



January 12, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners of Columbus, Georgia, was held on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at our Main Office, Chattahoochee Room. Chairman, Nick Smith, took the roll call, and the following Commissioners were present:

Nick Smith, Chairman
Jennifer Upshaw, Vice Chair
Brooks Yancey
Oz Roberts
Mayor Skip Henderson

President Cummings welcomed our new board member, Brooks Yancey. Mr. Yancey brings engineering, construction, and industrial backgrounds to the board. Mr. Yancey spoke and thanked the board for having him.

This being the first meeting of the New Year, the election of Officers was in order.

The following Officers were nominated:

Current Officers

Nick Smith, Chairman
Jennifer Upshaw, Vice Chairman
Jeremy Cummings, President
Vic Burchfield, Secretary

Proposed Officers 2026

Nick Smith, Chairman
Jennifer Upshaw, Vice Chairman
Jeremy Cummings, President
Vic Burchfield, Secretary

A motion was made by Oz Roberts and seconded by Mayor Skip Henderson to elect the above Officers for the calendar year 2026. Motion carried.

Receipt of the Minutes from the regular meeting on December 8, 2025, was presented to the Board. A motion was made by Brooks Yancey and seconded by Jennifer Upshaw to approve the Minutes as written. Motion carried.

Aric Jackson recognized the following promotions for the month of December: Christopher Page, promoted to Field Services Crew Leader II, and Juqwan Soloman, promoted to Field Services Technician I.

Vickie Clark presented the Financial Report for December 2025, including Ft Benning, to the Board. A motion was made by Jennifer Upshaw and seconded by Oz Roberts to approve the Financial Reports. Motion carried.

Vic Burchfield presented a request to donate a surplus vehicle to the Uptown Columbus Business Improvement District (BID). Uptown Columbus Business Improvement District (BID) made a request to CWW regarding the availability and potential donation of a surplus truck for use in its ambassador program. CWW has reviewed the vehicles on our disposal list and has identified a vehicle that meets its requirements (2012 Ford F150 Regular Cab 2WD with 110,695 miles, VIN#1FTMF1CMXCFB57072). Under the Georgia Gratuity Clause, CWW is allowed to make a vehicle donation under certain restrictions as follows:

- **The nonprofit's mission provides a public benefit.**

Uptown Columbus, Inc. and the Uptown Columbus BID are nonprofit organizations responsible for supporting the economic vitality, safety, cleanliness, and overall experience of Uptown Columbus, the City's central business, entertainment, and civic district. Uptown's mission is to create a clean, safe, vibrant, and economically healthy district that benefits residents, businesses, employees, and visitors. Through daily operations, public safety coordination, maintenance services, programming, and strategic partnerships with the City of Columbus and community

stakeholders, Uptown provides direct public benefit by enhancing public spaces, supporting local businesses, encouraging tourism, and improving quality of life. The Uptown BID operates seven days a week, delivering clean-and-safe services, ambassador patrols, and operational oversight that supplement City services and ensure consistent, visible stewardship of public assets.

- **The donation directly advances that public purpose.**

The donated vehicle would be used exclusively for Uptown BID's public-service operations within Uptown Columbus. The vehicle would support the Clean Team, Ambassador Safety Team, and Operations staff in carrying out daily responsibilities, including:

- Routine patrols and inspections of public spaces, sidewalks, parking garages, parks, playgrounds, and the Riverwalk
- Rapid response to safety concerns, maintenance issues, and service requests
- Transport of equipment, supplies, and signage necessary for cleanliness, safety, and event support
- Increased visibility and accessibility of Uptown staff to improve public confidence and perception of safety
- Direct coordination with City departments, public safety personnel, and utility partners

The vehicle will enhance operational efficiency, reduce response times, and strengthen Uptown's ability to maintain safe, clean, and well-managed public spaces. This directly advances Uptown's public purpose while supporting broader City goals related to public safety, economic development, tourism, and community well-being.

