

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

July 22, 2020

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 July 22, 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.

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### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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President Pro Tem Tamika Duplessis presented a motion to accept the minutes of the June 17, 2020, Board Meeting. Director Lynes Sloss moved for approval of the minutes. Director Janet Howard 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:

- Executive Director Korban started his report with a brief update on the near-term strategy updates, 2020 new priorities and challenges, communications/public relations and the civil service assessment. The power master plan is the facility plan that has been completed and will be presented in August. This plan sets the stage and tone of what the power capacity should be for this utility. It also helps the SWBNO to be aligned with the decisions they have made.

- Mr. Korban gave an update on the turbines. The T7 will be an alternate replacement for T5. Turbine 7 is identified at \$12.6M in CDBG funding from the state and \$4M from the Fair Share agreement to purchase new 25 megawatt (MW), 60 Hz turbine generator.

### **Civil Service Assessment Report**

Ms. Kerry Mitchell and Maria Montegudo presented a Civil Service report on Sewerage and Water Board. The report centered around key problem areas and opportunities that are offered to SWBNO employees. Significant work has been accomplished by HR under leadership to rebuild the internal infrastructure in many of these areas. This has created a path to improve the SWBNO'S ability to meet the needs of the Civil Service department and to further develop the HR function to support the utility.

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## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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### **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 July was presented and recommended for approval.

President Pro Tem Dr. Tamika Duplessis asked for a motion to adopt the Strategy report as amended. Director Lynes Sloss move to adopt Strategy minutes as proposed. Director Ralph Johnson seconded. The motion carried.

### **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 July was presented and recommended for approval.

President Pro Tem Dr. Tamika Duplessis asked for a motion to adopt the Finance and Administration reports as amended. Director Joseph Peychaud move to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

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## CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

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**The following resolutions were discussed at the July 15, 2020 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:**

- Resolution (R-080-2020) Second Renewal for Contract 30217 – Cleaning and CCTV Inspection of Sanitary Sewer Mains at Scattered Sites Within Orleans Parish
- Resolution (R-083-2020) Authorization of Change Order No. 3 for Contract 2130 – Water Main Point Repairs, Water Service Connections, Water Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacements at Various Sites throughout Orleans Parish
- Resolution (R-069-2020) Authorization of Contract Amendment No. 5 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Meyer Engineers, Ltd. for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-081-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 4 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Digital Engineering & Imaging, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-078-2020) Final Acceptance for Contract 2129 – Water Main Point Repairs, Water Service Connections, Water Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacements at Various Sites throughout Orleans Parish

President Pro Tem Tamika Duplessis presented a motion to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in globo. Board of Directors' moved to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in Globo. Board of Directors' seconded. 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:

- Ms. Maggie Daly, representing herself, voice concerns about the fire hydrant repairs.
- Ms. Donna Colosino, representing herself, stress concerns about the estimation water bills.
- Mr. Matt McBride, representing himself raised concerns about water bills and billing periods.

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## INFORMATION ITEMS

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The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

Preliminary Financial Results through May 1- 31, 2020  
Human Resources Report June 1-30, 2020  
Report of the General Superintendent  
FEMA June 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 11:20 AM.