

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

March 17, 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 March 17, 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 acknowledged the presence of the Mayor for a Day, Madeleine Paige Morrison. Madeleine Paige Morrison is 17-year-old student from Isidore Newman School. She was selected for our Mayor for a Day.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the February 24, 2021, Board Meeting. Director Robin Barnes 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 Ron Spooner for attending his official first Board of Directors' meeting. He thanked and congratulate Mr. Spooner publicly for accepting an important task that lies ahead.
- Mr. Korban stated the current state of the system is fragile, but they are working getting the turbines back online for the hurricane season.

- There will be new assets in the works coming in different phases.

Phase 1a

- Utility Substation
- Turbines 5, 6, 7 as Backup
- Frequency Changers

Phase 1b

- Add Turbines 8 and 9
- Retire Existing Steam Plant

Phase 2

- 60Hz Conversion of Drainage Pump Stations
- Connect More Stations to Carrollton Plant

- 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.
- The utility is leveraging nearly \$30M in Federal funding and have applied for an additional \$46M from FEMA BRIC program for T8 and T9. The limited percentage is being covered by system funds.
- 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 March was presented and recommended for approval.

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

Operations Committee Report

Director Janet Howard reported on the summary and actions taken by the Operations Committee. The Operations Committee Report for the month of March was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Operations reports as amended. Councilmember Jay Banks move to adopt Operation minutes as proposed. Director Alejandra Guzman seconded. The motion carried.

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 March was presented and recommended for approval.

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

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

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

- Resolution (R-043-2021) Louisiana System Survey and Compliance Questionnaire
- Resolution (R-017-2021) Renewal of Contract MH 19004 – Purchase of Positive Displacement Type Cold Water Meters
- Resolution (R-028-2021) Award of Contract 2152 – Gert Town Waterline Replacement Program – Dupre Street, TM 004, FEMA PW 21031
- Resolution (R-027-2021) Ratification of Change Order No. 11 and Final Acceptance of Contract 1368 – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Oak Street Pumping Station
- Resolution (R-026-2021) Authorization of Contract Amendment No. 5 to the Agreement with Black and Veatch Corporation for Design and Engineering Services for the EBWWTP Sludge Dryer Project
- Resolution (R-030-2021) Authorization of Amendment No. 7 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-031-2021) Authorization of Contract Amendment No. 5 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Trigon Associates, LLC for Engineering and Design Services for the Waterline Replacement Program

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in globo. Director Joseph Peychaud moved. Director Ralph Johnson seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to enter in executive session. Director Lynes Sloss moved. President Pro Tem Dr. Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.

President Pro Tem Dr. Tamika Duplessis presented a motion to exit executive session. Director Lynes Sloss moved. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

President Pro Tem Dr. Tamika Duplessis presented No Action Items were taken during executive session.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Preliminary Financial Results through January 1- 31, 2021
- Human Resources Report February 1-28, 2021
- Report of the General Superintendent
- FEMA February Project Worksheet Status
- DBE Participation on Contracts

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:53 AM.