

Clemson asks residents to conserve water

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — Several days of rain last week still wasn't enough to prevent Clemson City Council from asking water utility customers to voluntarily curtail their water usage.

During Monday night's regular meeting, council approved the resolution 6-0 (with Jeremy Wright not in attendance). The action comes in response to the declaration of a Moderate Drought condition by the State Climatology Office due to low water levels in Lake Hartwell.

"Last week, Lake Hartwell dropped below 652 feet mean sea level and that is the trigger point for council to adopt this measure," City Administrator Rick Cotton said. "Right now, it doesn't call for anything drastic, such as a mandatory measure, but it cautions residents to be wise in their water usage."

In 2008, both Clemson City Council and Central Town Council passed measures to regulate water usage due to extreme drought conditions. But Central Town Administrator Phillip Mishoe said earlier this month that the town presently has no plans to take such action.



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Lake Hartwell levels have dropped below 652 feet Mean Sea Level prompting Clemson City Council to issue a declaration seeking voluntary water restrictions from water utility customers.

The latest resolution approved by City Council requests voluntary water use reductions for all purposes that include: eliminating the washing down of sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots and other hard surfaced areas; eliminating the washing down of buildings or structures for purposes other than fire protection; eliminating flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street; eliminating the domestic washing of any motorized vehicle, boat, trailer or other vehicle at private residences

or driveways; reducing watering of lawns, plants, trees, gardens, shrubbery and flora on private or public property to the minimum necessary, with outdoor watering conducted in the very early morning or late evening hours; and that domestic water conservation efforts should be conducted in households and businesses.

Also included in the resolution is a requirement that public notice of Moderate drought conditions be posted on the Clemson home page (www.cityofclemson.org) and e-notification system. The

resolution will include a list of water conservation measures for city of Clemson Water Utility customers.

The resolution will take effect and be in force immediately upon enactment and remain in force until rescinded by Clemson City Council or until Lake Hartwell water levels have improved to normal.