

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

December 18, 2019

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 December 18, 2019, at 9:05 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, Dr. Tamika Duplessis, Director. Maurice Sholas, Director Janet Howard. and Councilmember Jay H. Banks, Hon. Latoya Cantrell.

The following member(s) were absent:

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. Tanyell Allen, Board Relations.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the November 20, 2019, Board Meeting. Director Maurice Sholas moved for approval of the minutes. Councilmember Jay H. Banks seconded. The motion carried.

Prior to beginning the meeting, Mayor Cantrell gave her opening remarks. Mayor Cantrell acknowledged that over the past several weeks, the Sewerage and Water Board experienced several operational issues. The Turbine 5 explosion was significant and resulted in decommissioning that turbine. Despite all of the challenges presented by the explosion, water service to the city was uninterrupted.

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 by focusing on the T5 explosion. He acknowledged that the public wants to know what caused the explosion, but that won't be determined until the investigation is complete. A compressor that serves as an outside component and control function for T4 had a malfunction and caused T4 to trip offline. As part of a routine process or sequence, operations started T5 to substitute for T4. The resulting explosion was a shock. The pressure of the explosion escaped from underside of the turbine through the ventilation.
- Director Lynes Sloss asked will it be a good time to start "Turbine 7." Executive Director Korban stated its always a good time to consider another turbine. Director Janet Howard asked who will be forming an investigation on the explosion. The Executive Director and staff are coordinating a team of experts from several different departments such Engineering and Safety.
- Executive Director Korban and Councilmember Banks provided clarity to the public with T5 being completely out, SWBNO loses some redundancy, but has adequate power to service what needs to be serviced and keep the pumps working.
- Mayor Cantrell and the Board discussed partnering with outside entities to help Sewerage and Water Board establish a better, more reliable power system.
- Mayor Cantrell and Executive Director Korban thanked the employees in the central control drainage department who were involved in the explosion for their service and dedication to the city and Sewerage and Water Board.
- Drainage Pumping Status
 - 99 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)
 - Pump 2 at the Panola Pump Station is out of service
 - A 12-inch water main break on Tullis Drive near Cypress Grove Court: West Bank water tower reserve was depleted, and pressure dropped below 20 psi. Repairs were made and pressure was restored.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Governance Committee Report

Director Ralph Johnson reported on the summary and actions taken by the Governance Committee. The Governance Committee Report for the month of December was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt amendments as proposed. Director Lynes Sloss move to adopt Governance minutes as proposed. Councilmember Jay H. Banks 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 December was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt amendments as proposed. Director Maurice Sholas move to adopt Pension 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 December was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Finance and Administration report as amended. Director Joseph Peychaud moved for approval and was second by Director Robin Barnes. The motion carried.

Budget Resolutions

- **Resolution (R-186-2019) 2020 Operating Budget and 2020 Capital Budget Blanket Appropriations**
 - o Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis moved to approve R-186-2019. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

- **Resolution (R-209-2019) Adoption of 2020 Operating Budget**
 - o Director Ralph Johnson moved to approve R-209-2019. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

- **Resolution (R-208-2019) Adoption of 2020 Capital Budget**
 - o Director Joseph Peychaud moved to approve R-208-2019. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

Board Relations Resolutions

- **Resolution (R-210-2019) Approval of Updated Holiday Schedule 2019**
- **Resolution (R-198-2019) Approval of 2020 Board and Committee Calendar**
 - o Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the Board Relations Resolutions in globo. Director Maurice Sholas moved to accept in Globo. Director Councilmember Jay H. Banks seconded. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were discussed at the December 11, 2019 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:

- Resolution (R-184-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 7 for Contract 1368 – HMGP Oak Street Pump Station Upgrade and Rehabilitation Project
- Resolution (R-199-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 30208 – New Orleans East Basin – Village De L’est/Venetian Isles Neighborhoods – Sewer Rehabilitation
- Resolution (R-200-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 1384 – Sycamore Filter Gallery Backwash Pump Replacement
- Resolution (R-203-2019) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract YG19-0001 Furnishing and Delivering Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Services
- Resolution (R-179-2019) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 3 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board and Veolia Water North America, LLC for Capital Program Management (CPM) Services
- Resolution (R-202-2019) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 8 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board and CH2M Hill Engineers, Inc. for Program management and Design and Engineering Services for the Retrofit Power Plant Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- Resolution (R-201-2019) Final Acceptance for Contract 1384 – Sycamore Filter Gallery Backwash Pump Replacement
- Resolution (R-162-2019) Resolution to Lease SWBNO Batture Property to Wood Resources, L.L.C.
- Resolution (R-192-2019) Resolution to Lease SWBNO Property to St. Charles Parish

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

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to enter Executive Session. The criteria of this session was to discuss the character, professional competence, physical and mental health of Executive Director Korban. Director Robin Barnes moved and was seconded by Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis. The motion carried.

Upon exiting executive session, the Board Members individually expressed their appreciation for Executive Director Korban's hard work and dedication to Sewerage and Water Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- Mr. Maqbool, representing himself, talked about issues concerning Sewerage and Water Board employees.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:12 AM.