

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

March 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 March 16, 2022 at 9:00 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 Alejandra Guzman, Director Robin Barnes, Director Janet Howard, Director Maurice Sholas, Director Nichelle Taylor and Councilmember Freddie King.

The following member(s) were absent: Director Ralph Johnson,

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 February 16, 2022, Board Meeting. Director Lynes Sloss moved for approval of the minutes. Director Alejandra Guzman seconded. The motion carried.

Prior to beginning the meeting, Mayor Cantrell gave her opening remarks. Mayor Cantrell informed the Board they are keeping their focus as they are addressing infrastructure challenges in working to identify every funding source available to meet those challenges. They will be prioritizing the sustainability of infrastructure projects as part of the joining infrastructure program with DPW and utilizing all public dollars in the city to support SWBNO. Mayor Cantrell stated they are standing firm on the promise to restore residents trust by holding city employees accountable at every level. The legislative session is a focus for the City, about 340 bills are on the radar. They are continuing to look forward and not backwards. This Board has made progress and still face challenges, but we are getting the work done.

Mayor Cantrell acknowledged the Board's vote on the SWBNO strategic plan and thanked Director Barnes for her leadership in spiriting this initiative. The strategic plan is something this utility hasn't seen in decades. The original Fair Share deal yielded annual recurring revenue for vital drainage projects and the city has put that money to work, including the \$54 million in state capital outlay for the power plant. Mayor Cantrell appreciate the Orleans delegation for helping to reserve the capital outlay dollars and growing to \$71.7 million. Mayor Cantrell stressed the City is utilizing every dollar

at its disposal and leveraging it appropriately. Mayor Cantrell stated that this is invaluable to Orleans Parish residents and moving forward with long term improvements to the reliability of the greater powers for our power pumps. She stated the mission was known and will continue to focus on that mission.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

Strategic Plan

- Distributing printed copies to employees and key stakeholders
- Developing an online dashboard for tracking implementation progress
- Implementation Working Groups are meeting regularly to begin reporting progress

Customer Service

Return to Delinquent Bill Payment and Shutoff Policies

- Surge in demand for Customer Service
- Over 44,000 customer interactions in January
- 4,983 new payment plans in 2022.

Challenges in Call Center and Field Staffing

- 36 of 60 positions filled in Meter Reading
- 14 of 30 positions filled in the Call Center

Stakeholder Engagement

Army Corps of Engineer Tour

- March 11: Drainage Pump Station 6

Infrastructure Advisory Board

- March 10: Quarterly Meeting

Bayou St. John Public Workshop

- March 10: Green Infrastructure Project feedback from Community

Financial Stability

Aged receivables have declined in each of the last four months decreasing by \$14.3m since last Fall. Steps are underway to hire a full-time employee within our Project Delivery Unit to focus on grant writing and pursue alternative sources of revenue

Technology Modernization

Software Replacement Efforts –Two Priorities:

- Replacement of Financial Information System
- Replacement Work Order and Asset Management Systems

Smart Metering Program

- Installation RFP –7 responses received
- Implementation targeted for Fourth Quarter of this year

Infrastructure Resilience & Reliability

Infrastructure Updates

- Sewer Force Main Work in Lakeview –Lining 4000 feet of Pipe
- 11 Upcoming Transmission Main Projects

Green Infrastructure Project

- Groundbreaking on Bayou St. John and Orleans Ave. -Summer 2022

Site analysis of Bayou St. John Green Infrastructure Project
In partnership with Dana Brown & Associates

Pumping Status/ Drainage:

96 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.
- **DPS 11:**
E Pump is out of service due to an oil leak. Assessments are being made.
- **DPS 14:**
#4 Pump gear box repairs nearing completion; expected to return to service by end of March 2022

Power and Equipment Status

Turbines available for use:

- T4
- T5

- T6
- Turbine 1 out for repairs

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Administration Committee Report

Director Janet Howard 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 Joseph Peychaud move to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

Action Items

- Resolution (R-058-2022) Opposing House Bill 652
 - **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-058-2022 as amended. Director Lynes Sloss moved to accept R-058-2022 as proposed. Director Alejandra Guzman seconded. The motion carried.**

- Resolution (R-035-2022) Amendment 2 to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement Between the City of New Orleans and the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans for the West Power Complex
 - **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-035-2022 as amended. Director Lynes Sloss moved to accept R-035-2022 as proposed. Director Alejandra Guzman seconded. The motion carried.**

- Resolution (R-028-2022) Award of Contract 1419 – Combustion Turbine Generator Procurement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Solar Turbines, Inc.
 - **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to defer R-028-2022 as amended. Director Janet Howard moved to defer R-028-2022 as proposed. Director Joseph Peychaud seconded. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

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

- Resolution (R-043-2022) Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire Resolution
- Resolution (R-034-2022) Award of Requisitions AL220001 and CM220001 – Furnishing Liquid Ferric Sulfate Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and USALCO
- Resolution (R-027-2022) Ratification of Change Order No. 7 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-030-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 5 to the Professional Services Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Stanley Consultants, Inc for the Bulk Storage and Chemical Feed Facility
- Resolution (R-029-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 4 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 the Carrollton Water Plant
- Resolution (R-033-2022) Authorization of Amendment No. 4 to the Professional Services Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and NY & Associates Inc for Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-031-2022) Authorization of Easement Agreement for Drainage Pumping Station No. 11 Rights-of-Way Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and the Secretary of the Army, acting by and through the Contracting Officer, Real Estate Division, U.S. Army District, New Orleans District

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

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to enter executive session. Director Robin Barnes moved. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

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

Director Lynes Sloss presented a motion to approve the Recommendations in executive session. Director Janet Howard moved. Director Joseph Peychaud seconded. The motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Preliminary Financial Results
- Report of the General Superintendent
- Human Resources
- 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 10:57 AM.