

**CHAPIN TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

**Thursday June 6, 2023
5:00 p.m.**

Council Chambers

Members Present: Mayor Al Koon, Mayor Pro Tem Mike Clonts, Council Member Gregg White, Council Member Vicky Shealy,

Members Absent: Council Member Gregg White, Council Member Leland Teal

Staff Present: Finance Director Laura Culler, Utilities Director Karalyn Miskie, Town Administrator Nicholle Burroughs, Police Chief Thomas Griffin, and Town Clerk Shannon Bowers

Call to Order: Mayor Koon called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. Mayor Koon then determined there was a quorum and acknowledged the appropriate notifications in compliance with the SC Freedom of Information Act had been met.

Discussion Items:

Director Miskie explained the City of Columbia is proposing a 5% water rate increase, which translates to approximately \$3,000 per month or \$3,600 per year. She is proposing that the Town increase rates by .5% over what the City of Columbia is proposing. This increase would average to be about \$2.20 per customer per month. This rate increase would go toward offsetting rising costs stemming from increased operation and maintenance expenses related to current inflation rates and increased cost of construction and materials. The increase will provide a buffer to account for time between the date of inception for the increase through City of Columbia and the time necessary to properly inform the town's customers. She noted that an increase in users (up 41% over the last seven years) results in more usage and more maintenance on the system. She provided council with information that put the Town, on average, well within the rates of surrounding water area systems. Administrator Burroughs also stated that .5% was the most conservative option that staff would recommend based on current information. Council then discussed the proposed changes. After discussion, Council was agreeable to a 1% rate increase in addition to the 5% increase from the City of Columbia, for a total of 6%. The Mayor then directed Director Miskie to present an option for increase at the next council meeting. Director Miskie stated that first reading would be June 20, and the second reading and public hearing would be at the July Council meeting. Rates would potentially go into effect in August.

Adjournment: Mayor Pro Tem Clonts made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Shealy seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

COUNCIL APPROVED: June 20, 2023