

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

February 24, 2021

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 February 24, 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.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Prior to beginning the meeting, Mayor Cantrell gave her opening remarks. Mayor Cantrell acknowledge the presence of the Mayor for a day, Christian Hodges. Christian Hodges is 12-year-old student from Lusher Charter School. He responded to an essay contest with 80 other students throughout the city of New Orleans. He was selected for our Mayor for a day.

Mayor Cantrell stated as of this day the city has about 28,164 Covid-19 cases in terms of what the city had throughout this period. 757 of residents have died. However, the city continues to see less rapid growth in the data in our city. Mayor Cantrell also stated that they are very excited about the downward trend even as it relates to the level of vaccination that have been administered and distributed throughout our parish and region. The New Orleans region rests at about 13.9% of first doses and many have received their second shot. The city's positivity rate is at 2.1% which has New Orleans at an average of 50 new cases a day, which is excellent and moving in the right direction. Mayor Cantrell thanked everyone for their support and leadership while going through this pandemic.

Mayor Cantrell stated that the administration has recognized the increasing vulnerability of the Sewerage and Water Board power generation system from day one has been focused on this. And have not stopped to resolve this. As a result, the administration has received \$20 million in State Capital Outlay dollars that is going to work right now to construct a new power complex at the Carrollton Water Plant. The administration is set to receive another \$14 million dollars from the

Hazard Mitigation Dollars to be put forth to ensure that the purchases are made to deal with the frequency changers necessary in the new power water complex for the water pumps. She noted that the recent freeze crystallized the need of what is happening and its importance of getting it done. She again that the Board for its leadership and support as what happens behind the scenes is not usually recognized.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the January 20, 2021, Board Meeting. Director Janet Howard moved for approval of the minutes. Director Lynes Sloss 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 acknowledging General Superintendent Mr. Robert Turner will be departing from the utility. Its Bittersweet, we are losing a smart and dedicated engineer who have held together a fragile system. Mr. Turner and his team have done a remarkable job. Sewerage and Water Board was very honored to have him.
- Mr. Korban gave update on the power Turbines. Turbine 4 (20MW) returns to service the week of May 3. Turbine 5(MW) return to service the week of June 14. Turbine 6 weatherizing is complete and expected to return to service by mid-April. The completion of these projects will return significant power capacity and redundancy to the drainage and water systems prior to hurricane season.
- The substation site construction complete will be in November 2021. The Static Frequency Changer purchase and install will be 2022. New “T7” Commissioning will be early 2023 and the Substation completion will be in 2023 also.
- Mr. Korban stated the meter reading is improving and they are continuing to work towards giving accurate water bills.

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 February was presented and recommended for approval.

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

Pension Committee Report

Director Joseph Peychaud reported on the summary and actions taken by the Pension Committee. The Pension Committee Report for the month of February was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Pension reports as amended. Director Ralph Johnson move to adopt Pension minutes as proposed. Director Alejandra Guzman seconded. The motion carried.

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 February was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Strategy reports as amended. Director Lynes Sloss move to adopt Strategy minutes as proposed. Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were discussed at the February 10, 2021 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:

- Resolution (R-020-2021) Authorization of Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Jacobs Engineering Group, for Design and Construction Administration Service for A New Turbine-Generator at the Carrollton Water Treatment Plant
- Resolution (R-001-2021) Ratification of Change Order No. 2 for Contract #1370A – 60HZ Transformers and Switchgear
- Resolution (R-019-2021) Authorization of Amendment No. 11 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board and Stanley Consultants Inc., for Design and Engineering Services for Water Hammer Hazard Mitigation Program
- Resolution (R-022-2021) Authorization of Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Jacobs Engineering Group INC. for Engineering Services for Power Frequency Converter at Carrollton Water Plant
- Resolution (R-021-2021) Reconciliation and Final Acceptance of Contract 2130 – Water Main Point Repair, Water Service Connection, Water Valve, and Fire Hydrant Replacement at various Sites Throughout Orleans Parish for a one-year period
- Resolution (R-024-2021) Final Acceptance for Contract CV20-0011 – Turbine 5 Metal Stack and Duct Demolition and Asbestos Abatement

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

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

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to exit executive session. Director Alejandra Guzman moved. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to appoint Mr. Ron Spooner as Interim General Superintendent with the salary of \$165,000. Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis moved. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Preliminary Financial Results through December 1- 31, 2020
- Human Resources Report January 1-31, 2021
- Report of the General Superintendent
- FEMA January Project Worksheet Status
- DBE Participation on Contracts

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:43 AM.