

WATER COMMITTEE
JULY 11, 2000
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Chuck Watkins, Chairman**
 Dr. George Patton, Vice Chairman
 Tony Parrott
 Chris Venice
 Chris Cofty

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: **Bill McNally**
 Jim Mallett

STAFF PRESENT: **Russell Ray**

GUESTS: **John Blalock, Malone Road**
 Larry Turner, PTC WASA
 Dave Hamrick, The Citizen

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chuck Watkins at 8:00 A.M.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON JUNE 13, 2001.

Dr. George Patton made the motion and Chris Venice seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 13, 2001. There was no opposition.

II. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN.

Chairman Watkins made a motion to elect Dr. George Patton as Vice Chairman of the Water Committee. Mr. Parrott seconded and there was no opposition. Chairman Watkins expressed his appreciation to Dr. Patton for being a member of the committee.

III. JOHN BLALOCK TO SPEAK TO COMMITTEE.

Mr. Blalock explained he lives on Lake Horton. His property is rapidly deteriorating, washing out into the lake. He has made some repairs and he is here to ask this committee if they will consider paying for those repairs. Strictly the cost of them. He presented photographs to the committee. He added he has also brought the bills.

Mr. Blalock went on to say that when they built the lake, a portion of his property was removed that should not have been removed. He tried to stop them, but they continued to dig with the land movers and removed it. When they surveyed they realized that they had made an error. They went back and took some bottom dirt, where they had been scraping, and piled it up on his bank. He presented a picture of it. When they filled the lake with water, it immediately started to wash away. Right now his pins on his property line are out

in the water. He came to Mr. Parrott and Mr. Parrott said at that point, no repairs were being made around the lake. Mr. Blalock stated he came back again, and Mr. Parrott told him they would take care of the survey. When they resurveyed, they found the pins were in the water and that his bank is eroding. There has been nothing done since the county did the last survey. Every time a Marshal came by, or the wind blew from the east the bank kept eroding away and dropping off into the lake. Anytime there is any movement around the edge of the bank, it made a mud hole.

Mr. Blalock stated that he hired a young man to bring in some rip rap rock. He cleaned it up, and put the rock in. It stopped the erosion, it has not replaced the land that is gone. He would be more than happy if the Committee would consider reimbursing him for what he has spent. He had some grass seed, rock and bobcat work to put the rock in place. He presented the bills for these. He stated it is probably not as professional a job as at the power line. But, for now it stopped his property from eroding. He does not want to make a big deal about it, but all his land is washing out into the lake in that point where they dug too much. He just wanted to stop it. He knows it is kind of trivial and the Water Department has projects under construction. This is probably not the first thing on the priority list, but he stated he would appreciate the Committee considering it and letting him know. He mentioned he spoke with Mr. Parrott a couple of times. Each time he had been willing to listen to him. They did come out and survey, but there has been no action taken. He thought this might be an avenue to have someone look at it.

Chairman Watkins asked how long the lake has been full. Mr. Mallett responded it has been full five years. Mr. Blalock commented this has been an ongoing problem. Mr. Parrott explained this area is the buffer around the lake that is in the easement around the lake. We have water action on the shoreline all the way around the lake. In some instances, such as Mr. Blalocks' the Water System paid for a flood easement around the edge. In some areas such as Mr. Ballards' we just purchased it, because that is what he wanted. In all cases, we have already compensated the property owners for the lake being there. There are no plans to rip rap the lake all the way around. The water level in the lake is going to drop yearly. There is always going to be wave action. There is not as much tree growth and bushes in this area as there are in others, because it has been cut. There is nothing to help hold, if there is not a stand of grass or bushes in the buffer.

Mr. Blalock stated he owns to the pool level. They paid him half the value of the property between the pool and the hundred year high water mark. He pays tax on everything to the pin and to the pool level. He still owns the property. He still pays tax on it, and a great deal of tax, now that the lake is there. He does own to the pin, and that pin is in the water. He understands the County did not purchase it, he agreed he would not do anything with the property between the hundred year high water mark and the pool level. In this

particular case, that area was scraped away by the people constructing the power line island. That is the reason it is cleared out. It is not something that he went in and chopped down himself.

