

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

January 20, 2021

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 January 20, 2021 at 9:00 AM via Microsoft team. Hon. Mayor Latoya Cantrell, Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis 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 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. Christy Harowski, Chief of Staff; 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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Prior to beginning the meeting, Mayor Cantrell gave her opening remarks. Mayor Cantrell stated on January 21, 2021, the city will be breaking ground on the Bayou Saint John fair grounds in the 7<sup>th</sup> ward group B project. Its 23 million FEMA funded. the DPW is 10 million and SWBNO allegations is 13.7 million. At least 122 blocks will be completely revamped at the conclusion of this project which is expected for spring 2022. Also, Mayor Cantrell announced the administration held its first industry day of the quarter, where they meet with all contractors, prime and small business in the like to inform exactly what the city is putting on the streets. It will allow them to take advantage of bidding throughout that process. Mayor Cantrell have reconstructed levels of Procurement for the city particularly in supply and diversity component.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the December 21, 2020, Board Meeting. Director Lynes Sloss moved for approval of the minutes. Director Maurice Sholas 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 introducing the new (Chief Customer Service Officer) Mr. Renee Gonzales for SWBNO. Mr. Korban stated Mr. Gonzales comes with not only experience in customer service but also drive and determination to help the utility. He is fully aware of the challenges that lies ahead and shows tremendous excitement and interest in taking on this challenge. Sewerage and Water Board is excited to have him.
- Mr. Korban gave update on the power Turbines. Turbine 4 inspections are completed, repairs are to be expedited. The cost is 1.5 million and it will return to service estimated in late May. Turbine 5 will have a new control system installed by May 2021 and estimated to service by early May. The Sub-Station C7/C8 demolition is underway and completion is estimated by mid-May.
- Mr. Korban stated the meter reading is improving and they are continuing to work towards giving accurate water bills. Sewerage and Water Board are still on track to read 65% of meters.

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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 and Administration Committee Report for the month of January was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Finance and Administration reports as amended. Director Ralph Johnson move to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

### Action Items

#### **CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S RESOLUTIONS**

- Resolution (R-014-2021) Sixth Supplemental Sewerage Service Revenue Bond Resolution

- **Director Ralph Johnson moved to accept R-014-2021. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.**

- Resolution (R-015-2021) Third Supplemental Water Revenue Bond Resolution
  - o **Director Janet Howard moved to accept R-015-2021. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.**

#### **GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S RESOLUTION**

- Resolution (R-016-2021) Ratification of Extreme Emergency Award of Contract 6267
  - Turbine 5 Exhaust System Fabrication and Installation
- o **Director Lynes Sloss moved to accept R-016-2021. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.**

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#### **CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS**

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**The following resolutions were discussed at the January 13, 2021 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:**

- Resolution (R-003-2021) First and Final Renewal of Contract for Furnishing Sodium Hypochlorite.
- Resolution (R-005-2021) Second and Final Renewal of Contract 8145 – Repaving Open Cuts in Streets, Driveways, Sidewalks Resulting from the Repair to the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans Underground Utilities
- Resolution (R-007-2021) Award of Contract to Furnish Liquid Ferric Sulfate
- Resolution (R-012-2021) Authorization for Third Extension of Contract 8138 for Furnishing Skilled and Unskilled Labor for Maintenance Services with the Gee Cee Company of Louisiana, Inc.
- Resolution (R-002-2021) Ratification of Change Order No. 4 For Contract 3799- Installation of Sludge Dryer at The East Bank Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Resolution (R-004-2021) Amendment No. 4 to Agreement with Stanley Consultants, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Bulk Storage and Chemical Feed Facility Project
- Resolution (R-006-2021) Authorization of Amendment No. 6 to the Agreement 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-008-2021) Authorization of Contract Amendment No. 7 to the Agreement between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Linfield,

- Hunter & Junius, Inc., for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-009-2021) Authorization of Contract Amendment No. 8 to the Agreement between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Meyer Engineers, LTD., for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program
  - Resolution (R-010-2021) Authorization of Amendment No. 7 to the Agreement between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Rahman and Associates, Inc., for Engineering and Design Services for the Waterline Replacement Program
  - Resolution (R-011-2021) Contract Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Volkert, Inc., for Design and Engineering Service for the Demolition of the Two Abandoned Carrollton Water Plant Clarifiers
  - Resolution (R-013-2021) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 and Final Acceptance and Closeout for Contract 5243 – DPS #4 Anti-Siphon Project

**Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in globo. Director Ralph Jonson moved. Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.**

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to enter in executive session. Director Ralph Johnson moved. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to exit executive session. Director Joseph Peychaud moved. Director Ralph Johnson seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to approve settle agreement between Ronnie Mitchell and SWBNO. Director Janet Howard moved. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

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### INFORMATION ITEMS

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The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Preliminary Financial Results through November 1- 30, 2020
- Human Resources Report December 1-31, 2020
- Report of the General Superintendent
- FEMA December 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 10:14 AM.