

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

October 16, 2019

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 October 16, 2019 at 9:00 AM in the Board Room at 625 St. Joseph Street. 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 Janet Howard, Dr. Tamika Duplessis, Director. Maurice Sholas and Councilmember Jay H. Banks.

The following member(s) were absent: Hon. LaToya Cantrell.

Also present were: Ms. Brenda Thorton, CommuniRep; Mr. Lloyd Lazard; Mr. Happy Johnson; Ms. Nina Reins.

Staff present were: Mr. Ghassan Korban, Executive Director; Mr. Robert Turner, General Superintendent; Ms. Yvette Downs, Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Christy Harowski, Chief of Staff; Mr. Richard Rainey, Chief Communications Officer; 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. Brionne Lindsey, Board Relations.

Prior to beginning the meeting, President Pro Tem Dr. Tamika Duplessis gave her opening remarks. Dr. Duplessis stated that Mayor Cantrell could not be in attendance because she was focusing her efforts on the Hard Rock collapse. The Mayor, her team and first responders were working around the clock to resolve the matter. Dr. Duplessis thanked the Mayor for her leadership and commended those who are working on the scene for their dedication to keeping our residents safe.

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### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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Dr. Duplessis presented a motion to accept the minutes of the September 18, 2019, Board Meeting. Director Joseph Peychaud moved for approval of the minutes. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. Ann Wilson recognized employees from the Environmental Affairs department. They received two awards from the WEFTEC national conference. Dr. Duplessis congratulated them on their efforts.

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## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

- Mr. Korban started his report by introducing Tyler Antrup, the new director of strategic planning. He stated that Tyler worked with the City of New Orleans for years and will be leading us in master planning efforts.
- Mr. Tyler Antrup stated he's tremendously excited to be a part of this utility. He believes we are at a great inflection point as an organization. As we start to think strategically and look toward the future, we can improve our level of service.
- Drainage Pumping Status
  - 98 of 99 drainage pumps (mitigate rain and flooding)
  - 21 of 21 constant-duty pumps (aka "dry weather pumps" which are used to manage ground water in canals on any given day)
  - Mr. Korban stated we are only down one pump impacting 25% of the total capacity. Station 14 in New Orleans East pump is down. This station operational capacity is 75%. They are doing everything to get station back online. They are going through a procurement of a part, which is required to finish the job. Overall, we are in good standing.
  - Dr. Duplessis thanked the Executive Director for the visual of the Aging Water Infrastructure, as the Board has never seen the distribution system overlaid with the age of the pipes. She stated that it brings light to how old the system is in a way that is easy to understand.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### 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 October was presented and recommended for approval.

Dr. Duplessis asked for a motion to adopt amendments as proposed. Director Maurice Sholas move to adopt Pension minutes as proposed. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

### Finance and Administration Committee Report

Director Sloss reported on the summary and actions taken by the Finance and Administration Committee. The Finance and Administration Committee Report for the month of October was presented and recommended for approval.

Dr. Duplessis asked for a motion to adopt the Finance and Administration report as amended. Director Sloss moved for approval and was second by Director Ralph Johnson. The motion carried.

Dr. Duplessis asked for a motion to adopt R-185-2019 for Notification of Board Vacancy. Director Janet Howard moved for approval and was second by Director Joseph Peychaud. The motion carried.

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### **CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS**

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The following resolutions were discussed at the October 9, 2019 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:

Resolution (R-150-2019) Recommendation of First and Final Renewal for Furnishing Ferric Sulfate to the Carrollton and Algiers Water Plants – Req. Nos AL180032 and CM180020

Resolution (R-154-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 1404 – Algiers Water Purification Plant Improvements Project

Resolution (R-155-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 6 for Contract 1369 – Hazard Mitigation Grant Project Emergency Fuel Storage Retrofit Power Plant, Main Water Purification Plant Power Complex

Resolution (R-156-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 7 for Contract 1395 – Water Hammer Hazard Mitigation – Elevated Storage Tanks

Resolution (R-158-2019) Cooperative Endeavor Agreement by and among the City of New Orleans and the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and the NFT Group, LLC for the Lafitte Greenway Pedestrian Bridge Project located on N. Gayoso Street over the St. Louis Canal

Resolution (R-144-2019) Final Acceptance for Contract 6249 – Hazard Mitigation Grant Project - Design Build Retrofit Power Distribution Network

Resolution (R-157-2019) Final Acceptance for Contract 1395 – Water Hammer Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Elevated Storage Tanks

Resolution (R-168-2019) Final Acceptance for Contract 1369 – Hazard Mitigation Grant Project Emergency Fuel Storage Retrofit Power Plant, Main Water Purification Plant Power Complex

Resolution (R-169-2019) Contract 2125 – Water Main Line Replacements and Extensions at Scattered Locations Throughout Orleans Parish

Dr. Duplessis presented a motion to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in globo. Director Joseph Peychaud moved to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in Globo. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

Finance Resolution

Dr. Duplessis asked for a motion to enter a public hearing for the roll back and roll forward finance resolutions. Director Maurice Sholas moved for approval and was seconded by Director Robin Barnes. The motion carried.

Resolution (R-165-2019) Roll Back of Sewerage & Water Board Millages Fiscal Year 2020

- Dr. Duplessis asked for a motion to adopt R-165-2019 as amended. Director Janet Howard moved for approval and was seconded by Director Ralph Johnson. The motion carried.

Resolution (R-166-2019) Roll Forward of Sewerage & Water Board Millages Fiscal Year 2020

- Dr. Duplessis asked for a motion to adopt R-166-2019 as amended. Director Lynes Sloss moved for approval and was seconded by Director Joseph Peychaud. The motion carried.

Dr. Duplessis asked for a motion to enter Executive Session. Director Maurice Sholas moved and was seconded by Director Alejandra Guzman. The motion carried.

Dr. Duplessis asked for a motion to leave Executive Session. Director Lynes Sloss moved and was seconded by Director Janet Howard. The motion carried.

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

- Mr. Lloyd Lazard, representing himself, asked about fluoride in water.

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**INFORMATION ITEMS**

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The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Preliminary Financial Results through August 31, 2019
- Human Resources Report September 1-30, 2019
- Report of the General Superintendent
- Report of Special Counsel
- FEMA September Project Worksheet Status
- DBE Participation on Contracts

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 AM.