welcomes Chuck Gunter as its newest employee. Chuck was hired anticipating the completion of the Town's new wastewater treatment plant that is currently under construction. Chuck has extensive experience in the field of environmental science. He is a licensed environmental operator holding a B level license in Biological Wastewater Treatment and a D level license in Water Treatment. Chuck comes to the Town from Blue Granite Utilities. Chuck is married with 2 children.

