



**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**  
**Kevin Bronson**  
OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR  
WESTMINSTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

November 9, 2023

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **Drought Conditions are becoming noticeable**

Staff continues to monitor weather conditions as the areas continue without appreciable rainfall. As reported last week, the SC Drought Response Committee issued a Drought Status Report on October 17, 2023, providing official data to a situation. This week the Keowee-Toxaway Drought Management Advisory Group (an area to the north of the city) issued an advisory regarding the move to Stage 2 drought status for the basin. The news release is attached. Staff will continue to monitor the situation day by day.

#### **Vacant Building Registry**

This week Code Enforcement Officer Bob Jones sent approximately 100 letters to owners of vacant commercial and residential buildings throughout the city (letter is attached). This letter explains the ordinance, classification, fees, and forms required. Property owners are required to register their building by January 19, 2024. The City utilized QR code technology to communicate with citizens on this matter, and staff is prepared to work with members of the public who are unable to use the code by providing paper copies at City Hall or walking them through the process over the phone.

#### **Police Chief's Report**

The Police Chief's report of activity for October is attached.

#### **Special Events Committee**

The flyer for the Christmas parade and other Christmas events is attached.

#### **USDA-RD Water System Projects**

Two contractors are being utilized to install the water system improvements funded by the USDA-RD. Both contractors are on schedule.

*Arrowood General Contracting* is responsible for a grouping of projects entitled Division 1.

- The project areas for Division 1 are: Dawn Drive; Dixon Rd; Phillip Lear; and Dr. Johns Rd.
- Dawn Drive is complete,
- All residents on Dawn Drive are connected to the new main. By end of week 11-17-2023, all residents of Greenfield Road will be tied on and the last connection will be made. The only thing left will be re-asphalting some driveways that were cut.
- The contractor has installed all the new main on Dixon Road. The line has been filled with water and pressure tested. Bacteriological samples will begin on Thursday, 11-9-23. Pending two negative results, staff will forward results to our Engineer so that they can apply to DHEC for our permission to operate. Once this approval is issued, contractor can begin making connections to the main and setting meter boxes.

- This week, staff met with each of the residents on Dixon Road to discuss meter placement and to make sure each was aware of their responsibility. Each was told staff would contact them again when they could make their connection.
- Contractor is planning to begin work on the next section after Thanksgiving. This will begin at the intersection of Chauga Road and US 123 and continue to Philip Lear Road to Dales Drive and then ultimately Dr. Johns Road.

*Payne, McGinn and Cummins* is responsible for a grouping of projects entitled Division 2.

- The project areas in Division 2 are: two sections of Highway 76; Welcome Church Rd to Berry Farm Rd; and Berry Farm Rd to Cleveland Pike Rd.
- The contractor has completed the majority of the US 76 sections. The Chauga bridge crossing is being held up by a delay in getting material to hang the pipe on the bridge.
- One crew has begun the Welcome church road section. The tie-in to the existing main has been completed and progress is being made laying pipe on Welcome Church Road.

### Westminster Planning Commission

Nothing to report.

### OJRSA

The OJRSA conducted a Central Oconee County Sewer Planning Stakeholder Meeting on November 8, 2023. The agenda is attached.

### PMPA

Nothing to report.

### PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

November 10, 2023 City Office closed to observe Veterans Day

**November 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm City Council Meeting at the Westminster Fire Department**

November 15, 2023 at 8:30 am Operations & Planning Committee at OJRSA

November 16, 2023 at 10:00 am PMPA Board Meeting at PMPA

November 20, 2023 at 6:00 pm Westminster Planning Commission at City Hall

November 23 & 24, 2023 City Offices closed to observe Thanksgiving

November 28, 2023 at 9:00 am OJRSA Finance & Administration Committee at OJRSA

December 4, 2023 at 4:00 pm OJRSA Board Meeting at OJRSA

**December 12, 2023 at 6:00 pm City Council Meeting at the Westminster Fire Department**

### Special Events Calendar

**November 11, 2023 at 4:00 pm – Veterans Day Parade**

Main Street, Westminster

**December 1, 2023 at 2:00 pm – Arbor Day Celebration**

**December 1, 2023 - Christmas Tree Lighting**

**December 2, 2023 at 11:00 am – Westminster Christmas Parade**

Main Street, Westminster

**February 3, 2024 (*new date*) at time TBD – TreesUpstate Tree Planting Event at Yousef Mefleh Memorial Fields**

# Keowee-Toxaway Drought Management Advisory Group

## News Release

### Media Contacts:

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**Greenville Water**

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**Duke Energy**

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**Powdersville Water District**

Dyke Spencer – 864.269.5440

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**City of Walhalla Water and Sewer Department**

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Nov. 8, 2023

## Continued dry weather puts Keowee-Toxaway basin in Stage 2 drought

- *Residents reminded to conserve water.*
- *Residents withdrawing irrigation water from Lake Keowee or Lake Jocassee are limited to Tuesdays and Saturdays.*

The Keowee-Toxaway Drought Management Advisory Group (KT-DMAG) announced that the Keowee-Toxaway (KT) River Basin has entered Stage 2 of the KT Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) on Nov. 6, 2023. This comes after months of reduced rainfall, and the U.S. Corps of Engineers (USACE) recently declaring Level 2 of their drought plan for the downstream federal projects.

