

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

November 20, 2024

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 November 20, 2024, at 9:06 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 Robin Barnes, Director Tamika Duplessis, Director Chadrick Kennedy, Director H. Davis Cole, Director Janet Howard, Director Maurice Sholas, Director Tyler Antrup.

The following member(s) were absent: Director Joseph Peychaud, Director Lynes Sloss and Councilmember Freddie King,

Staff present were: Ghassan Korban, Executive Director; Renee Lapeyrolerie, Chief of Staff; Grey Lewis, Chief Financial Officer; Stephen Nelson, General Superintendent; Yolanda Grinstead, Special Counsel; Irma Plummer, EDBP; Brionne Lindsey, Board Relations.

Prior to beginning the meeting, the Hon. Mayor Cantrell gave her opening remarks. Mayor Cantrell acknowledged how the utility is continuing to stay focused on improving the critical infrastructure as it is adapting to the climate that has changed. The City of New Orleans continues to be on the national and global platform based on the work the utility is doing. The customer account platform launched, and it will give accurate reads as the utility implementing smart meters. The customers will have an accurate read and with this new technology allow customers to see their water use in real time. This platform will build trust and transparency with customers. Mayor Cantrell acknowledged the hardworking city employees, particularly the team doing an incredible job of closing a record number of 26,000 work orders in the city. Mayor Cantrell acknowledged that it's unprecedented for the people on the front line doing the job, standing in the gap in helping the utility move forward. It's an honor for a utility that is 200 years old to be making such outstanding progress. Mayor Cantrell recognized the following employees on a job well done for their hard work, Ashraf Abdelbaqi, Shena Walker, Dan Eaglin, Ernest Smith, James Gatlin, Derrick Moore, Mark McAcy, Byron Scott, Charles Mallet, Tyronne Hall, Richard Stanwood and Charles Sauerwin. Great news 60,000 smart meters have been installed.

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### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the October 23, 2024, Board Meeting as amended. Director Sholas moved for approval of the minutes. Director Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### Finance & Administration Committee Report

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

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Finance report as amended. Director Barnes moved to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Cole 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:

### **The Power Complex**

- Anticipated to come online in summer 2025
- Turbine 7 delivered last week.
- Installation will continue through November
- Utility Rack cabling installation is ongoing
- DOE Grant secured through DNR
- Next Steps: Subrecipient agreement

### **Lead Service Line Replacement Program**

#### **Lead Line Inventory went live Oct 15th**

- Lead inventory notifications began this week

#### **\$86M in State Revolving Funds**

- Loan closes December 2024

#### **\$66M State Revolving Fund Application**

- Moving forward with application upon SWBNO Board approval

#### **Bid Opening December 2024:**

- Contract for Potholing and LSL Replacements at Schools and Daycares
- RFP for Program Manager for the LSL Replacement Program

- [swbno.org/Projects/LeadAwareness](http://swbno.org/Projects/LeadAwareness)

### **SWBNO Smart Metering Program**

#### **Installation Progress**

- Over 64,000 meters installed
- 44% of population
- Smart Meter Delinquency Rate
- \$12M of smart meter bills past due
- \$6M of smart meter bills are considered delinquent = 18%
- Delinquent: more than \$50 past 60 days due

#### **New Online Customer Account**

- Now LIVE
- Launched Nov. 15
- Available to all customers
- Action required to activate online account
- Did not carry over payment info
- Registrations to date: 6,696

#### **Wastewater**

- Sewer Pump Station D remains offline after an electrical malfunction
- Temporary pumps deployed and are in service
- Repairs to the drainage controls are ongoing
- Replacement grid construction underway
- Veolia Hubgrade Center
- Data analytics will allow for efficient operations reducing chemical and electrical consumption

#### **Billing Laws Implementation**

#### **Third party administrator (HGI) appointed by City Council Ordinance implemented 9/6/24**

- Ongoing exchange between HGI and SWBNO to input adjustments & ensure accuracy
- 2825 decisions made between September and October
- \$7M in total credits given

### **Temporary fixed rate residential billing began**

- Fixed rate is based on usage and includes the “ready to serve” fee
- 371 accounts are now on fixed bill

