

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

May 17, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

## SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD OF NEW ORLEANS

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### ROLL CALL

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The Board of Directors for the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) met on Wednesday May 17, 2023, at 9:02 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 Tamika Duplessis, Director Joseph Psychaud, Director Alejandra Guzman, Director Lynes Sloss, Director Carol Markowitz Director, Director Robin Barnes, Director Janet Howard and Councilmember Freddie King.

The following member(s) were absent: Director 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; Cash Moses, Purchasing; Ms. Irma Plummer, EDBP; Mr. Jason Higginbotham, Emergency Management; Ms. Tanyell Allen, Board Relations.

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### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the April 19, 2023, Board Meeting. Director Lynes Sloss moved for approval of the minutes. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

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### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

#### Paving Progress

- For Quarter 1 2023: 45% more paving completed than Q1 2022
- Currently 3000 open paving work orders
- Total cost: \$16 - \$18 million
- City of New Orleans Partnership – Max Pave
- \$8.6 million contribution – 1200 work orders
- Two contractors assisting: Drennan and CMG
- Goal is to get down to 2 - 4 week turnaround time

- Current time is ~100 days

### **SWBNO Power Complex**

- Entergy work remains on schedule for 2024 completion, transmission line work underway

### **SWBNO Connections and Backup Plant**

- SWBNO to issue NTP for next critical path construction projects in June
- Pile driving for utility rack foundations ongoing
- Planning meeting to update neighbors and stakeholders
- Monitoring Legislative Session for funding impacts

### **Pumping and Power Update**

- 92 of 99 drainage pumps available
- T5 and T6 are available
- T4 unavailable, inspections 75% complete
- 4 of 5 EMDs available and 9 of 10 Frequency Changers available
- Operations has been utilizing Frequency Changers instead of T5 when possible
- FC #4 at Station D back in service
- Smaller Frequency Changer at Treatment Plant out of service due to electrical issue.
- H pump is DPS 6 offline for scheduled maintenance, scheduled to come back online in two weeks. There are 11 additional drainage pumps at this station.

### **Smart Metering Update**

- Installation completed for 7 of 12 base stations for the Network
- Installation 2 months ahead of schedule; well under budget
- Installation phases designed for maximum supply chain flexibility and mitigation
- Detailed Standard Operating Procedure meetings next week
- IT integration design underway
- PR firm selected to assist with EPA compliance education and messaging during install process

### **Financial Stability Selection of Software Vendor:**

- Full RFP and readiness assessment completed
- System Selected: Oracle Enterprise Resource Planning Cloud
- First major cloud-based software for Financial Information System
- Provides better financial transparency, reporting and analysis throughout SWBNO
- Enhances reporting capabilities to external stakeholders

### **Workforce Development**

- People Plan: Assessment phase with PFM underway
- SWBNO Job Fair at Convention Center – June 9 – Convention Center

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

- **National Water Policy Week Fly-In**  
Trip to Washington DC to meet with EPA and other national partners
- **New Orleans State Delegation Luncheon**  
Lobbying for Capitol Outlay dollars to be moved to Priority 1
- **Infrastructure Open Houses in partnership with the City of New Orleans**  
District B – May 24 | District A – June 7
- **New Orleans Chamber of Commerce Tour of Power Complex** – May 18

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## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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### Finance and Administration Committee Report

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

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Finance report as amended. Director Janet Howard move to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Joseph Peychaud seconded. The motion carried.

### Strategy Committee Report

Director Robin Barnes reported on the summary and actions taken by the Strategy Committee. The Strategy Committee Report for the month of May was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Strategy report as amended. Director Alejandra Guzman move to adopt Strategy minutes as proposed. Director Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell thanked Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis for her leadership and service on this Board serving as the President Pro Tem of this utility for over 8 years.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to nominate Director Lynes Sloss as the new President Pro Tem of this utility. Mayor Cantrell moved to approve as proposed. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

Director Tamika Duplessis stated it has been a pleasure to serve on this Board as President Pro Tem and thanked the Board for their leadership and guidance throughout her time served.

### **Action Items**

- Resolution (R-079-2023) Declaration of Vacancy on the Board of Directors for Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, Council District D
  - o **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-079-2023 as amended. Director Tamika Duplessis moved to approve as proposed. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.**

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### **GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The following resolutions were discussed at the May 10, 2023, Board of Directors' Meeting: General Superintendent Recommendations**

#### **Contract Awards/Renewals**

- Resolution (R-078-2023) Authorization for Award of Contract for Professional Services Between Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Applications Software Technology, LLC (AST) for Financial Software and Services
- Resolution (R-064-2023) Authorization for Contract Amendment #2 of the Professional Services Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Avenu Insights and Analytics for Information Systems Management
- Resolution (R-052-2023) Award of Contract 30248 - Carrollton Basin Sewer Rehabilitation No. 7 Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Fleming Construction Co., LLC
- Resolution (R-053-2023) Award of Contract 30249 - Carrollton Basin Sewer Rehabilitation No. 8 Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Impetus Infrastructure, LLC
- Resolution (R-054-2023) Award of Contract 30250 - Carrollton Basin Sewer Rehabilitation No. 9 Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services, LLC
- Resolution (R-050-2023) Authorization of Amendment No. 3 to the Professional Services Agreement for On-Call Water Valve Operations Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Pure Technologies, Inc.
- Resolution (R-051-2023) Authorization of Amendment No. 9 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Richard C. Lambert, LLC for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-055-2023) Authorization of Amendment No. 6 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Burk Kleinpeter, Inc. for Program and Construction Management Services for Hurricane Related Sewer Restoration Projects

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

**Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to enter executive session. Director Tamika Duplessis moved. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.**

**Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to exit executive session. Director Lynes Sloss moved. Director Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.**

**Mayor Cantrell stated the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans continues to ensure customer satisfaction and customer service remains a top priority for this utility and the city of New Orleans. Mayor Cantrell encouraged SWBNO to move forward with the communications with the New Orleans City Council with the intent to comply relating to requirements associated with billing practices and procedures.**

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### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- CFO – March 2023 Report
- GSO – April 2023 Report
- Legal – April 2023 Report
- Safety – April 2023 Report
- HR – April 2023 Report
- FEMA – April 2023 Report
- EDBP – April 2023 Report

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### **ADJOURNMENT**

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:35 AM.