

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

January 22, 2020

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 January 22, 2020 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 Maurice Sholas, Director Janet Howard, and Councilmember Jay H. Banks.

The following member(s) were absent: Hon. Latoya Cantrell and Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis.

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.

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## **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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Prior to beginning the meeting, Chief Administrator Officer, Ramsey Green gave his opening remarks. Mr. Green acknowledged he is the Deputy CAO of Infrastructure for the city. He is here on behalf of the Mayor, who is attending the US Conference of Mayors. Mr. Green is happy to be here and excited about the new year. He stated it's an exciting time in infrastructure in this city. The Fair Share deal was a big victory of 2019. The city is on track to put \$580 million in the ground in 2020. There are 18 projects in the works, and those are all joint projects between the city and Sewerage and Water Board. Partnership with the Sewerage and Water Board has been critical to the success of both agencies.

Councilmember Jay Banks stated that Fair Share was a phenomenal win, but the WIFIA loan the city received was also a tremendous accomplishment in 2019.

Chief Administrator Officer Ramsey Green presented a motion to accept the minutes of the December 18, 2019, Board Meeting. Director Lynes Sloss moved for approval of the minutes. Councilmember Jay H. Banks seconded. The motion carried.

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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:

- Executive Director Korban started his report by acknowledging that WIFIA was a great accomplishment, and he is very excited about where the facility is today. The partnership with DPW and others has been very fruitful for us. Executive Director Korban also stated the Fair Share dollars have been a saving grace for our drainage system and prevented SWBNO from going bankrupt. He thanked the Mayor and others for their support.
- Executive Director Korban and the Sewerage and Water Board selected the rate study vendor, who is charged to do a water and sewer rate study, as well as introduce the concept of a stormwater fee and what that looks like. The study will entail approaches on how SWBNO introduces the fee to our community as a new fee. We have a long road ahead.
- Executive Director Korban gave a brief update on the T5 explosion. Energy (60Hz) and Turbine 1 (25Hz) are powering the water distribution system, demonstrating effective redundancy. SWBNO engaged the ABS Group to perform a root cause analysis focused on the operations and mechanical possibilities that led to the explosion.
- Director Janet Howard asked will T5 be replaced. Executive Director Korban stated that we are ultimately conducting a master plan for power and redundancy. New, more efficient turbines will be part of the plan.
- Director Howard asked what the cost is to replace a turbine. Executive Director Korban stated the cost of a turbine is about \$20-\$25 million dollars but it's more involved than putting a turbine in, the connection and wiring plays a major roll.
- Executive Director Korban and Councilmember Banks provided clarity to the public: with T5 being completely out, SWBNO loses some redundancy, but has the adequate power to service what needs to be serviced and keep the pumps working.
- Drainage Pumping Status
  - 99 of 99 stormwater pumps (mitigate rain and flooding) are available for service.
  - 17 of 21 constant-duty pumps (aka "dry weather pumps" which are used to manage ground water in canals on any given day) are available.
  - Repairs underway on 2 pumps at city park station and 2 pumps in the lower 9<sup>th</sup> ward station.
  - Pump 2 at the Panola Pump Station is out of service.

Executive Director Mr. Korban acknowledge the retirement of Mr. John Wilson, Director of Support Services and thanked him for 49 years of dedicated service to SWBNO and the City of New Orleans.

Mr. Mitchel J. LeBas presented a presentation on SWBNO Backflow Prevention Program. The program is designated to protect water quality from accidental contamination through cross connections. The process is a regulatory requirement of the state of Louisiana Department of Health and 2015 International Plumbing code.

Director Janet Howard stated the things described in the PowerPoint are things that could be at anyone's house. She asked whether the program will be inspecting everyone's house or is it a code for ongoing permits. Mr. LeBas explained the surveys they will be performing are on non-residential properties, which is referred as "Technical Surveys". When it comes to residential properties, they will not go inside those properties. They will make stops and identify common hazards.

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## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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### 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 January was presented and recommended for approval.

Chief Administrator Officer, Ramsey Green asked for a motion to adopt amendments as proposed. Director Maurice Sholas move to adopt Strategy minutes as proposed. Director Lynes Sloss 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 January was presented and recommended for approval.

Chief Administrator Officer, Ramsey Green asked for a motion to adopt the Finance and Administration report as amended. Director Ralph Johnson move to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

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## **CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS**

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The following resolutions were discussed at the January 15, 2020 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:

- Resolution (R-001-2020) Recommendation for Award of Contract for Furnishing Sodium Hypochlorite
- Resolution (R-003-2020) Recommendation for First Renewal of Contract 8145 – Repaving Open Cuts in Streets, Driveways and Sidewalks Resulting from the Repair of Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans Underground Utilities

- Resolution (R-005-2020) Recommendation for Extension of Contract 8138 – Furnishing Skilled and Unskilled Labor for Maintenance Services
- Resolution (R-006-2020) Ratification of Change Order No. 1 for Contract 30108 – BISI Sludge Dryer System Equipment Purchase at the EBWWTP
- Resolution (R-007-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 2 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board and Linfield Hunter & Junius, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for Water Line Replacement Program/JIRR
- Resolution (R-008-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 9 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Stanley Consultants, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for Water Hammer Hazard Mitigation Program
- Resolution (R-009-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 2 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Pepper and Associates, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services of DPS 19 Florida Avenue and the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC)
- Resolution (R-010-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 4 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program (WLRP)/JIRR
- Resolution (R-011-2020) Authorization for Professional Services Agreement Between Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Leonard C. Quick & Associates, Inc. (Claiborne Avenue Phase I – 2020)
- Resolution (R-013-2020) Authorization for Professional Services Agreement Between Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Leonard C. Quick & Associates, Inc. (Louisiana Avenue – 2020)
- Resolution (R-014-2020) Authorization for Professional Services Agreement Between Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Leonard C. Quick & Associates, Inc. (Napoleon Avenue Phase II – 2020)
- Resolution (R-015-2020) Authorization for Professional Services Agreement Between Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Leonard C. Quick & Associates, Inc. (Napoleon Avenue Phase III – 2020)
- Resolution (R-016-2020) Final Acceptance for Contract 30208 – New Orleans East Basin – Village De L'est/Venetian Isles Neighborhoods – Sewer Rehabilitation

#### Finance Resolutions

- Resolution (R-206-2019) – Sewerage and Water Board Adoption of Certain Provisions of The Louisiana Procurement Code (LPC)
- Resolution (R-019-2020) – Resolution to Renew and Adjust Executive Director's Contract

Chief Administrator Officer, Ramsey Green presented a motion to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in globo. Director Joseph Peychaud moved to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in Globo. Director Maurice Sholas seconded. 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, talked about issues concerning Sewerage and Water Board billing process.

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**INFORMATION ITEMS**

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The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Preliminary Financial Results through November 30, 2019
- Human Resources Report December 1-31, 2019
- Report of the General Superintendent
- Report of Special Counsel
- FEMA December 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 10:12 AM.