

BEFORE THE
NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. W-1274, Sub 7

In the Matter of)
Application of Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc.)
for a Certificate of Public Convenience)
And Necessity, and for Approval of Rates)

**REQUEST FOR INTERIM AUTHORITY TO OPERATE PURSUANT TO
COMMISSION RULES R7-20 AND R10-16**

Pursuant to the Order Ruling on Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc.'s Status As A Public Utility issued April 23, 2018 in Dockets W-1274, Subs 5 and 6 (the "Status Order"), Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc. ("LJA") filed its Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and for Approval of Rates (the "Application") in this docket on September 28, 2018. The Commission has not yet scheduled a hearing on the Application. LJA understands that the Public Staff anticipates that a hearing on the Application may be scheduled for sometime this Summer.

Ordering paragraph 4 of the Status Order provided as follows:

That Lake Junaluska shall not discontinue water and/or wastewater service to any current customers while its CPCN application is pending without prior approval of the Commission.

LJA currently provides water service to 862 customers and sewer service to 829 customers. LJA's receivables for water/sewer service currently total approximately \$7,000, of which \$4,000 is owed by 12 customers and is more than 90 days past due. When it was exempt from Commission regulation, LJA would typically have 6-8 customers with bills greater than 90 days in age during a collections cycle, at which point LJA would have terminated their service after several warnings.

Prior to the issuance of the Status Order and the prohibition set forth in Ordering

paragraph 4, LJA would have given the 12 customers with billings that are currently 90 days past due several warnings that they are at risk of having their service discontinued. If they continued to fail to make payment, after their accounts became 90 days past due their service would have been discontinued. Given the language of Ordering paragraph 4, LJA is unable to discontinue service to customers who fail to pay for their water and/or sewer service.

These older unpaid receivables continue to grow, and will at some point begin to impact LJA while it awaits a hearing and the ruling on its Application. For those reasons, LJA respectfully requests that the Commission authorize it, on an interim basis until the Commission has ruled on the Application, to operate in accordance with Commission Rules Rule R7-20 for discontinuing service to a water customer and Rule R10-16 for discontinuing service to a sewer customer. Those rules set forth the Commission's requirements for a utility's discontinue of service to such customers. Allowing LJA to operate in accordance with those rules on an interim basis will enable LJA to once again notify customers that their service is subject to disconnection if they continue to fail to pay their water and/or sewer bills.

LJA has discussed this situation and the relief requested herein with the Public Staff, and the Public Staff has authorized the undersigned to represent that the Public Staff supports LJA's request as set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, LJA respectfully requests that the Commission:

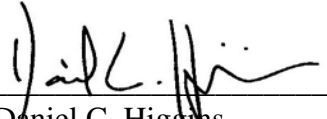
1. Issue its Order authorizing LJA, on an interim basis until the Commission has ruled on the Application, to operate in accordance with Commission Rules Rule R7-

20 for discontinuing service to a water customer and Rule R10-16 for discontinuing service to a sewer customer; and

2. For such other and further relief as the Commission deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted, this the 25th day of January, 2019.

BURNS, DAY & PRESNELL, P.A.

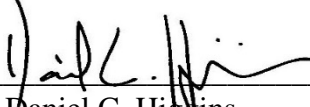
By: 
Daniel C. Higgins
Post Office Box 10867
Raleigh, North Carolina 27605
Tel: (919) 782-1441
Facsimile: (919) 782-2311
E-mail: dhiggins@bdppa.com
Attorneys for Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and exact copy of the foregoing document has been served on all counsel of record in these dockets, if any, and the Public Staff, by either placing same in a depository of the United States Postal Service, first-class postage prepaid and addressed as shown below, or by electronic delivery.

This the 25th day of January, 2019.

BURNS, DAY & PRESNELL, P.A.

By: 
Daniel C. Higgins
Post Office Box 10867
Raleigh, North Carolina 27605

SERVED ON:

OFFICIAL COPY

Jan 25 2019