



# Columbus Water Works

*Serving our Community  
Protecting the Environment*

**December 8, 2025**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners of Columbus, Georgia was held on Monday, December 8, 2025, 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, Chair  
Jennifer Upshaw, Vice Chair  
Wes Kelley  
Oz Roberts  
Mayor Skip Henderson

Receipt of the Minutes from the regular meeting on November 10, 2025, was presented to the Board. A motion was made by Jennifer Upshaw and seconded by Oz Roberts to approve the Minutes as written. Motion carried.

Aric Jackson presented the following Resolution to the Board, recognizing our retiree, Ronnie Farley.

## *A Resolution*


*Whereas*, Ronnie Farley, has been an employee of the Columbus Board of Water Commissioners since April 2005, is retiring; and,

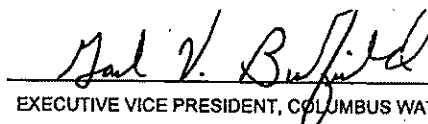
*Whereas*, Ronnie Farley, has served in the capacity of Field Services Technician I in the Field Services Water Distribution Department with the Columbus Water Works; and,

*Whereas*, Ronnie Farley, has performed in an outstanding and productive manner throughout his Twenty years of service;

*Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved* that the Board of Water Commissioners of the City of Columbus, Georgia, on behalf of all the people of the City, hereby publicly expresses appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Ronnie Farley for his diligent and faithful service on behalf of the Columbus Water Works; and,

*Be It Further Resolved* that this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of this Board on this eighth day of December 2025 and that the Secretary of this Board be directed to furnish copies of this resolution to the said Ronnie Farley and to the Clerk of Council of Columbus, Georgia.

  
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PRESIDENT, COLUMBUS WATER WORKS

  
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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, COLUMBUS WATER WORKS

  
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CHAIR, BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Aric Jackson recognized several employee promotions for the month of November, acknowledging the hard work and dedication of team members across the organization. Dayshun Johnson was promoted to Field Services Crew Leader I, Christopher Owens to Field Services Technician II, Bradley Gross to Field Services Technician II, Carter Freiberg to Field Services Technician I, and Jadeis Carter to Field Services Technician I. Their continued commitment and contributions have strengthened the organization, and each promotion reflects their exceptional performance and leadership.

Vickie Clark presented the Financial Report for the month of November 2025, including those for Ft. Benning, to the Board. A motion was made by Wes Kelley and seconded by Oz Roberts to approve the Financial Reports. Motion carried.

Chairman Smith introduced Brian Rutledge from Robinson, Grimes and Company to present the Columbus Water Works' Annual Audit Report. Mr. Rutledge provided the Board with a summary of the financial audit that ended on June 25, 2025. He advised the Board that Robinson, Grimes and Company was issuing an auditing opinion, dated December 8, 2025, for the fiscal years ending June 25, 2025, and 2024, advising that the financial statements are fairly presented in all material respects. Mr. Rutledge advised the Board that the audit had gone smoothly, with no issues. A copy of the annual audit report is on file at the Columbus Water Works' office.

President Cummings presented the proposed 2026 Water and Sewer Rate Resolution to the Board for final approval for the rate increase effective with bills beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

### ***A RESOLUTION***

***WHEREAS***, a thorough study and evaluation was made of the water and sewer system facilities in 2018, resulting in the acknowledgment by the Board of a five-year Capital Improvement Plan in May 2020, and

***WHEREAS***, since 2002, Raftelis Financial, Inc., has been engaged to conduct and update a cost of service study annually to ensure that water and wastewater rates are equitable, consistent with the cost of providing utilities and provide sufficient revenues to address the long-term operation and financial needs of Columbus Water Works, pursuant to the study a series of rate increases were adopted for bills rendered during fiscal years 2003 through 2024; and

***WHEREAS***, the Board did direct, as part of that process, that an annual review of Columbus Water Works' financial condition be conducted and any necessary adjustment to the proposed rates be identified, and

***WHEREAS***, a financial review of the Audit was performed by Raftelis Financial and CWW Staff; and,

***WHEREAS***, at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 08, 2025, the Board received the Columbus Water Works annual Financial Audit performed by Robinson, Grimes, and Company; and

**WHEREAS**, a presentation of the FY 2026 Rate Update was made to the Board at the October 14, 2025, Board meeting; and,

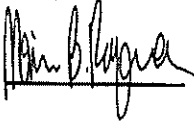
**WHEREAS**, CWW staff and our Financial Consultant to conduct a public hearing on the proposed rate increase at City Council on October 28, 2025, as well as a town hall meeting held on October 16, 2025, and

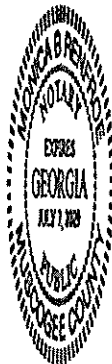
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the recommendations contained in the financial review entitled FY 2025-26 RATE UPDATE dated October 14, 2025, and amended on December 8, 2025, be hereby adopted, and become effective for all water use initially included in bills rendered on or after January 1, 2026, and


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Columbus Board of Water Commissioners will continue the practice of making an annual financial review and the planned rate program, and make any necessary adjustments.

**SO RESOLVED THIS 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF December 2025.**


ATTEST:

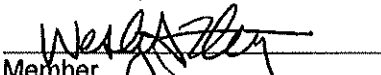




  
Chairman

  
Member

  
Member

  
Member

  
Member

Following the discussion, a motion was made by Jennifer Upshaw and seconded by Oz Roberts to adopt the above Resolution regarding the 2026 water and sewer rate increase as outlined to become effective January 1, 2026. Motion carried.

President Cummings recognized outgoing Board Member, Wes Kelley. Mr. Kelley has served on our Water Board since January 2022. He was presented with the following Resolution and a gift of appreciation.

## ***A RESOLUTION***

***WHEREAS,*** Wes Kelley has served as a member of the Board of Water Commissioners of the City of Columbus, Georgia, since January 2022 and

***WHEREAS,*** the said Wes Kelley has performed an outstanding public service and for four years has devoted his time and efforts, without compensation or remuneration, to the work of this Board and the City of Columbus, Georgia.

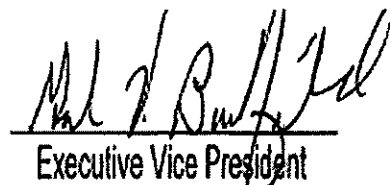
***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Board of Water Commissioners of the City of Columbus, Georgia, on behalf of all the people of the City, hereby publicly expresses appreciation and heartfelt thanks to the said Wes Kelley, for his unselfish and diligent devotion to public service and for his able and efficient attention to public work; and

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*** that this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of this Board this eight Day of December 2025 and that the Secretary of this Board is directed to furnish copies of this resolution to the said Wes Kelley, and to the Clerk of Council of Columbus, Georgia.

  
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President

  
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Chairman

  
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Member

  
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Executive Vice President

  
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Member

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Member

Mr. Kelley thanked management and staff for the opportunity to work with such a special organization.

The following Departmental Reports for August and September 2025 were provided to the Board as information only:

- Customer Service Reports
- Customer Advocacy/Meter Maintenance/Water Accountability Reports
- Engineering Reports
- Field Services Reports
- Information Services/Environmental Services Reports
- Communications Report
- Employee Services Report
- Water Resource Operations/Managed Maintenance Reports

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

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Vic Burchfield, Secretary