



Interoffice Memorandum

**AGENDA ITEM**

DATE: February 12, 2021

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Mayor Jerry L. Demings 

SUBJECT: **CONSENT AGENDA ITEM - February 23, 2021**  
Managerial Appointment - Utilities Department Director

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Ed Torres, M.S., P.E., LEED AP, as the Director of the Orange County Utilities Department. This department is one of Florida's largest utility providers and is responsible for a full-range of water, wastewater, and solid waste services to over 550,000 residents.

Mr. Torres has over 30 years of engineering and management experience in the utility field, including potable water, wastewater, reclaimed water, solid waste, and recycling. Mr. Torres has held positions in both city and county governments and has worked in the private sector. Most recently, Mr. Torres was the Director of Public Works and Utilities with the City of Altamonte Springs.

Mr. Torres holds master's and bachelor's degrees in Civil Engineering from the Florida Institute of Technology and holds a Professional Engineer certification. He is also a LEED Accredited Professional and a board member of the Florida Water Environment Association Utility Council.

Mr. Torres' appointment will be effective March 22, 2021, pending Board approval. His starting salary will be \$173,035, and his resume is attached for your review.

**ACTION REQUESTED: Confirmation of the Mayor's managerial appointment of Ed Torres, M.S., P.E., LEED AP, as Director, of the Utilities Department.**

Attachment

cc: Byron W. Brooks, AICP, County Administrator  
Chris Testerman, AICP, Deputy County Administrator

**Significant Awards**

- Water Resources Utility of the Future, *Water Environment Federation*, 2020
- Market-Changing Water Technology, *International Water Association*, Tokyo, Japan, 2018
- Innovative Project of the Year, *WaterReuse*, Arizona, 2017
- Integrated Water Resources Engineer of the Year, *Florida Water Environment Association*, 2016
- Excellence Award, *Florida Stormwater Association*, 2015
- Central Florida Public Works Organization of the Year, *American Society of Civil Engineers*, 2014

**Innovation & Sustainability**

- pureALTA – providing potable reuse without reverse osmosis, 30% more energy efficient than traditional RO systems
- 1MW Floating Solar Array – providing renewable energy to a regional water reclamation facility, largest in Florida and 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in the U.S.
- COVID-19 Sewage Surveillance – participating in research developing an early warning system for virus reemergence
- A-FIRST – combining I-4 Ultimate stormwater and domestic wastewater and treating it to reclaimed water standards to provide both flood attenuation and alternative water supply

**Synergistic Involvement**

- Board of Directors, *FWEA Utility Council*, current
- Member, *Potable Reuse Commission*, current
- Board of Directors, *Florida Stormwater Association*, former
- Board of Directors, *UCF Stormwater Academy*, former

**PROFILE**

Energetic executive with over 30 years of progressive leadership in service delivery and effective program management. Recognized as a forward-thinker able to integrate different technical disciplines to achieve multiple measurable objectives. Spearheaded the implementation of various novel and complex water resources, solid waste, and renewable energy projects. Water resources experience ranges from potable reuse to industrial wastewater and stormwater pollutant load abatement projects. Enterprise-funded service delivery experience includes traditional water, wastewater, and reclaimed water service delivery as well as in-house and contracted municipal solid waste and recycling services. Exceptional track record procuring and securing regional and inter-agency partnerships. Strong advocate of sustainability and resilience in capital programs.

**EDUCATION**

**Master of Science in Civil Engineering, 1993**  
Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Florida  
**Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, 1990**  
Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Florida

**LICENSE & ACCREDITATION**

**Licensed Professional Engineer, 1994**  
Florida #48300  
**Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP), 2009**

**RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Director of Public Works & Utilities (2010-Present)**  
City of Altamonte Springs 950 Calabria Dr., Altamonte Springs, FL 32714  
Lead an advanced water, wastewater and reclaimed water utility serving five cities in two counties in central Florida. Responsible for ensuring a safe, secure, and sustainable water supply with a diversified portfolio. Supervise five divisions providing municipal services, including potable water to 90,000 people with five water treatment plants and wastewater treatment to 120,000 people with a 12.5 MGD Regional Water Reclamation Facility (RWRF). Reclaimed water is provided throughout the City with a system that includes two Reuse Augmentation Facilities that treat stormwater and groundwater to reclaimed water standards and several surface water pumping facilities for augmentation to the RWRF during periods of high demand. A lab certified by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) operates out of the RWRF. Other responsibilities include 1) the provision of in-house solid waste services consisting of refuse, yard waste and recycling collection services to all City residents and 2) the management of the Altamonte Electric Utility (AEU), which provides a diverse array of renewable energy for City facilities. Lead the development and implementation of a robust capital program that maximizes fiscal efficiency by leveraging City resources with numerous

State and Federal cost-shares and grants. Solid foundation of fiscal and budgetary initiatives, including rate studies, revenue projections, and asset management with business analytics.

**Innovation** Led and promoted enhanced water resources initiatives with the implementation of novel programs and projects, several of which are highlighted below.