Stage 2 is the third of five drought stages outlined in the LIP. Stage 1 was reached on Oct. 1, 2023.

Water conservation is recommended by water users across the basin.

Neighbors on Lake Keowee and Lake Jocassee who withdraw water for irrigation purposes must limit their water withdrawals to two days a week on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Other large water users in the basin, as a goal, will adjust their practices to limit water withdrawals.

"The region is continuing to experience dry conditions," explained Jeff Lineberger, Duke Energy's general manager of water strategy, hydro licensing and lake services. "We want to thank residents for supporting water conservation efforts and ask everyone withdrawing irrigation water from Lake Keowee or Lake Jocassee to limit watering to the two designated days per week," Lineberger added.

"We support a collaborative approach to ensure we conserve our shared water resources by proactively planning and responding to changing conditions," said Bob Faires, director of utilities with Seneca Light & Water. "We continue to ask our customers to help limit water use."

The LIP is a regional drought management plan used by major water users in the Keowee-Toxaway river basin to share responsibility and set priorities for water conservation. The plan outlines specific actions for each stage.

Stages of the LIP are based on defined triggers, including reservoir storage and U.S. USACE Drought Plan status, the U.S. Drought Monitor and stream flow. These triggers are reviewed monthly. The KT-DMAG reviews these triggers monthly during drought conditions.

The KT-DMAG regularly reviews the drought status and recommends coordinated response efforts when the LIP is initiated. The group consists of representatives from large water users and federal and state resource agencies. The KT-DMAG and the LIP are outcomes of Duke Energy's relicensing process for the Keowee-Toxaway Hydroelectric Project.

The Keowee-Toxaway River Basin is a tributary to the Savannah River Basin.

Learn more about the KT-DMAG at [duke-energy.com/lakes/ktdmag.asp](http://duke-energy.com/lakes/ktdmag.asp).

###

[Owner's Name]

[date]

[Owner's Address]

Regarding [Property Address]

TMS# [#####]

Dear [owner's name],

An ordinance to establish a registration for vacant and abandoned buildings will be effective beginning January 22, 2024. This will include commercial and residential buildings within Westminster City Limits.

Vacant properties have a greater potential than occupied properties to cause significant and costly problems for the City. These properties often require greater levels of service from the City and distract from the quality of life of the surrounding neighborhoods and the City as a whole. These buildings further complicate code enforcement and nuisance abatement efforts.

City Council implemented a vacant building registration policy to establish a method for identifying and managing vacant buildings within the City. This establishes the responsibilities of the owners of vacant buildings and structures, and provides for administration, enforcement, and penalties, including annual registration fees for vacant buildings.

Each vacant building, either commercial or residential, will be evaluated by code enforcement and will be classified to determine an annual registration fee. If vacant buildings are not initially registered or registration is not renewed every year, owners will be fined for not complying with the vacant building ordinance (NO. 09-12-2023-04). A copy of the ordinance can be found at [westminstersc.org](http://westminstersc.org) or by following the QR code below.

The City has identified your property, located at [Property Address], TMS no. [#####], as a vacant building, Category [I, II, or III]. Information about categories can be found at the QR Code below. Property owners must register their property by [Friday, January 19, 2024] to avoid additional fees and penalties. Initial registration fees are \$0 for residential properties and \$50 for non-residential properties. Please complete the Vacant Building Registration Form found through the QR Code below and return it to City Hall. Copies are available at City Hall upon request.

Questions or concerns should be directed to Bob Jones, Code Enforcement Officer, at 864.903.5258.



