

**DIAMONDHEAD WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 27, 2023 – 4:00p.m.**

Diamondhead City Hall – Council Chambers, 5000 Diamondhead Circle, Diamondhead, MS

1. **PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS:** Chairman Bryon Griffith, Treasurer Louis Ertel (by phone), Commissioner Mark Beisecker (by phone), and Commissioner Arlen Griffey.

ABSENT: Vice-Chairman Ben Taylor.

The presence of a quorum was noted, and the meeting was called to order at 4:03p.m. The public was duly notified in compliance with the District’s meeting policy.

2. **Agenda.**

Motion by Commissioner Griffey, second by Commissioner Ertel to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Public Comments.** None.

4. **Minutes.**

4.1. Motion by Commissioner Beisecker, second by Commissioner Ertel to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting held on July 13, 2023. Motion carried unanimously. (Attachment A).

5. **General Manager’s Report.**

- 5.1. **Update of Recent Events & Projects.**

5.1.A. The contractor for the Elevated Water Tank #2 Project is working on the punch list and examining the potential need for installing an altitude valve to assist operators in regulating the hydraulics within the commercial area.

5.1.B. CB Developers continue to install fire hydrants, cut and cap lines, and tying-in the new water mains for the Water System Improvement Phase II Project. The contractor is near completion of all of the major project work. Some asphalt work and sodding is scheduled to be performed within a few weeks. There was a minor accident on this project involving a contractor’s employee. The employee injured his foot but has no broken bones and is doing well.

5.1.C. The Water System Improvement Phase III Project is approximately 88% complete. Water service connections are approximately 65% complete and fire hydrant installations are approximately 98% complete. Crews continue to install hot taps, and test and flush the water mains throughout the project.

- 5.1.D.** The Sewer Improvements Basins 13, 16 & 17 Project is approximately 59% complete. DNA has completed all the underground work except for approximately 1500 feet of force main along Diamondhead Drive East. The contractor is scheduled in the coming weeks, to continue laying sod and begin work on the Diamondhead Drive East force main. Suncoast is scheduled to mobilize on July 31, 2023 to begin CIPP lining of the mains.
- 5.1.E.** The temporary emergency pipe support and culvert installed by the District at the Kolo Court drainage ditch are holding steady and the culvert is working. The temporary measures are an attempt to prevent further sewer main damage from an eroding ditch bank collapse, however, some erosion has become evident due to recent storms and the section of piping on the north end of the ditch is beginning to be exposed again. The riprap has been dislodged and moved downstream. The City and engineers are working on obtaining easements.
- 5.1.F.** Proposed drawings for the City of Diamondhead Makiki Drive Drainage Project were received on July 13, 2023 and are under review.
- 5.1.G.** On July 11, 2023, the Diamondhead Water and Sewer District provided written notice to the City of Diamondhead about some issues with the proposed dog park and fishing pier location. It was pointed out in past District meetings that there is a sanitary sewer manhole structure near the proposed park, as well as one in the paved area of Diamondhead Drive West. The District's existing underground sewer main is also located through the proposed park area. These structures have overflowed within a short period of time during extremely heavy rainfall, after hurricane damages to infrastructure, and during mass power outages. The Diamondhead Water & Sewer District's State Certified Wastewater Operators have documented and registered all such events with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) as required by state law.

During an overflow event, District personnel perform cleanup processes and disinfection treatment of overflowing water as approximately 95% of the content is always stormwater runoff during these storm events. Stormwater runoff inundates gravity sewer systems whenever streets are flooded and ditches overflow. Lawn treatments, pesticides, cleaning chemicals, solvents, oil spills runoff, as well as others, are carried by these flood waters. Inundation of stormwater should be of a major concern when these events happen. These contents have the potential to cause much more dangerous environmental impacts.

The Diamondhead Water & Sewer District has taken extreme measures to prevent stormwater inflow and infiltration into the sanitary sewer system, which can be understood by reviewing the multiple sewer system improvement projects over the last five years. Despite the District's best efforts and practices, flooded streets still occur, and systems may be subject to infiltration of stormwater. This flooding is always forced out at the lowest points first. This particular area of the proposed park is a low point for that section of the sanitary sewer system. As another matter of fact, during or after the consolidation efforts and referendum which was placed into the ballot in the last

election, the existing Mayor attempted to use this very topic and location to discredit the Diamondhead Water & Sewer District by saying the park could not be built at the location due to a sewer leak within District lines. That claim was proven to be false. Additionally, residents who have lived adjacent to this property for many years have verified that water always has been present in that area after any rain. This matter should have been examined before the land was purchased for the proposed dog park.

The existing underground sanitary sewer piping and the nearby manhole structure should have been included within the original survey of this property. If not, the Diamondhead Water & Sewer District would have easily been able to mark these utilities upon a simple request as we regularly do throughout the community. When the proposed construction drawings were presented to the District, the underground piping and manhole structure were shown in those construction drawings. Someone had to be aware of their existence or they would have been missing from the drawings.

