Meeting May 11, 2026, 6:00pm

Minutes

Prayer and pledge led by Robert Walling

Approval of April minutes — motion by Robert and seconded by Virginia

In attendance Leon Deweese Virginia Lewis, Robert Walling, Thomas Champagne, Monica Blankenship, Julie Neely, Jonathan Zadick, Katie Kortekaas and several community members.

Community members came to ask questions and express their concern about the recent rate changes; they wanted to know why such a high-rate increase was necessary. The board and utility staff explained that there had been 2 different independent rate studies had been done at the behest of the Comptroller's office in Nashville that governs public utilities; (as the utility has finished the last 2 years in the red), the rising cost of running the utility and the fact that rate changes have not happened before now to make up the difference, made this necessary. It was explained that our rates are now more in line with other utilities in the area and that we did not raise the rates as high as the rate studies suggested we should. The board also explained that improvements that are being made to the water system and the utility as a whole are happening, and more are being planned for the future. Virginia Lewis also provided a history on how and why the utility acquired the treatment plant from the state and what was done with the money the state provided to the utility at the time.

Terry Angel and his sister were present to ask the board to turn his meter back on and reactivate his account even though he has an unpaid bill of $5,225.62, he said it was the fault of the utility that the bill got so high, even though the office staff tried to work with him through a payment plan set up with the blessing of the previous Board President, that he did not honor. Robert suggested that he have a special meeting with the board at a later date to discuss the situation.

Thomas was given the ok to order a Hydrant Buddy to help with flushing lines, motion made by Robert and 2nd by Virginia.

Jonathan relayed that the easements for the Wyatt Loop extension being done by the Jeffery Angel will be sent to the utility May 12th for him to pick up. He also let the board know that there has been no response from Nashville to the Asset Management Plan, James C. Hailey, submitted on behalf of the utility.

Katie stated she would help Monica finish the necessary steps to set the utility up to receive grants directly from now own so the utility does not have to rely on the local counties to acquire grants for the utility in the future,

Items tabled from the agenda were #7 Thomas Champagne's, General Manager position and pay, # 9 Website changes, # 10 employee emails, #11 establishing a monthly pre-meeting workshop, #12 Revision of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Attendance slips, and #13 Updating business accounts and Extra minimums on accounts.

The board voted to end Justin's probation and officially hire him full time and give him a $0.50 per hour raise Motion by Virginia and by 2nd Robert.

Thomas, Monica and Julie provided the board with an update on the progress with the muni-link install.

The board looked at proposals from ServLine and Water Leak Relief Mrs. Ashley Wells from Water Leak Relief was present to go over their proposal and answer questions. The board tabled that decision to have more time to look at and go over the proposals.

A New bank draft form and service contract was approved by the board, with a motion by Virginia and 2nd by Robert.

The meeting was then recessed to pick back up at 1pm May 22, 2026

May 22, 2026

May 22, 2026, 1pm Leon called the meeting back to order

11, # 12 and #13 were all again tabled to the June 8, 2026 meeting

Employee individual emails through BTC Fiber at no charge was approved with a motion by Virginia and 2nd by Robert.

Replacing the credit card processer Web Fee Pay with I-Cloud was approved, motion by Robert and 2nd by Virginia.

The board also voted on the fulfillment of the General Manager position to Thomas Champagne effective immediately.

A few customers came to this meeting to address the rate changes and were provided with the opportunity to speak and ask questions on the matter even though it had been discussed at the original meeting.

A Motion at adjourn was made by Robert and 2nd by Virginia.

____ **Leon Deweese**

____**Virginia Lewis**

____ **Robert Walling**