

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

June 17, 2020

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 June 17, 2020 at 9:00 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: Hon. Latoya Cantrell, Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis, Director Joseph Peychaud, Director Lynes Sloss, Director Ralph Johnson, Director Alejandra Guzman, Director Robin Barnes, Director Maurice Sholas, Director Janet Howard and Councilmember Jay H. Banks.

The following member(s) were absent:

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. Tanyell Allen, Board Relations.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Prior to beginning the meeting, Mayor Latoya Cantrell gave her opening remarks. Mayor Cantrell stated as of June 16, 2020, there are 7,428 positive COVID-19 cases and 522 deaths. The city continues to be on a downward inconsistent spiral; however, they must continue to monitor the data. The city is now in Phase 2 of reopening. Over the next few weeks, they need at least 21 days at a minimum to see and notice the impact of loosening up restrictions. Mayor Cantrell stated if they see any spikes, the city will move swiftly and with haste. Throughout the COVID-19 the city continues to make progress on the joint infrastructure projects. It is essential to the city of New Orleans in terms of drainage and sewer and how they operate, to be less vulnerable through storm related changes. On Friday there is a groundbreaking ceremony at St. Claude group C 7.3 million project that began in March and should be concluded in spring 2021.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the May 20, 2020, Board Meeting. Councilmember Jay H. Banks moved for approval of the minutes. Director Maurice Sholas seconded. The motion carried.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

- Executive Director Korban started his report with the June 10, 2020 rain event (the after-action report). There was an event that came fast and furious and dump 4 inches of rain event on the city. The forecast was an underestimated rainfall. The intensity of the rain was not because T4 tripped off, T4 tripped offline as pumps were taken off. T4's temporary loss delayed the drainage effort, but the flooding already occurred before it shut down. It was not damaged during the rain event. The lowered max power allowed on T4 from 18MW to 17MW to allow buffer before reaching the threshold. The team will prepare for medium rain events more aggressively to help account for unforeseen, intense downpours using additional gages such as motor speed to monitor performance.
- 99 of 99 drainage pumps available.
- 18 of 21 Constant-Duty Pumps available
 - 2 small pumps at DPS 5 in lower 9th ward under repair
 - 1 small pump at DPS 7 in City Park under repair
- PUMPING CAPACITY = 99.8%
- Mr. Korban also gave an update on the COVID reopening plan and how things will work and the customer service care plan rollout.

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 June was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Finance and Administration reports as amended. Director Alejandra Guzman move to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Maurice Sholas seconded. The motion carried.

Audit Committee Report

Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis reported on the summary and actions taken by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee Report for the month of June was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Audit report as amended. Director Lynes Sloss move to adopt Audit minutes as proposed. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

Action Items

R-049-2020 Proposed 2020 Bylaw Amendments

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to approve 2020 Bylaw Amendments. Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis moved to accept. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to amend and add the word shall. Director Maurice Sholas moved to accept. Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to adopt resolution as amended. Director Lynes Sloss moved to accept. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

R-079-2020 Infrastructure Maintenance Fund CEA

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to approve infrastructure Maintenance Fund CEA as amended. Director Robin Barnes moved to accept. Director Ralph Johnson seconded. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were discussed at the June 10, 2020 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:

- Resolution (R-074-2020) Ratification of Change Order No. 10 for Contract 1368 – Oak Street Pumping Station HMGP
- Resolution (R-061-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 4 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Linfield, Hunter & Junius for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-073-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 4 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Neel Schaffer, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program

- Resolution (R-075-2020) Final Acceptance for 2131- Installation of New Water, Sewer and Drain Services throughout Orleans Parish
- Resolution (R-076-2020) Resolution Affirming Emergency Declaration at New and Old River Intakes

Audit Committee Resolutions

R-032-2020: Internal Audit Memorandum No. 35

R-033-2020: Internal Audit Charter

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in globo. Director Janet Howard moved to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in Globo. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- Mr. Candy Stevens, representing himself, talked about concerns receiving a refund.
- Mr. Chad Carson, representing himself, talked about the public receiving an explanation on the T5 explosion and concerns about T4.
- Ms. Jennifer Cook, representing herself raised concerns about the T5 explosion and how it will affect this hurricane season.
- Mr. Michael Shlenker, representing himself, raised concerns about the billing cycles.
- Ms. Eliza Henson, representing herself, talked about the water meter reading and bill estimations.
- Ms. Alexander Cohen, representing herself raised concerns about the sewer smells from storm drains.
- Mr. Argyle Wolf-Knapp, representing himself, raised concerns about management.
- Mr. Randall Smith, representing himself, raised concerns about SELA project.
- Ms. Elizabeth Black, representing herself, talked about concerns dealing with the Gentilly street flooding.
- Mr. Maggie Daly, representing himself, raised concerns about the number of pumps working due to T5 being out.
- Ms. Evelyn Caruso, representing herself, raised concerns about high water bills.
- Mr. Matt McBride, representing himself, raised concerns surrounding the Audit Committee.
- Ms. Meg Lousteau, representing herself, raised concerns about a water bill and no longer staying at that particular property.
- Mr. Ben Bougere, representing himself, asked about reviewing studies required by NFPA.
- Mr. Bob Bolin, representing himself, raised concerns about T4 tripping offline.
- Mr. Derek Fossier, representing himself, asked about PFAS and lead water test being performed.
- Mr. Brad Person, representing himself, asked about T4 shutting down.
- Ms. Aimee Sherrod, representing herself, asked about the reviewing and approving of bids.
- Mr. Jacques Fuselier, representing himself, asked about the reviewing of Mr. Korban contract.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

Preliminary Financial Results through April 1- 31, 2020

Human Resources Report May 1-31, 2020

Report of the General Superintendent

FEMA May Project Worksheet Status

Executive Director's Approval of Contracts of \$1,000,000.00 or Less

DBE Participation on Contracts

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:17 AM.