After proposed construction drawings were received, I instructed District personnel to mark the exact location of these existing utilities in January 2023 as part of the planning and review process for engineers so they were able to correct the drawings as needed and move forward with planning or approvals. The green markings and labeled markers for the existing underground sewer mainline have remained on the ground throughout this period and have been refreshed as needed. Anyone that visited the site would see these markers and green paint.

The last Planning and Review meeting was held on February 2023 at City Hall, and as of today's date, final drawings have not been presented to the District. Recently, it came to my attention via a City Council Meeting that the City of Diamondhead was moving forward with the advertisement for bid of the proposed project, even though final drawings were never sent to the District. Therefore, for the benefit of all involved, an official letter dated July 11, 2023 was sent to the City Manager informing the City officials of the existing underground utilities. This notification was not a requirement but sent as a courtesy to the City and to the community. Alternatively, it may have cost the City hundreds of thousands of dollars after the fact when something happened and the District needed to enter the property to perform major repairs of the underground utilities.

Once again, it appears the public has been misled and misinformed of some facts. The District providing the letter to the City of Diamondhead was in the best interest of the community and to provide notification of the risk involved at the proposed location of this project. Facts which are easily proven with minimal research and are not found on social media such as Facebook.

6. Construction / Engineering Projects.

6.1. Sewer Improvements-Phase I & II (Basins #13, #16, #17) Project.

6.1.A. None.

- 6.2. Water System Rehab-Phase I Project (New Water Tower).
6.2.A. Motion by Commissioner Ertel, second by Commissioner Griffey to approve Digital Engineering Invoice# 728-1312-26 in the amount of \$1,250.00 for the time period of May 28, 2023 through July 1, 2023, leaving a remaining balance of \$3,962.00 on this contract. Motion carried unanimously. (Attachment B).
- 6.3. Water System Rehab-Phase II Project.
6.3.A. Motion by Commissioner Beisecker, second by Commissioner Ertel to approve Digital Engineering Invoice# 728-1313-24 in the amount of \$12,270.00 for the time period of May 28, 2023 through July 1, 2023, leaving a remaining balance of \$12,270.00 on this contract. Motion carried unanimously. (Attachment C).
- 6.4. Water System Rehab-Phase III Project.
6.4.A. None.
- 6.5. MDOT Roundabout Utility Relocation Project.
6.5.A. Motion by Commissioner Griffey, second by Commissioner Ertel to approve Digital Engineering Invoice# 728-1310.022-03 in the amount of \$26,660.00 for the time period of May 28, 2023 through July 1, 2023, leaving a remaining balance of \$40,614.80 on this contract. Motion carried unanimously. (Attachment D).

6.5.B. Motion by Commissioner Beisecker, second by Commissioner Ertel to approve Digital Engineering Invoice# 728-1310.022-04 in the amount of \$5,068.00 for the time period of April 2, 2023 through July 1, 2023, leaving a remaining balance of \$35,546.80 on this contract. Motion carried unanimously. (Attachment E).
- 6.6. Miscellaneous Construction/Engineering Projects.
6.6.A. Motion by Commissioner Griffey, second by Commissioner Ertel to approve Digital Engineering Invoice# 23R00024.007-02 in the amount of \$980.00, for the time period of May 28, 2023 through July 1, 2023 on the GIS Integration & Maintenance Project. Motion carried unanimously. (Attachment F).
7. Financial.
7.1. Docket of Claims & Financial Reports.
7.1.A. Motion by Commissioner Beisecker, second by Commissioner Ertel to approve payment of the Docket of Claims in the total amount of \$69,579.80, as attached hereto. Motion carried unanimously. (Attachment G).

7.1.B. Motion by Commissioner Ertel, second by Commissioner Griffey to acknowledge payment of the Unapproved Docket of Claims as detailed in Section 6., in the total amount of \$46,228.00, as attached hereto. Motion carried unanimously. (Attachment H).
7.1.C. Motion by Commissioner Ertel, second by Commissioner Beisecker to approve payment of the Customer Deposit Refund Register in the total amount of \$4,011.52, as attached hereto. Motion carried unanimously. (Attachment I).

8. Old Business.

8.1. None.

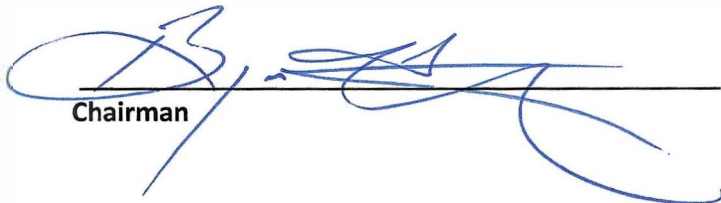
9. New Business/Discussion Items.

9.1. Motion by Commissioner Griffey, second by Commissioner Ertel to hold a Rate Study Workshop conducted by Dr. Alan Barefield, on Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. in the District Meeting Room located at 4425 Park Ten Dr., Diamondhead, MS. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Motion by Commissioner Griffey, second by Commissioner Ertel to Adjourn at 4:50p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for August 10, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at Diamondhead City Hall Council Chambers, 5000 Diamondhead Circle, Diamondhead, MS.




Chairman

8/10/23
Date