Chairman Watkins asked about the encroachment on his property, about the Water System easement. How far away from the pins is it. Mr. Blalock responded the pins for the pool level were there. The people building just continued to scrape away. They scraped all the way to the hundred year high water mark.

Mr. Parrott clarified they did not go to the hundred year high water mark all the way down his property. Mr. Blalock said no, it was about 75 feet. Every where they did not take property out, where they went to the correct level, it is grassed over, there are trees. He sees no erosion problem at all. Even where he used to have his garden is not an erosion problem. The only erosion problem he is having is in the area where they removed too much dirt and then backfilled. This is the only area he is asking about. It is a small area. They hydroseeded it and tried to stop it, but it just did not stop. He has no other real erosion on the other 1400 feet. Just this one area.

Attorney McNally suggested that he, Mr. Parrott and Mr. Mallett review Mr. Blalock's situation and report back to the committee. Chairman Watkins explained to Mr. Blalock that we do not want to create a situation where people enhance their property and then come back to the Water System for reimbursement. Mr. Blalock replied that he understands that. Chairman Watkins went on to say that if he has a special problem that we created, he is not saying that we did. We will investigate and if we were wrong we will try to make it right. He asked Mr. Blalock to let us have some time to look it over.

Mr. Blalock left his information and thanked the committee for their time.

II. REPORT ON RADIO READ METER PROJECT.

Mr. Parrott reported that we are starting on the third phase of this project. We have approximately 9,000 radio read meters that we are reading now. We started Phase III last Monday for the next 6,000. The project is going exceptionally well. Mrs. Gillis commented the project is going well and we are happy with it. Mr. Parrott commented that out of 9,000 meters we may have had fifteen or twenty with minor problems. For a project this size, that will touch every customer we have, it has worked out well. We have a good sub-contractor that is doing the meter change outs. There have been very few problems. The Board of Commissioners have approved bidding the scrap meters to get some return on them. The project will be in the 3.5 million dollar range over about three and a half years.

Chairman Watkins asked how well the device is working. Mr. Parrott responded this is a computer you put in an automobile and drive around. There have been one or two glitches, but we have not had anything that amounted to much.

TANK ACCIDENT

Mr. Mallett mentioned there was an accident at the 92 tank on Monday.

WATER RESTRICTIONS

Dr. Patton mentioned the water restriction changes for the State. Mr. Parrott explained the metro area is still under the State mandate because Lake Lanier is not full.

SOUTH FAYETTE WATER PLANT

Mr. Parrott reported they plan to bring the new plant in service tomorrow morning. The operator training was Monday and Tuesday. There were a couple of glitches with pumps and some electrical problems. Don North will be here in the morning.

REPORT FROM LARRY TURNER (PEACHTREE CITY WASA)

Mr. Turner reported the project on the Highway 54 pump station should be complete by the end of August, which is ahead of schedule. He went on to say they are planning a plant expansion. The design development report is complete. The public meeting for environmental impact is on July 24 at 6:00 P.M. in the Council chambers. They will then submit the permit application, and hopefully be ready to go out for bids at the first of the year. They will expand the Rockaway Plant. This will allow them to abandon the Flat Creek Plant. Construction should start next May. They plan to continue using the permit they have to discharge .9MGD at the Flat Creek location. It helps maintain the wetlands at that site. If they did not keep that .9 discharge, they would have to find another golf course to go to, which would mean probably having to go out to Cannongate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Parrott made a motion and Dr. Patton seconded to adjourn to executive session for discussion of two real estate items and one potential legal item.

The County Attorney briefed the Committee on two real estate items and one potential legal item. No action was taken.

There being no further business, Chairman Chuck Watkins adjourned the meeting at 9:05 A.M.

Chuck Watkins

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 25th day of July, 2001.

Lisa Gillis