

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

August 17, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD OF NEW ORLEANS

ROLL CALL

The Board of Directors for the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) met on Wednesday August 17, 2022, at 9:08 AM in the Executive Boardroom. Special Counsel Ms. Yolanda Grinstead called the roll and confirmed the following members were present: Hon. Mayor LaToya Cantrell, Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis, Director Joseph Peychaud, Director Lynes Sloss, Director Robin Barnes, Director Alejandra Guzman, Director Carol Markowitz, Director Maurice Sholas and Councilmember Freddie King.

The following member(s) were absent: Director Nichelle Taylor and Director Janet Howard.

Staff present were Mr. Ghassan Korban, Executive Director; Mr. Ron Spooner, Interim General Superintendent; Ms. Christy Harowski, Chief of Staff; Ms. Yolanda Grinstead, Special Counsel; Mr. Darryl Harrison, Deputy Special Counsel; Mr. Dexter Joseph, Budget Department; Mr. Rene Gonzalez, Chief Customer Service Officer; Ms. Cash Moses, Purchasing; Ms. Irma Plummer, EDBP; Mr. Jason Higginbotham, Emergency Management; Ms. Tanyell Allen, Board Relations.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Prior to beginning the meeting, Mayor Cantrell gave her opening remarks. Mayor Cantrell started the meeting by acknowledging that she made her way around councilmanic districts to have budget meetings. The budget meetings allowed the city to hear directly from the community, relative to their budget priorities and sharing the City's continued focus on public safety, infrastructure, economic development, and housing. Mayor Cantrell stated progress is going well and wants to encourage residents to continue to chime in. Mayor Cantrell introduced a 5% increase to city employees in 2023 and a onetime 5% COLA (Cost of living adjustment) for 2022. The city employees are looking at 5% increase with 2 ½ happening in 2024 and 2 ½ happening in 2025 with the full complement of 10%. Once fully passed employees can expect to see increased wages by 10 % in the City of New Orleans. Mayor Cantrell encouraged and thanked the Sewerage and Water Board for moving right along with the City of New Orleans.

Mayor Cantrell expressed that it is known the hardworking women and men that drive this organization. By September 15, 2022, the City Council will be having a meeting to plan for this cost-of-living adjustment to be fully approved by all bodies. The first being the Civil Service Commission which was completed just over a week ago. Also, Mayor Cantrell acknowledged, this year so far there has been so much progress within this utility and thanked the board for their leadership. The \$22 million in frequency changers, \$30 million commitment dedicated for the West Power substation, \$40 million in capital outlay allocation for the West Power complex, \$18.3 million from the Fair Share

agreement for smart metering and the Carrollton water plant improvement. The joint infrastructure project moved towards over a billion dollars this year, with more than 2.3 billion worth in DPW and SWBNO work. SWBNO is refiguring the working relationships with DPW, service cuts and the like. Mayor Cantrell stated SWBNO is moving together in the spirit of collaboration and cooperation. Being in the middle of hurricane season, every single day the City and SWBNO will sharpen their pencils to be prepared for what is to come. Mayor Cantrell stated the city is prepared and has activated the rec centers with power generators thanks to partnering with Entergy. The convention center is also a part of this project. Also, there is excitement about the new weather stem erected throughout the city of New Orleans giving the city real time data in terms of real weather patterns seen in key areas in the city. Mayor Cantrell will be nominating Director Janet Howard to participate on the task force on Sewerage and Water Board governance (HR-168 with state legislature)

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the June 15, 2022, Board Meetings. Director Maurice Sholas moved for approval of the minutes. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Ghassan Korban presented a slide overview that focused on the following topics:

Storm Season Update

- Total rainfall: 21 inches in three months
- Highest intensity: 6.6"/hour (July 22)

Power and Pumping Status

Stormwater assets are performing consistently so far this season. Operations team has worked hard to identify and resolve routine repairs and adjustments to our equipment.

- 95/99 pumps available
- T4, T5 and T6 all available
- EMDs and Frequency Changers

West Power Complex Updates

- \$200 million+ total program cost
- Continuing efforts to complete funding
- Static Frequency Changers (SFC) – 1, 2 and 3 equipment being manufactured
- Thirteen contracts for the various project elements, in addition to substation
- 1 complete, 3 in progress, 3 in final bid/award phase

Infrastructure Resilience & Reliability JIRR Updates

- City and SWBNO have completed 47 JIRR projects together
- SWBNO currently has 49 more in construction and 7 out for bid

- Recent joint site meetings with DPW leadership to identify and resolve issues
- Upcoming Transmission Main Project: Claiborne Ave (Tulane Stadium to Upperline)

Workforce Development Updates

➤ We've expanded our outreach to attract talent for key positions:

- National search firm RFP – GSO and new Deputy GSO positions
- Targeted postings on professional org sites (SHRM, Engineering societies, College/University alum sites)
- SWBNO LinkedIn page – Follow us!
- Indeed, SWBNO and City web sites
- Actively seeking Deputy GSO positions, HR Director, Chief Audit Executive, Comptroller

➤ Citywide retention efforts (apply to all SWBNO employees):

