

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

May 18, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

## SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD OF NEW ORLEANS

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### ROLL CALL

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The Board of Directors for the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) met on Wednesday May 18, 2022, at 9:00 AM in Executive Board Room. 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 Psychaud, Director Lynes Sloss, Director Maurice Sholas, Director Nichelle Taylor, and Director Ralph Johnson.

The following member(s) were absent: Councilmember Freddie King, Director Janet Howard, Director Robin Barnes

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.

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### MAYOR REMARKS

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Prior to beginning the meeting, Mayor Cantrell gave her opening remarks. Mayor Cantrell stated its "Happy Infrastructure Week." The mayor acknowledged the Board for being front and center with infrastructure. She thanked the Board members for being consistent in focusing on the priorities of the community. Mayor Cantrell knew when they first started together 4 years ago, the Sewerage and Water Board was a priority, and it remains a priority now. The Sewerage and Water Board has made significant improvements in this period. The Board has made sure they had solid and sound leadership. Mayor Cantrell thanked Executive Director Ghassan Korban for his leadership in shifting the power of the utility. It takes a team of leaders roaring in the same direction and Mr. Ghassan has made amazing progress in doing so.

As it relates to the transition team working vigorously from November 2017 to May 2018 with recommendations of power sources in switching the power of our utility that will be a force multiplier relative to our infrastructure and this utility. Also, as it relates to our business community, laboring in as well leaning in saying, "This is our time to redirect our power sources for real redundancy." Mayor Cantrell stated the city has comb through layers of challenges. The city moved very quickly address every problem....

- Cross contamination
- Remove debris from drains and canals since Hurricane Katrina
- Turbine improvement

- Picking up a fair share agreement
- Movement to get more dollars from our tax dollars

Mayor Cantrell stated these challenges generated in New Orleans redirected back focusing on infrastructure that allowed the Sewerage and Water Board and the city to put the frequency changers in place. Mayor Cantrell expresses to the Board together there was progress made to get to where we are today. Taking up both the power station and automatic meter today is a huge deal, and it is all because of the leadership the Board has been providing consistently over the past four years. Mayor Cantrell thanks express her thanks.

On yesterday, Mayor Cantrell had the opportunity of leading the city leaders in a discussion at the U.S. Conference of Mayors relative to infrastructure week. The City of New Orleans is on the platform sharing best practices but demonstrating how you can face a challenge but cannot fix it overnight and every step of progress is meaningful. The city is doing it with federal resources. They are on a platform where the government is looking to them as the model. Mayor Cantrell stated it is a pleasure to know the belief is being restored in across the country/world about what they are doing in the City of New Orleans.

Prior to the Mayor Cantrell approved the CEA agreement between Sewerage and Water Board and Entergy. Mayor Cantrell is grateful and express working with energy on a timeline that was beneficial to the City of New Orleans making sure the city stays fiscally prudent utilizing our certificate of indebtedness to put forward resources taking by the team right at the start of the pandemic. The Board has made progress and still faces challenges, but they are getting the work done.

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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

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### **ACTION ITEMS**

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#### Action Items

- Resolution (R-091-2022) Authorization for Award of Advanced Metering Infrastructure, Meters, and System Installation with Thirkettle Corporation d/b/a Aqua-Metric Sales Company
  - **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-091-2022. Director Maurice Sholas moved to accept R-091-2022 as proposed. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.**
- Resolution (R-092-2022) Cooperative Endeavor Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Entergy New Orleans, LLC

- **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-092-2022. Director Joseph Peychaud moved to accept R-092-2022 as proposed. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.**
  
- Resolution (R-093-2022) Reconfiguration of Electric Services to the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans: Agreement in Principle
  - **Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-093-2022. Director Ralph Johnson moved to accept R-093-2022 as proposed. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.**

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### INFORMATION ITEMS

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The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Safety Report

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### ADJOURNMENT

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:58 AM.