**A-FIRST-** Led multiple technical disciplines in the development of a complex integrated stormwater and reuse project. Developed a regulatory and funding partnership with the SJRWMD, FDEP, and the FDOT resulting in multi-million-dollar savings. This project treats stormwater from a major interstate highway (I-4 Ultimate) to reclaimed water standards and provides flood attenuation to a landlocked basin. A-FIRST provides 4.5 MGD of alternative water supply while improving water quality in the Wekiva River Basin by substantially reducing nutrient loads. This project has been highlighted in the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) and the Springs Priority Focus Area (PFA) by state agencies.

**pureALTA** - Spearheaded and garnered the support for potable reuse projects (both direct and indirect reuse) by FDEP and SJRWMD. Served as a member of the *Potable Reuse Commission* (PRC), which provided the framework for potable reuse implementation in Florida in an effort to augment future water supplies. Implemented a potable reuse demonstration project utilizing a novel treatment train consisting of Ozone/BAF, ultrafiltration, granular activated carbon filtration, and ultraviolet light with advanced oxidation, coupled with advanced system monitoring techniques. Unlike common reverse osmosis projects, pureALTA is more energy efficient and does not produce a concentrate waste. The pureALTA project was awarded the 2017 National WaterReuse Innovative Project and the 2018 International Water Association Market-Changing Technology award in Tokyo, Japan.

**Modernization of Solid Waste Service Delivery** - While keeping the same services (2 refuse, 1 recycling, and 1 yard waste pickup per week), led a team of staff members in the evaluation and implementation of safer and more efficient solid waste collection services. Modernization of services consisted of changing from 3-staff-crews to 2-staff-crews and using semi-automated refuse pickup with City-issued 64-gallon refuse carts. The changes enable more homes to be serviced on each route and will reduce work-related injuries. Additionally, these changes will ensure that the City can continue to provide personalized service at a reasonable and competitive rate structure.

**Process Improvements for Advanced Wastewater Treatment** - In an effort to further increase nutrient removal at a 12.5 MGD RWWF, prepared and obtained funding grants for the development and implementation of process treatment changes converting from a Modified Ludzack-Ettinger (MLE) process to a 4-stage Bardenpho process.

**SARS-CoV-2**- Involved in a nationwide COVID-19 research with Tulane University and the University of Arizona (Water & Energy Sustainable Technology Center) in which raw domestic wastewater is sampled for COVID-19 RNA to serve as part of an early warning system for reemergence of the virus. Using DOH data by zip code, correlated virus infections within service areas to obtained RNA concentrations. Biosolids research with Tulane University is also impending.

**Floating Solar**- As part of the Altamonte Electric Utility and in an effort to further increase sustainability and reduce operational costs, led the planning and implementation of a novel solar farm to supply power to the City's regional water reclamation facility. Unlike traditional solar farms that use expansive land areas for the single purpose of power generation, this solar array floats on an existing stormwater pond, removing the need for additional land acquisition. The project is estimated to yield over \$100,000 in recurring annual savings. The floating solar array consists of over 2,430

**Professional References**

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photovoltaic panels, each generating up to 395 watts of power. The combined solar array will provide approximately 1 MW of power, making it the largest floating solar array in Florida and the second largest in the nation.

Community Education and STEM Collaborated in the development of the Altamonte Springs Science Incubator (AS<sub>2</sub>I), which promotes career readiness in the high-demand fields of science, technology, engineering and math. Also, in partnership with Seminole County Public Schools, assisted in the development of Project H<sub>2</sub>O Tx (Project Water Technology), where high school seniors are offered a wastewater treatment technology class to ultimately become wastewater treatment licensed operators.

**Director of Public Works & Utilities (2006-2010)**

City of Casselberry, 95 Triplet Lake Drive, Casselberry, FL 32707

Responsible for the development and implementation of a multi-million-dollar Public Works & Utilities operations and capital projects budget for the City of Casselberry. Supervised six divisions addressing municipal services throughout the City. Managed a water, wastewater, and reclaimed-water utility serving over 60,000 customers and stormwater and solid waste utilities serving City residents. Involved in the development of CUP compliance reports, utility rates studies, and alternative water supply projects. Actively participated in the *Alternative Water Supply Project near State Road 46*, an interlocal partnership between six local utilities and the SJRWMD. Represented the City in the South Seminole North Orange County Wastewater Transmission Authority Board (SSNOCWTA) by reviewing proposed capital programs, regional wastewater flows and all related fiscal matters. Spearheaded the creation of an educational park showcasing different surface water quality treatment technologies and emerging technologies, explaining how the treatment functions and outlining the benefits provided to an adjacent lake. Prepared and presented numerous workshops for the City Commission, the Lake Management Advisory Board, homeowners associations, and other private and public organizations. Acted as City Manager during the manager's absence.