- 5% COLA before end of year
- 10% total salary increase over next 3 years

Financial Stability

Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

- Over \$500,000 has been awarded to help low-income households regain water service or avoid shutoffs, in partnership with TCA
- Eligibility information is available online www.lhc.la.gov

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report submitted timely to state auditor (full report next month)

State and Federal Funding Efforts

- Closed \$11.1M DEQ Loan, with additional \$31.5 DEQ commitment – sewer rehab program
- Will submit two Water Sector Commission applications this month for drinking water improvement projects
- \$10M HUD earmark submitted by Sen. Cassidy for West Power Complex Ops Center

Stakeholder engagement

Members of our Leadership Team attended New Orleans Day at the State Capitol

- Tours of DPS 2 and 4
- Tulane University, Ripple Effect
- Urban Conservancy Summer Camp
- Water Wise neighborhood tour of Green Infrastructure projects
- Green Roof tour with ThriveNOLA
- Presence at Mayor's Budget Town Hall Meetings in each Council District

- Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association Meeting

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Administration Committee Report

Director Lynes Sloss reported on the summary and actions taken by the Finance and Administration Committee. The Finance and Administration Committee Report for the month of August was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Finance and Administration reports as amended. Director Joseph Peychaud move to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

Pension Committee Report

Director Joseph Peychaud reported on the summary and actions taken by the Pension Committee. The Pension Committee Report for the month of August was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Pension reports as amended. Director Lynes Sloss move to adopt Pension minutes as proposed. Director Alejandra Guzman seconded. The motion carried.

Action Items

- Resolution (R-117-2022) Appointment of Board Representative to HR 168 Task Force on Sewerage and Water Board Governance
 - **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-117-2022 as amended. Director Lynes Sloss moved to accept R-117-2022 as proposed. Director Joseph Peychaud seconded. The motion carried.**
- Resolution (R-119-2022) Authorization for Award for a Third-Party Administrator for Medical/Dental/Vision and Other Services
 - **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-119-2022 as amended. Director Tamika Duplessis moved to accept R-119-2022 as proposed. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.**
- Resolution (R-115-2022) Resolution Authorizing Application to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

- **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-115-2022 as amended. Director Maurice Sholas moved to accept R-115-2022 as proposed. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were discussed at the August 10, 2022, Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:

- Resolution (R-051-2022) Award of Contract 1440 – Procurement of Two Generator Step-Up Transformers Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Walter J. Barnes, Inc.
- Resolution (R-074-2022) Award of Contract 2155 – S. Claiborne (Versailles – Upperline) Water Transmission Replacement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services.
- Resolution (R-085-2022) Renewal of Contract 30237 – Restoration of Gravity Flow Sanitary Sewer Mains by Point Repair at Various Sites Throughout Orleans Parish Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Wallace C. Drennan, LLC.
- Resolution (R-089-2022) Award of Contract 2022-SWB-31 – Requisition Nos. AL220012 & CM220026 – Furnishing Polyelectrolyte Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Polydyne, Inc.
- Resolution (R-080-2022) Ratification of Change Order No. 9 for Contract 1403 – Demolition of Abandoned C-7 & C-8 Basins and Other Site Improvements at the Carrollton Water Plant Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Cycle Construction Company, LLC.
- Resolution (R-083-2022) Ratification of Change Order No. 6 for Contract 1370A – 60Hz Transformers and Switchgear Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Walter J. Barnes Electric Co, Inc.
- Resolution (R-084-2022) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 2152 – TM004 Gert Town Waterline Replacement Program – St. Dupre St Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services, LLC.
- Resolution (R-086-2022) Approval of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 30238 – Restoration of Gravity Flow Sanitary Sewers by Excavation and Replacement from Manhole to Manhole, CIPP Lining from Manhole to Manhole, CIPP Lining of Service Laterals and Point Repairs at Various Sites Throughout the City of New Orleans Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Wallace C. Drennan, LLC.
- Resolution (R-081-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 12 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and CH2M Hill Engineers, Inc for Program Management, Design and Engineering Services for the Retrofit Power Plant Hazard Mitigation Grant Project.
- Resolution (R-082-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 3 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Veolia North America for Construction Program Management Services at the Eastbank and Westbank Wastewater Treatment Facilities.

- Resolution (R-087-2022) Ratification of Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Pure Technologies U.S., Inc. DBA Wachs Water Services for On-Call Water Valve Operation Services.
- Resolution (R-088-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Power Engineers, Inc for Professional Engineering, Construction Administration and Inspection Services for the West Power Complex Group 3 Projects.
- Resolution (R-090-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 12 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Stanley Consultants, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Hammer Hazard Mitigation Program.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve Corresponding Resolutions in Globo. Director Carol Markowitz moved to accept Corresponding resolutions as proposed. Director Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to enter executive session. Director Joseph Peychaud moved. Director Alejandra Guzman seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to exit executive session. Director Lynes Sloss moved. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to approve Special Council Recommendations in executive session. Director Tamika Duplessis moved. Director Alejandra Guzman seconded. The motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Preliminary Financial Results
- Report of the General Superintendent
- Report of Special Counsel
- Human Resources
- Safety Report
- Contracts Under \$1 Million or Less Report
- FEMA Project Worksheet Status
- DBE Participation on Contracts Report

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:23 AM.