

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

September 18, 2019

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 September 18, 2019 at approximately 9:04 AM in the Board Room at 625 St. Joseph Street. Special Counsel, Ms. Yolanda Grinstead, called the roll and confirmed the following members were present: Director Joseph Peychaud, Director Lynes Sloss, Director Ralph Johnson, Director Alejandra Guzman, Director Robin Barnes, Director Janet Howard, Dr. Tamika Duplessis, and Hon. LaToya Cantrell.

The following member(s) were absent: Director Maurice Sholas and Councilmember Jay H. Banks.

Also present were: Ms. Brenda Thorton, CommuniRep; Mr. Lloyd Lazard; Mr. Happy Johnson; Ms. Nina Reins.

Staff present were: Mr. Ghassan Korban, Executive Director; Mr. Robert Turner, General Superintendent; Ms. Yvette Downs, Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Christy Harowski, Chief of Staff; Mr. Richard Rainey, Chief Communications Officer; Ms. Yolanda Grinstead, Special Counsel; Mr. Darryl Harrison, Deputy Special Counsel; Mr. Dexter Joseph, Budget Department; Mr. Robert Jackson, Customer Service; Ms. Patti Wallace, Purchasing; Ms. Irma Plummer, EDBP; Mr. Jason Higginbotham, Emergency Management, SWBNO; Ms. Brionne Lindsey, Board Relations.

Prior to beginning the meeting, President LaToya Cantrell gave her opening remarks. President Cantrell thanked everyone for their leadership throughout the month. She stated the city issued bonds of \$50 million for 2019, and because of the great credit ratings they were able to get a great deal on the bond sales. Also, it sets the tone for the ballot initiatives that are forthcoming in November of this year for \$500 million in bonds. Mayor Cantrell is asking the public to support the administration going to the sale for those bonds; they will not have an impact on taxes but will be targeted toward infrastructure. They are also asking that 3 million of that capacity be allocated towards maintenance. The city has never in its history had a maintenance fund.

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### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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President Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the August 21, 2019 Board Meeting. Director Janet Howard moved for approval of the minutes. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

Mr. Fred Tharp recognized employees known as the Water Dogz that work hard to maintain a huge part of Sewerage and Water Board. President Mayor Cantrell thanked the workers for everything they are doing for the city.

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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:

- Drainage Pumping Status
  - 98 of 99 drainage pumps (mitigate rain and flooding)
  - 21 of 21 constant-duty pumps (aka “dry weather pumps” which are used to manage ground water in canals on any given day)
  - Mr. Korban stated we are only down one pump impacting 25% of the total capacity. Station 14 in New Orleans East pump is down. This station operational capacity is 75%. They are doing everything to get station back online. They are going through a procurement of a part, which is required to finish the job. Overall, we are in good standing.
  - Tiffany Julian, Billing Director, discussed the billing estimation methodology. Customer service has been working to improve the estimation methodology for customers who have experienced spiked bills when moved from estimation to actual reads. The new method will better align with individual customers and be less volatile when estimations are required. Ms. Julian stated they are working to change the process.
  - Director Joseph Peychaud asked how does the billing estimation change? And how is it being presented to the public? Chief of Communications, Richard Rainey, insured they will have a press release to answer any questions concerning bills.

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## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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### Governance Committee Report

Director Ralph Johnson reported on the summary and actions taken by the Governance Committee. The Governance Committee Report for the month of September was presented and recommended for approval.

President Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt amendments as proposed. Director Joseph Peychaud move to adopt Governance minutes as proposed. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

#### Finance and Administration Committee Report

Chairperson, Lynes “Poco” Sloss reported on the summary and actions taken by the Finance and Administration Committee. The Finance and Administration Committee Report for the month of September was presented and recommended for approval.

President Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Finance and Administration report as amended. Director Ralph Johnson moved for approval and second by Director Alejandra Guzman. The motion carried.

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### **CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS**

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The following resolutions were discussed at the September 18, 2019 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:

(R-142-2019) Recommendation for Award of Contract 5224 - Hurricane Katrina Repairs to New Carrollton, Hospital, Marconi, Paris and Press Drainage Underpass Pump Stations (Dept – Network Engr)

(R-148-2019) Recommendation for Renewal of Contract 30218 – Restoration of Gravity Sanitary Sewer Mains by Point Repair at Various Sites Throughout Orleans Parish (Dept – Networks Admin)

(R-149-2019) Recommendation for Renewal of Contract 30219 – Restoration of Existing 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 (Dept – Networks Admin)

(R-161-2019) Recommendation for Renewal of Contract 30217 – Cleaning and CCTV Inspection of Sanitary Sewer Mains at Scattered Sites Within Orleans Parish (Dept – Networks Admin)

(R-060-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 6 for Contract 1378 – Hurricane Related Repairs to Boilers, Ducts, Elevators at the Carrollton Water Purification Plant – Power Complex

(R-140-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 1393 - Secondary Chlorination Station at Venetian Isles (Dept - Const Admin & Insp)

(R-145-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 2 for Contract 30102 – DPS 17/Station D Structural Repairs (Dept - Civil Engr)

(R-146-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 30110 - Electrical Improvements Phase Two at the EBWWTP (Dept - Operations)

(R-143-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 7 for Contract 6249 – Hazard Mitigation Grant Project – Design Build Retrofit Power Distribution Network (Dept – Electrical Engr)

(R-152-2019) Change Order No. 1 for Contract YW19-0003 – Furnishing Limestone Material (Support Services)

(R-141-2019) Cancellation of Contract 2127 – Algiers Lock Forebay Waterline Replacement (Network Engr)

(R-061-2019) Final Acceptance for Contract 1378 – Hurricane Related Repairs to Boilers, Ducts, Elevators at the Carrollton Water Purification Plant – Power Complex (Dept – Networks Engr)

(R-101-2019) Final Acceptance for Contract 1393 – Final Acceptance of Secondary Chlorination Station at Venetian Isles (Dept – Const Admin & Insp)

(R-138-2019) Final Acceptance for Contract 1406 – Final Acceptance of Sycamore Filter Gallery Structural and Filter Rehab at Filters #13, 15, 18, And 27 (Dept – Civil Engr)

(R-147-2019) Final Acceptance for Contract 30110 – Electrical Improvements Phase Two at the EBWWTP (Dept - Operations)

(R-151-2019) Final Acceptance for Requisition CO 17-0014 – Emergency Repair Services for Turbine No. 5 (Dept - Operations)

President Cantrell presented a motion to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in globo. Director Tamika Duplessis move to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in Globo. Director Joseph Peychaud second. The motion carried.

#### Finance Resolution

Resolution (R-163-2019) Fair Share CEA Ratification

President Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Fair Share CEA Ratification report as amended. Director Lynes Sloss move for approval and second by Director Alejandra Guzman. The motion carried.

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### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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The following person(s) appeared before the Board of Directors to make comments:

- Mr. Lloyd Lazard, representing himself, asked about Purification process and billing.

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## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

Preliminary Financial Results through July 31, 2019

Human Resources Report August 1-31, 2019

Report of the General Superintendent

Report of the Special Counsel

FEMA August Project Worksheet Status

DBE Participation on Contracts

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:01 AM.