**Stormwater Capital Projects Manager/Principal Engineer (1998 - 2006)**

Seminole County, 520 W. Lake Mary Blvd., Sanford, Florida 32773

Responsible for the development and implementation of the stormwater capital projects program within Seminole County. Supervised a team of professionals consisting of engineers, GIS analysts, and mappers. Performed as Roads-Stormwater Division Manager during the manager's absence; including managing preparations for Hurricane Charley (2004). Managed the development of regional flood routing models for riverine and land-locked watersheds, including groundwater and continuous simulation models. Developed annual and 5-year CIP budgets based on flood attenuation, pollutant load models, and impaired water bodies' (TMDLs; mainly TP and Fecal) corrective strategies. Managed several regional flood and pollution abatement projects as well as secondary drainage improvement projects. Regional stormwater facility projects include detention ponds ranging from 5 to 100 acres in size. Troubleshoot designs with program staff to maximize project efficiency and ensure permit issuance. Scheduled and conducted high-level meetings with regulatory agencies to facilitate funding and permitting of flood attenuation and pollution abatement retrofit projects. Prepared technical and budget presentations for the Board of County Commissioners. Provided expert testimony in stormwater management related cases and eminent domain proceedings. Represented Seminole County as technical speaker in erosion control, TMDLs, and stormwater improvement project presentations for several professional organizations.

**Engineering Project Manager (1997-1998)**

Berryman and Henigar, Inc., 519 Magnolia Avenue, Orlando, FL 32707

Project manager for several public and private roadway, utilities, and stormwater projects. Representative projects include 1) stormwater management system design for S.R. 530 (U.S. 192), which involved analysis of the 10 YR-72 HR storm and the FDOT critical storm as well as lane spread, storm sewer HGL, and flood plain compensation calculations for six basins encompassing 186 acres and 2) stormwater management system design for Pleasant Hill Road in Osceola County, FL.

**City Engineer/Assistant Director of Public Works (1994-1997)**

City of Casselberry, 95 Triplet Lake Drive, Casselberry, FL 32707

As City Engineer, administered complete water, sewer, reclaimed water, stormwater management, and other public facility repair, maintenance, and construction projects from initial planning through final completion to include project planning, surveying, preparation of plans and bid documents, authoring technical specifications, permitting, cost estimates, contract administration, and certification of project completion. Utility related projects involved the design of lift stations, force mains, gravity sewers, water and reclaimed water distribution systems as well as the preparation of utility environmental reports. Other duties involved the review of plats, plans, cost estimates, and specifications for new subdivisions and commercial developments for compliance with appropriate City ordinances and prudent engineering practices. As Assistant Director of Public Works, supervised the operation of seven divisions with a multi-million budget serving over 60,000 utility customers. Facilities included three water plants and one water reclamation facility. Provided administrative guidance and recommendations concerning engineering matters and future projects/programs to the City Commission. Prepared and presented numerous workshops for the City Commission, the Water Resource Advisory Board, homeowner associations, and other private and public organizations.

**Engineer II/Industrial/Domestic Wastewater Program Lead (1993-1994)**

EG&G Florida, Inc., NASA Environmental Management Office, BOC 068, Kennedy Space Center, Florida 32918

Responsible for the environmental permitting and compliance of six domestic wastewater treatment plants, five industrial wastewater treatment plants, and 26 cooling tower water treatment systems. Prepared and reviewed permit applications, requests for additional information, and other technical documentation relevant to industrial/domestic wastewater, stormwater management, consumptive use, and other permit programs. Conducted surface and groundwater models. Developed guidance documents and prepared determinations to ensure compliance with local, State, and Federal regulations. Provided direct engineering support NASA's Environmental Management Office.

**Civil Engineer (1990-1993)**

City of Palm Bay, 2145 Palm Bay Rd., Palm Bay, Florida 32918

Planned, designed, and directed the construction and reconstruction of various roadway, drainage, and utility projects. Utilities design included the design of water mains, gravity sewers, force main extensions, and the rehabilitation of lift stations. Reviewed site plans and subdivisions and coordinated inspections for commercial developments, utilities and projects within the right-of-way. Coordinated survey crews and engineering staff in data collection and research.

**Engineer Assistant/Surveyor (1987-1989)**

Coastal Land Surveys & Engineering, Melbourne, Florida (Corporation now terminated)

Assisted in the preparation of site plans for commercial and multi-family developments (including paving, drainage, water and sewer). Soil analysis: experimentally determined the hydraulic conductivity of soils. Surveying: performed traverse calculations and assisted in topographical surveys. Surveyed several subdivisions and commercial developments.

**OTHER CERTIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE****FEMA NIMS**

Hold several National Incident Management System (NIMS) certifications and provided Emergency Support Function ESF #3 at Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Seminole County and several cities in Florida. Participated in EOC ESF #3 planning and response for every storm in Central Florida since 1994.

**FWEA Utility Council – Committee Assignments**

Besides serving on the Board of Directors for the Florida Water Environment Association Utility Council, led the efforts evaluating the impacts of House Bill 715 and Senate Bill 1656, which resulted in the report entitled *Evaluation of the Impacts of Eliminating Surface Water Discharges from Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facilities in Florida*.