

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

April 21, 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 April 21, 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 stated the City of New Orleans as it relates to the pandemic are continuing to see progress as well as monitor variance and impacts across the other countries in neighboring parishes as well as states and cities. Mayor Cantrell announced 52% of our residents have received their first vaccinations and 32% fully vaccinated. We are over 50% of our adult population and 80% of our seniors. While this all sounds good, the city still has work to do to get to 75% herd immunity. The city's top priority is to continue to get people vaccinated.

In addition, as it relates to our work and progress in drainage front, today we will do our ribbon cutting for the Pontilly neighborhood storm water network. Mayor stated this is a huge win and accomplishment for the city. They came in at 15 million in terms for the FEMA funded and at 3.4 million.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the March 17, 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 congratulating Mayor Cantrell on the pontilly project and very excited to celebrate the big milestone.
- Mr. Korban stated the current state of the system is fragile, but they are working getting the turbines back online for the hurricane season.
- Turbine 4 will undergo testing starting next week and on track to be recommissioned by the first week of May. Turbine 5 will be on track to be brought back into service in June.
- There were several consecutive days of severe weather and minimal flooding. The rain intensity reached over 6 in./hr. in some locations. Mr. Korban stated it was largely managed without Turbine 1 which was down for maintenance until last Friday. Our team overcame operational challenges to manage the storm.
- Mr. Korban announced the tracking of State legislation and federal funding. The legislation session has begun, and the number of bills were filed and actively tracking the bills that may impact SWBNO.
- 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 April was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Finance and Administration reports as amended. Director Joseph Peychaud move to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Janet Howard 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 April was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Strategy reports as amended. Director Janet Howard move to adopt Strategy minutes as proposed. Director Alejandra Guzman seconded. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were discussed at the April 14, 2021 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:

- Resolution (R-059-2021) Final Renewal of Contract for with Professional Security Corporation to Provide Armed Security Guards at Board Facilities
- Resolution (R-041-2021) Award of Contract 2151 St. Bernard Transmission Main, TM002, FEMA Project Worksheet 19846 Multiple Neighborhoods
- Resolution (R-044-2021) Ratification of Award of Emergency Contract for Turbine 4 Repairs
- Resolution (R-036-2021) Authorization of Amendment No. 6 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Arcadis U.S. Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-038-2021) Authorization of Contract Amendment No. 6 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Richard C. Lambert for Design and Engineering Services for Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-039-2021) Authorization of Amendment No 6. To the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Neel-Schaffer for Design and Engineering Services for Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-040-2021) Authorization of Amendment No. 8 to the Professional Service Agreement Between Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and MWH Americas, Inc. (predecessor in interest to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.) for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program

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

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to enter in Executive Session. Director Robin Barnes moved. Director Alejandra Guzman seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to exit Executive Session. Director Lynes Sloss moved. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

Director Ralph Johnson stated on behalf of the Governance Committee. The Board believes strongly that Mr. Korban has done a very strong job leading the agency and his evaluation reflects his work.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:22 AM.