- **The governing body (Board of Water Commissioners of Columbus, Ga.) formally approves the donation.**

Approving the donation at a regular Board meeting satisfies this requirement.

- **CWW documents the public benefit received in exchange.**

CWW will document the public benefit as stated above in the official minutes of the Board meeting.

- **The transfer complies with CWW surplus property procedures.**

CWW has a clear process for classifying vehicles that are no longer needed (surplus) and ready for disposal. Our Managed Maintenance Department creates a spreadsheet listing all company vehicles that are at least 10 years old or have reached 150,000 miles. Each vehicle is evaluated by the Fleet Shop and rated as

Good, Fair, or Poor based on its condition. This list is then submitted as potential candidates for replacement during the budget approval process. Once approved for replacement, a new vehicle is purchased in the following budget year, and the old vehicle is added to the disposal list. The recommended vehicle for donation has been evaluated by this process and qualifies as surplus property.

Based upon the above criteria and supporting documentation, the donation of the vehicle is allowed and recommended for approval by the Board.

A motion was made by Oz Roberts and seconded by Jennifer Upshaw. Motion carried.

President Cummings introduced Bryan Huskey from Stifel to the board. President Cummings and the executive team have been working with Bryan on the 2026 Bond Issuance. Bryan explained the need for the bond issuance. With board approval, CWW will attend the city council meeting on January 27th for approval to proceed to the bond market. A motion was made by Jennifer Upshaw and seconded by Oz Roberts. Motion carried.

Savonne Monell presented an overview of public education and outreach, Water Quality. In December, WTVM conducted and aired interviews with Jeremy Cummings, John Peebles, and Ken Barber. The interviews provided a platform for CWW to highlight the level of expertise and technology used, as well as financial implications, which are critical elements in our role of providing excellence in water and wastewater services. Jeremy thanked John Peebles and Ken Barber for the interview.

President Cummings presented the following meeting dates to the Board for the calendar year 2026. These dates are all on the second Monday of each month at 1:30.

Monday, January 12, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.
Monday, February 9, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.

Monday, March 9, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.
Monday, April 13, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.
Monday, May 11, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.
Monday, June 8, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.
Monday, July 13, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.
Monday, August 10, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.
Monday, September 14, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, October 13, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.*
Monday, November 9, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.
Monday, December 14, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.

*Changed due to Columbus Day

A motion was made by Oz Roberts and seconded by Mayor Skip Henderson to approve the above-scheduled Board meeting dates for 2026. Motion carried.

President Cummings presented the following schedule of Holidays for the calendar year 2026:

Thursday, January 1, 2026 – New Year's Day Holiday
Monday, January 19, 2026 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Monday, May 25, 2026 – Memorial Day Holiday
Friday, June 19, 2026 – Juneteenth National Independence Day
Friday, July 3, 2026 – Independence Day Holiday
Monday, September 7, 2026 - Labor Day (First Monday in September)
Monday, October 12, 2026 – Columbus Day
Tuesday, November 11, 2026– Veterans Day
Thursday, November 26, 2026 - Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 27, 2026 – Day After Thanksgiving
Thursday, December 24, 2026 – Christmas Eve, Floating Holiday
Friday, December 25, 2026 – Christmas Day

A motion was made by Jennifer Upshaw and seconded by Oz Roberts. Motion carried.

The following Departmental Reports for December 2025 were provided to the Board as information only:

- Customer Service Report
- Meter Maintenance/Water Accountability Report
- Engineering Report
- Field Services Report

- Information Services Report
- Environmental Services Report
- Strategic Planning, Communications, Community Outreach Report
- Employee Services Report
- Water Resource Operations/Managed Maintenance Report

President Jeremy Cummings provided the following information to the board:

- Vic Burchfield received a thank-you note for speaking on the panel at the Georgia Funders' Forum back in October. They greatly appreciated his time and expertise.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Brooks Yancey and seconded by Oz Roberts to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.



Vic Burchfield, Secretary