

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

February 16, 2022

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 16, 2022 at 9:02 AM via Microsoft Teams. Special Counsel Ms. Yolanda Grinstead, called the roll and confirmed the following members were present: Hon. Mayor LaToya Cantrell, Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis, Director Joseph Peychaud, Director Lynes Sloss, Director Ralph Johnson, Director Alejandra Guzman, Director Robin Barnes, Director Janet Howard, Director Maurice Sholas, Director Nichelle Taylor and Councilmember Freddie King.

The following member(s) were absent:

Staff present were: Mr. Ghassan Korban, Executive Director; Mr. Ron Spooner, Interim General Superintendent; Ms. Christy Harowski, Chief of Staff; Ms. Yolanda Grinstead, Special Counsel; Mr. Darryl Harrison, Deputy Special Counsel; Mr. Dexter Joseph, Budget Department; Customer Service; Purchasing; Ms. Irma Plummer, EDBP; Mr. Jason Higginbotham, Emergency Management, SWBNO; Ms. Tanyell Allen, Board Relations.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the January 19, 2022, Board Meeting. Director Joseph Peychaud moved for approval of the minutes. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

Prior to beginning the meeting, Mayor Cantrell gave her opening remarks. Mayor Cantrell acknowledged and thanked the Board members for their willingness, sacrifice and dedication to serve on the Sewerage and Water Board's board. Mayor Cantrell stated she appreciates the Board's leadership and partnership over the past three-four years. The current Board has faced challenges together and tackled those challenges head on to fix them. Mayor Cantrell also stated she couldn't think of a better team to be in the arena with in doing this very important work, that will sustain because of their leadership for generations to come.

Mayor Cantrell thanked Director Nichelle Taylor and Director Freddie King for their willingness to step forward and provide leadership with the Sewerage and Water Board and is very confident in their ability to join the team and get things done.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Ghassan Korban presented a slide overview that focused on the following topics:

Federal Funding Updates Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act

- Priority project list developed and shared with partners, stakeholder.
- Majority of Funding administered by EPA via state drinking water and wastewater revolving funds.
- Good communications with EPA leaders on application guidance and program rollout

Low-Income Water Household Assistance Program (LIWHAP)

- Water utility assistance for low-income customers through federal COVID relief funds
- Will be administered by Total Community Action
- Working with Louisiana Housing Corporation on vendor agreement

Operations

- **Operation Mardi Gras:** Staging networks response teams and support services equipment
- Supporting post-parade cleanup
- **Repair Updates:** Completed two large repairs on Panola St.
- Upcoming repair on General Ogden and Nelson St. Successful tested closure on Monday
- **FEMA Tour:** National and regional officials visited the Carrollton Water Plant on February 3
- Briefed on progress of Water Hammer Mitigation Progress, Claiborne pump station rehab and West Power Complex.

Pumping Status/ Drainage:

97 out of 99 Pumps Available for Use

- **DPS 6:**
1 Pump is out of service for mechanical issues. Pump assembly shipped to Original Equipment Manufacturer in Wisconsin for repairs.

F Pump is back online as of February 10,2022.
- **DPS 12:**
D Pump is back online as of January 10, 2022.
- **DPS 14:**
#4 Pump gear box repairs underway --- Still with Vendor

Power and Equipment Status

Turbines available for use:

- T4
- T5
- T6
- Turbine 1 out; contractor on-site for repairs

- The Strategic Plan was approved by the Strategy Committee and is seeking adoption from the entire Board of Directors on February 16, 2022.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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 Alejandra Guzman move to adopt Strategy minutes as proposed. Director Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.

Audit Committee Report

Director Tamika Duplessis reported on the summary and actions taken by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee Report for the month of February was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Audit reports as amended. Director Lynes Sloss move to adopt Audit minutes as proposed. Director Robin Barnes 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 February 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 Maurice Sholas 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 Lynes Sloss move to adopt Pension minutes as proposed. Director Maurice Sholas seconded. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were discussed at the February 9, 2022 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:

- Resolution (R-016-2022) Approval of the Sewerage and Water Board Strategic Plan
- Resolution (R-018-2022) Award of Contract 30228 – Mid-City Basin No. 2 Sewer Rehabilitation Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Fleming Construction Company, LLC.
- Resolution (R-020-2022) Award of Contract 2158 – Water Main Point Repair, Water Service Connection, Water Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement at Various Sites Throughout Orleans Parish Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Wallace C. Drennan, LLC.
- Resolution (R-021-2022) Award of Contract 2159 – Water Main Point Repair, Water Service Connection, Water Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement at Various Sites Throughout Orleans Parish Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Boh Bros Construction Co., LLC.
- Resolution (R-026-2022) Award of Contract 8166 – Repaving Open Cuts in Streets, Driveways, and sidewalks resulting from the Repair of Underground Utilities Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Wallace C. Drennan., LLC.
- Resolution (R-004-2022) Ratification of Change Order No. 5 for Contract 1370A – 60Hz Transformers and Switchgear between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Walter J. Barnes Electric Co., Inc.

- Resolution (R-025-2022) Ratification of Change Order No. 6 for Contract 1377 – Water Hammer Hazard Mitigation Program – Claiborne Ave Pumping Station and Off-Site Improvements between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and M.R. Pittman Group, LLC

- Resolution (R-024-2022) Ratification of Change Order 7 for Contract 1403 – Demolition of Abandoned C7 & C8 Basins and Other Site Improvements at the Carrollton Water Treatment Plant between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Cycle Construction Company, LLC

- Resolution (R-002-2022) Approval of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 1417 – Static Frequency Converter Procurement Project between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Walter J. Barnes Electric Co., Inc.

- Resolution (R-019-2022) Ratification of Amendment 1 for Emergency Contract 6266 – Turbine No. 5 Control System Upgrades between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Nexus Controls, LLC
- Resolution (R-022-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 9 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Lindfield, Hunter & Junius, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the 12” Waterline Replacement at the Algiers Lock Forebay
- Resolution (R-023-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 6 to the Agreement between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Hartman Engineering, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Main Replacement Program

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

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to enter executive session. Director Joseph Peychaud moved. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

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

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to increase Executive Director salary by 9.5% effective January 19, 2022. Director Janet Howard moved. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following person(s) appeared before the Board of Directors to make comments:

- Mr. Brian Farrell, representing himself, talked about issues concerning leaks in the public pipes to be fixed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Preliminary Financial Results
- Report of the General Superintendent
- Safety Report
- Contracts Under \$1 Million or Less Report
- FEMA Project Worksheet Status
- DBE Participation on Contracts Report

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:44 AM.