### **Arbiters**

- CEA has been executed with LLA who will administer the program
- Arbitration Requests: September: 15 accounts from SWBNO requested arbitration, October: Arbitration status pending
- No more estimated bills beginning January 2025

### **Drainage Consolidation (Act 763)**

- Pending Cooperative Endeavor Agreement being reviewed by City of New Orleans and SWBNO
- Funding includes special \$5 million annual allocation from the Infrastructure Maintenance Fund (IMF)
- Per Act 103, funding also includes revenue from traffic camera enforcement (\$TBD)
- Drainage assets to be received from CNO:
  - 1,840 miles of Drain Lines under 36" in diameter
  - 50,000 Drainage Manholes for pipes under 36"
  - 78,000 Catch Basins.
- Goal is to advertise 3 major contracts in January: cleaning RFP, engineering RFQ, and point repairs contract
- Planning for Day 1 allowing for outsourcing while we build our internal workforce

### **Prioritizing Pavement Progress**

- Paving repairs backlog around 360 compared to 3000+ in late 2023
- Internal paving restoration timeline is 42 days compared to 100+ days in 2023
- Goal: to reduce backlog which means repairs can be completed within 2-4 weeks

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## **CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS**

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**The following resolutions were discussed at the November 13, 2024, Finance and Administration Meeting**

- Resolution (R-161-2024) Cooperative Endeavor Agreement Act 776 Appropriation to Fund Arbiters for Customer Billing Disputes

**General Superintendent Recommendations**

- Resolution (R-136-2024) Second Renewal of Contract 2022-SWB-27 Furnishing Anhydrous Ammonia to the Algiers and Carrollton Water Plants Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Tanner Industries Inc.
- Resolution (R-137-2024) Second Renewal of Contract 2022-Swb-46 Furnishing Fluorosilicic to the Algiers and Carrollton Water Plants Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Univar Solutions USA, Inc.
- Resolution (R-138-2024) Award of 2024-SWB-67 Liquid Polyelectrolyte Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Polydyne Inc.
- Resolution (R-106-2024) Amendment No. 3 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 West Power Complex Group 3 Projects.
- Resolution (R-139-2024) Ratification of Change Order No. 8 for Contract 1418 – Carrollton Water Plant Utility Rack Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and M.R. Pittman Group, LLC.
- Resolution (R-141-2024) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 8166 – Repaving Open Cuts in Sidewalks and Driveways Resulting from the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans Underground Utility Repairs Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Wallace C. Drennan, LLC.
- Resolution (R-148-2024) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 1407 – Structural Filter Rehabilitations at the Sycamore Filter Gallery Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Industrial Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
- Resolution (R-150-2024) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 30251 – Carrollton Basin No. 10 Sewer Rehabilitation Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and BLD Services, LLC.
- Resolution (R-151-2024) Ratification of Change Order No. 6 for Contract 1415 – West Power Complex Foundations and Underground Package Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and M.R. Pittman Group, LLC.

- Resolution (R-152-2024) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 30255 – Carrollton Basin No. 14 Sewer Rehabilitation Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Fleming Construction Company, LLC.
- Resolution (R-140-2024) Authorization of Final Acceptance of Contract 1418 – Carrollton Water Plant Utility Rack Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and M.R. Pittman Group, LLC.
- Resolution (R-147-2024) Authorization of Final Acceptance of Contract 8168 – Repaving Open Cuts in Streets, Driveways, and Sidewalks Resulting from the Repair to the Sewerage and Water Board Underground Utilities Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and CMG Pipelines, LLC.
- Resolution (R-149-2024) Authorization of Final Acceptance of Contract 1407 – Structural & Filter Rehabilitation in the Areas of Sycamore Filter Gallery Filters #11, 12, 14, 16, & 17 Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Industrial and Mechanical Contractors, Inc.

**Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve Corresponding Resolutions in Globo. Director Kennedy moved to accept Corresponding resolutions as proposed. Director Barnes seconded. The motion carried.**

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## INFORMATION ITEMS

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The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Report Preliminary Financial Results
- Report General Superintendent
- Report Human Resource
- Report Legal
- Report Safety
- FEMA Project Worksheet Status
- DBE Participation on Contracts Report

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## PUBLIC COMMENTS

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No Public Comments

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## ADJOURNMENT

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There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, Director Duplessis moved to adjourn. Director Sholas seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:39 AM