Bob Jones  
Code Enforcement Officer



# Westminster Chief of Police Monthly Report

October 2023

Offenses/Incident Reports	41
Vehicle Accidents	4
Use of Force Incidents	0
DUI	1A
Arrests	15
Citations Issued	54
Warnings Issued	110
Traffic Stops	126
Security Checks	310
Total Calls	770
Training Hours	2

Charles Mobley (Homeless Person) removed from address on S. Hampton St. He moved to graveyard on SC 24 and was removed and trespassed from both locations. He has since been sent to the hospital to try and get help that he requested

Oct 2- Traffic stop by night shift resulted in the driver being charged with driving under suspension

Oct 4 & 10- Handed out plates and talked with people at Dot's Kitchen

Oct 4- Another warrant issued for Christina Stroud for breach of trust

Oct 5- Assisted Oconee County SO with a pursuit involving a motorcycle. WMPD units assisted with traffic only and then continued back in service once the pursuit exited the city

Oct 5- Traffic stop on an ATV resulted in the operator being arrested for an outstanding general sessions bench warrant

Oct 6- Met with US Post Office reference possible forged check presented. Subject did not receive any goods and was later identified and the Feds have picked the case up

Oct 6- Rock Westminster went well, no issues

Oct 9- Reported shoplifting at Dollar General/E. Main St. Two (2) subjects identified and arrested

Oct 12- Reported shoplifting at Hwy 76 supply. Subject was identified and a warrant obtained

Oct 13- Report of a stolen motorcycle from N. Bibb St. No suspects identified

Oct 13-14- Bigfoot Festival, no major issues just minor issues need attention before next year's event

Oct 16- Sgt Pope attended an event at Oconee Addiction Recovery in Walhalla to help us with those with addictions wanting help and how to get them these resources

Oct 16- Met with a suspicious person at the laundromat. He was identified and had an active warrant from another state. Placed under arrest and hold placed for pick up

Oct 17- Day shift units responded out of the city to assist OCSO with a gunshot victim. Medical aid was rendered and case was turned over to OCSO investigators

Oct 17- Met with Dept of Mental Health Mobile Crisis unit

Oct 21- Traffic stop conducted by night shift resulted in the driver being charged with driving under suspension, operating uninsured vehicle and a suspended vehicle license

Oct 21- Benefit ride for Dusty Abercrombie, WMPD units assisted with the escort from Depot toward Seneca

Oct 21- Music on Main, no issues

Oct 27- Vehicle stolen from Sunshine Circle apartments overnight. Vehicle was recovered in Seneca. Investigating in collaboration with Seneca PD to attempt to identify suspect(s). Possible identification of a suspect from Georgia

Oct 28- Motor vehicle accident at E. Main/Windsor St which resulted in the death of the driver

Oct 28- Night shift units responded to Mountain View St reference a disturbance. During investigation, a party on scene was discovered to have an active warrant(s) and was also charged with possession of methamphetamine

Oct 31- Boo on Main, large crowd, no issues. Overall Halloween was successful. No issues or accidents.

#### Code Enforcement

##### Utility Inspections:

- 101 W. Main St.

##### Code issues:

- 606 S. Piedmont St.
- 201 W. Abby St.
- 500 Doyle St.
- 206 Willow Row
- 615 E. Main St.
- 205 Walhalla St.

##### Permit:

- 1608 E. Main St.
- 505 E. North Ave.
- 105 Parkview St.
- 100 S. Spring St.
- 104 Highland Ave.

Posted Hall St. apartments for Demo.

City of Westminster

# Holiday EVENTS

- Dec. 1 at 6 PM: Tree Lighting on Main Street (lighting at 7 pm)
- Dec. 2 at 11 AM: Westminster Christmas Parade
- Dec. 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, and 21-22 in the evenings: Deck the Depot events

Sign up to participate in the Christmas Parade:



For Questions, Call  
City Hall at  
864-647-3212

❄️ [WestminsterSC.org](http://WestminsterSC.org) ❄️







## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**Walhalla Depot  
211 South College Street Walhalla, South Carolina  
November 8, 2023  
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

### **Central Oconee County Sewer Planning Stakeholder Meeting**

*As this is a presentation and discussion for a specific project, comments and questions from the public will not be received at this meeting. Citizens and others that are not part of the Stakeholder Committee as identified by the consultants are encouraged to provide comments and feedback at the appropriate OJRSA Board and Committee meetings. Dates and times for future meetings are listed below the agenda.*

#### **Agenda**

Meeting to be led by Jason Gillespie, Weston & Sampson Team Leader, and Katherine Amidon, Bolton & Menk Senior Environmental Planner

- A. Welcome – Chris Eleazer, OJRSA Executive Director
- B. Presentation and discussion with Stakeholder Committee regarding growth and sewer planning in central Oconee County. General items to be addressed include an overview of the project, collection and analysis of data, and structured interactive discussion regarding opportunities and concerns regarding wastewater service in the area for the next 20 years.
- C. Adjourn upon completion of presentation and discussion

**Upcoming Meetings** *All meetings to be held in the Lamar Bailes Board Room at 623 Return Church Road, Seneca unless noted otherwise.*

1. Operations & Planning Committee – November 15, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.
2. Finance & Administration Committee – November 28, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.
3. Board of Commissioners – December 4, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.