

DOCKET NO. W-1274, SUB 7

In the Matter of	)	
Application of Lake Junaluska Assembly,	)	ORDER GRANTING INTERIM
Inc., for a Certificate of Public Convenience	)	AUTHORITY TO OPERATE
and Necessity, and for Approval of Rates	)	PURSUANT TO COMMISSION
	)	RULES R7-20 & R10-16

On January 25, 2019, LJA filed a Request for Interim Authority to Operate Pursuant to Commission Rules R7-20 and R10-16 (Request). In the Request, LJA acknowledges that the Commission in its Ordering Paragraph 4 of its Order Ruling on LJA Status as a Public Utility, issued April 23, 2018, in Dockets W-1274, Subs 5 and 6, provides that LJA 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 informs the Commission that it provides water service to 862 customers and sewer service to 829 customers. At present, LJA's receivables for water/sewer service total approximately \$7,000, of which \$4,000 is owed by 12 customers and is more than 90 days past due. Prior to filing its Application, 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.

LJA further shows the Commission that prior to 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. Moreover, if customers continue to fail to make payment, after their accounts became 90 days past due, their service would have been discontinued. Considering the language within Ordering Paragraph 4, LJA is unable to discontinue service to customers who fail to pay for their water and/or sewer service.

LJA contends that if the older unpaid receivables continue to grow, they will at some point impact LJA while it awaits a hearing and the ruling on its Application. Given this possibility, LJA requests that the Commission authorize it, on an interim basis until the Commission has ruled on the Application, to operate in accordance with Commission Rule R7-20 for discontinuing service to a water customer and Rule R10-16 for discontinuing service to a sewer customer. LJA recognizes that these rules set forth the Commission's requirements for a utility's discontinuance of service to such customers. If

LJA can work in accordance to these rules on an interim basis, it will be able to notify customers that their service is in danger of disconnection if they continue to fail to pay their water and/or sewer bills. LJA represents to the Commission that it discussed the situation and the relief herein with the Public Staff and the Public Staff supports the request as set forth.

The Chairman has reviewed the record, including LJA's Request filed on January 25, 2019, and finds that good cause exist to grant the request in this matter.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

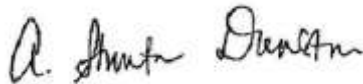
1. That Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc., is hereby granted the authority, on an interim basis, to operate in accordance with Commission Rule R7-20 for disconnecting service to a water customer and Rule R10-16 for disconnecting service to a sewer customer; and

2. That this Order shall be served on Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc., by electronic mail, delivery confirmation requested.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. Shonta Dunston".

A. Shonta Dunston, Deputy Clerk