



Centerton Utilities

(Water/Wastewater Departments) (Franchised Utility Permitting)

November 04, 2025

CALL TO ORDER – The special meeting of the Centerton Waterworks & Sewer Commission called to order by Commissioner Donald Casteel.

(1) ROLL CALL – Commissioners present: Melvin Coffelt, Robert Anderson, Donald Casteel, Michelle Haverkamp & TJ Wells. Centerton Utilities' present: Malcolm Attwood, Chad Klingler, John Daniels, and Thresia Leimberg. Professional Services present: Jeff Dehnhardt and Mark Johnson of ESI, Heather Owens of Harrington Miller, City of Centerton present: Mayor Bill Edwards.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) New/Other Business:

- a. **Meeting Recordings – Commissioner Anderson:** The Commission held an official discussion on meeting recordings and whether any changes were needed to current practices. Utility Director Attwood noted that audio recordings are made for each meeting, minutes are posted online after approval, and these actions meet all legal requirements. Commissioners discussed audio quality, equipment options, and the feasibility of enhanced recording systems. Currently two separate microphones are used during each meeting to ensure reliable audio recording and accurate meeting records. The general consensus was to continue the current process while exploring improvements to microphone quality. Attwood also noted he can provide the meeting recording to the Mayor for City Council use if requested. No motion was made to change existing procedures.
- b. **Schedule of Fees Update: Utility Director Attwood:** Presented two scheduled fee updates based on increased supplier pricing for residential meters. The ¾-inch meter fee will increase from \$325 to \$350, and the 1-inch meter fee will increase from \$650 to \$700. He confirmed these fees cover the cost of the meter only, not installation costs.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the updated meter fees as recommended. Commissioner Haverkamp seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. **FY2026 Budget Report: Commissioner Anderson:** During the budget report, staff noted updates reflecting the 2.8% COLA adjustment, inclusion of contracted service line replacements, approximately \$3.4 million in non-reimbursable Highway 102 utility relocation costs, two proposed new positions (one administrative and one operations), and replacement of two trucks. A motion was made to amend the proposed budget to increase Commissioners' pay from \$200 to \$250 per meeting, bringing the annual line item to \$16,000. The Commission discussed the rationale, noting comparable compensation for other boards and the time commitment required of Commissioners. A subsequent motion to approve the full proposed budget as amended was made. The Commission had a brief discussion noting differences between the budget and the rate study due to vacancy-related salary underruns in the current year.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the amended budget as discussed. Commissioner Wells seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Anderson moved to increase the commissioner's pay per meeting to \$250.00. Commissioner Wells seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. **Water and Sewer Rate Study: Mark Johnson with ESI:** Presented the updated water and sewer rate study, noting major factors affecting future rates, including Act 605 requirements, depreciation coverage, increased wholesale water and treatment costs, significant projected capital projects, and continued system growth. The Commission discussed the recommended January 2026 rate adjustments, including a \$0.50 monthly base increase for both water and sewer and a water usage rate increase of \$1.45 per 1,000 gallons.



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The Commission also noted that sewer usage rates may need further increases. It is noted that the rate study does not include the costs of any future major wastewater treatment plant expansion or connection fees, as those project requirements and expenses are not yet known. It also does not incorporate potential future staffing additions beyond standard annual increases, nor does it include unknown future rate adjustments from Decatur or Two Ton. These items will need to be addressed in a future rate study once more accurate information becomes available.

Additional comments were made regarding the importance of keeping rates aligned with system growth and regulatory requirements.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to accept the rate study and adopt the recommended rate adjustments, including a \$0.50 monthly base increase for both water and sewer and a water usage rate increase of \$1.45 per 1,000 gallons. Commissioner TJ Wells seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

(4) Resolutions – None

(5) Public Comment:

- Mayor Bill Edwards advised that a public hearing is required before adopting new rates and that the earliest feasible adoption date will most likely be January 2026 following proper notice.
- Commissioner Anderson addressed a recent news article, stating that claims Centerton declined a 2022 proposal to revise the Decatur wastewater contract are not supported by Commission records. He noted that a regional wastewater authority is already contemplated in the existing agreement and that Decatur's mayor has expressed interest in pursuing a feasibility study.

(6) Announcements – None

(7) Adjournment - Commissioner Casteel asked the attendees if there were any questions. With no further business, Commissioner Anderson made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner TJ Wells 2nd the motion. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned.