

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

October 26, 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, October 26, 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 Carol Markowitz, Director Lynes Sloss, Director Robin Barnes, Director Nichelle Taylor, Director Janet Howard, and Councilmember Freddie King.

The following member(s) were absent: Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis, Director Joseph Psychaud, Director Alejandra Guzman, Director Dr. Maurice Sholas

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, Tyler Antrup, Director of Strategic Planning, presented the Rate Adjustment & Affordability Overview. This overview focused on the kickoff of the formal "ratemaking" process, which will propose a specific plan with rates in January. Mr. Antrup and team have run several scenarios based on need and cost of service. The proposed increase will be based on those elements PLUS public input and feedback. The utility will continue to diligently seek resources such as (WIFIA, IJJA, HUD); but they are smaller, single-project revenue pots that do not provide stable, long-term financing. The study is now complete and has provided the baseline cost of service for our customers, analysis of operating and capital needs for water/sewer systems, affordability considerations, and rate adjustment scenarios. Mr. Antrup stated the goal is a balanced, well-supported plan focusing on stability and resiliency.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the September 21, 2022, Board Meetings. Director Janet Howard 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:

WEFTEC 2022 October 8 – October 12

- 5 Speaking Engagements
- 4 Water Leader Gatherings
- 3 Facility Tours
- 2 Service Projects
- 1 Live Podcast Interview
- Countless Connections

Celebrated 50-year anniversary of the Clean Water Act – and embraced challenge of providing a future of accessible water for all. SAVE THE DATE: Oct. 2024!

Smart Metering and Meter Reading Update Smart Metering Update:

- SWBNO project team participated in a technology seminar for Sensus, our future meters
- Work progresses toward Phase 1 deployment next spring

Meter Reading Alternative Strategy:

- Re-allocate resources to significantly increase actual reads for half of all cycles monthly
- This will improve read and bill accuracy, as well as reduce recurring estimates
- Interim adjustment until Smart Meters installed

In partnership with the City's Amnesty Program, SWBNO Late Fee Forgiveness Program.

- When: October 3 – December 30, 2022
- Who: Residential customers with delinquent accounts
- Get in touch: East Bank Location: 625 Saint Joseph Street, New Orleans, LA 70165 and West Bank Location: 421 Behrman Place, Suite M-2, New Orleans, LA 70131
- Pay 25% of delinquent balance on your account
- Enroll in a no-interest payment plan for the rest and late fees will be forgiven back to January 2021

Power and Pumping Status

- 95/99 pumps available
- T4, T5 and T6 all available
- Final rehabbed water pump at Claiborne Station being commissioned this week

Work on West Power Complex:

- SWBNO/ENO pre-construction meeting early next month
- Substation groundbreaking in November

Financial Update 2023 Budget Development

- Departmental budget hearings complete
- Focus on being strategic, proactive, efficient and accountable
- Presentation to Finance Committee next month

Rate Adjustment & Affordability

- Completed rate study, working with partners Black & Veatch
- Seeking Board approval to launch rate adjustment process

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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 October was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Pension reports as amended. Director Robin Barnes move to adopt Pension minutes as proposed. Director Nichelle Taylor seconded. The motion carried.

Operations Committee Report

Director Janet Howard reported on the summary and actions taken by the Operations Committee. The Operations Committee Report for the month of October was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Operations reports as amended. Councilmember Freddie King move to adopt Operations minutes as proposed. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

Action Items

- Resolution (R-155-2022) Authorization to Seek Customer Input Through Community Hearings on Rates, Financial Needs, and Customer Assistance Program
 - **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-155-2022 as amended. Director Lynes Sloss moved to accept R-155-2022 as proposed. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.**

- Resolution (R-138-2022) Award of Contract ITB-2022-SWB-33 – Bill Print and Mail Outsourcing Contract With Envelopes and Forms, Inc. dba SureBill
 - o **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-138-2022 as amended. Director Nichelle Taylor moved to accept R-138-2022 as proposed. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.**

- Resolution (R-139-2022) Authorization for Renewal #1 of The Professional Services Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Avenu Insights and Analytics for Information Systems Management
 - o **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-139-2022 as amended. Director Lynes Sloss moved to accept R-139-2022 as proposed. Director Nichelle Taylor seconded. The motion carried.**

- Resolution (R-154-2022) Authorization for Amendment #3 to the Maintenance and Support Agreement between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Cogsdale Corporation
 - o **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-154-2022 as amended. Councilmember Freddie King moved to accept R-154-2022 as proposed. Director Carol Markowitz seconded. The motion carried.**

- Resolution (R-156-2022) Authorization to Ratify the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans 2022 Holiday Schedule
 - o **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-156-2022 as amended. Director Robin Barnes moved to accept R-156-2022 as proposed. Director Carol Markowitz seconded. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were discussed at the October 26, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting:

CONTRACT AWARDS/RENEWALS

- Resolution (R-104-2022) Second Renewal for Contract YG19-001 – Furnishing and Delivering Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Lard Oil.
- Resolution (R-110-2022) Ratification of Award of Contract 8168 – Repaving Open Cuts in Driveways and Sidewalks Resulting from the Repair to the Sewerage and Water of New Orleans Underground Utilities Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and CMG Pipeline.

- Resolution (R-127-2022) Award of Contract 1418 – Carrollton Water Purification Plant Utility Rack Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and M.R. Pitman Group, LLC.
- Resolution (R-128-2022) First Renewal of Contract 2159 – Water Main Point Repair, Water Service Connection, Water Valve and fire Hydrant Replacement at Various Sites Throughout Orleans Parrish Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Boh Bros Construction Co, LLC.
 - **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve Contract Award/Renewals as amended. Director Lynes Sloss moved to accept Contract Award/Renewals as proposed. Director Nichelle Taylor seconded. The motion carried.**

CONTRACT CHANGE ORDERS

- Resolution (R-122-2022) Ratification of Change Order No. 10 for Contract 1377 – Water Hammer Hazard Mitigation Program – Claiborne Ave Pumping Station and Off-Site Improvements Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Industrial and M.R. Pittman Group, LLC
 - **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve Contract Change Orders as amended. Director Janet Howard moved to accept Contract Change Orders as proposed. Director Carol Markowitz seconded. The motion carried.**

CONTRACT AMENDMENTS

- Resolution (R-121-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 4 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Volkert, Inc for Design and Engineering Services for the Demolition of the Two Abandoned Carrollton Water Plant Clarifiers
- Resolution (R-123-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 8 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Design Engineering, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-124-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 9 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Digital Engineering & Imaging, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-125-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 8 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Mott MacDonald, LLC (successor interest to Lambert Engineers, Inc) for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-126-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 11 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and MWH Americas, Inc (predecessor in interest to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc) for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program

- **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve Contract Amendments as amended. Director Nichelle Taylor moved to accept Contract Amendments as proposed. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.**

FINAL ACCEPTANCE

- Resolution (R-129-2022) Reconciliation and Final Acceptance of Contract 30214 – South Shore Basin Sewer Rehabilitation No. 2 Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Grady Crawford Construction Co., Inc.
- Resolution (R-130-2022) Reconciliation and Final Acceptance of Contract 30222 – South Shore Basin Sewer Rehabilitation No. 3 Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Grady Crawford Construction Co., Inc.
- Resolution (R-131-2022) Reconciliation and Final Acceptance of Contract 30223 – South Shore Basin Rehabilitation No. 4 Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services, LLC.
- Resolution (R-140-2022) Reconciliation and Final Acceptance of Contract 30224 – South Shore Basin Rehabilitation No. 5 Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services, LLC
 - **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve Final Acceptances as amended. Councilmember Freddie King moved to accept Final Acceptances as proposed. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.**

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

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to enter executive session. Director Janet Howard moved. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

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

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to approve Special Counsel Recommendations in executive session. Director Nichelle Taylor moved. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Preliminary Financial Results
- Report of the General Superintendent
- Report 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 10:39 AM.