Hart County Water and Sewer Authority
Board of Directors Meeting October 19, 2026

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on October 19, 2026, in the Hart County Cooperative Extension Service Building. Chairman Wade Carlton called the meeting to order. Present were Board Members Larry Haley, Bennie Harper, and Vice-Chair Patti York. Also present were Legal Counsel Kim Higginbotham, Interim Director Charles Cathon, HCWSA employee Holly Mathis, and several members of the public. Mr. Justice was absent.

Welcome

Approval of Agenda

Ms. York motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Harper seconded the motioned which passed 4 – 0.

Public Comments; Remarks by invited guests

Ms. Rhea Dignam requested that the HCWSA send further letters to Congressman Collins and others.

Mr. Alan Brown shared his support for Ms. Dignam, thanked Ms. York for her service as a Board member, and requested clarification regarding the Reed Creek Expansion project.

Ms. Margaret Crossley requested water service for Oak Crest Drive.

Approval of September 21st Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Haley motioned to approve the September 21st regular meeting minutes. Mr. Harper seconded the motion which passed 4 – 0.

Financial Report

Mr. Cawthon presented the financial report.

Old Business

Reed Creek Expansion Project update

Mr. Cawthon provided an update on the Reed Creek Expansion project, reporting that the contractor is currently installing main lines on Raindrop Circle and Dewdrop Circle with plans to proceed to Reed Creek School Road next.

Operational Update

Mr. Cawthon reported a significant decrease in the number of delinquent accounts. He also noted that several minor leaks had been identified and repaired quickly.

New Business

FY26 Audit Engagement Letter

The Board agreed to authorize Mr. Cawthon and Mr. Carlton to sign the FY26 Financial Audit Engagement letter.

Director's Comments

After some discussion, the Board directed Mr. Cawthon and Ms. Higginbotham to prepare a letter clarifying the Authority's contractual responsibilities regarding the Hartwell Business Park fire pump.

Mr. Cawthon advised the Board that he had spoken with Jon Herschall, Hartwell City Manager, who confirmed the wholesale rates from the City of Hartwell will remain the same through December 31, 2027.

Members' Comments

None

Upcoming Meetings

Monday, Monday, November 9th, 2026, and Monday, December 28th, 2026

Executive Session – Personnel and Litigation

Mr. Harper made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 4 – 0.

Mr. Harper made a motion to exit the executive session. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 4 – 0.

Regular Meeting

Ms. York made a motion to authorize Mr. Cawthon to review and edit the draft letters provided by Ms. Dignam and distribute. Mr. Harper seconded the motion which passed 4 – 0.

Adjournment

Mr. Harper motioned to adjourn. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 4 - 0.

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Wade Carlton, Chairman