

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

February 19, 2020

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 February 19, 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: Hon. Latoya Cantrell, Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis, 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:

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

Prior to beginning the meeting, Mayor Latoya Cantrell gave her opening remarks. Mayor Cantrell expressed her excitement about infrastructure for the city and where its headed. She talked about the infrastructure needs and how its important to remain focus on the accountability and transparency moving forward. Mayor Cantrell acknowledge and recognized Dr. Tamika Duplessis son for winning the local science competition at Lake Forest school, and happy to announce he's moving on to the state competition in March.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2020, Board Meeting. Director Maurice Sholas moved for approval of the minutes. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

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 with an explanation concerning the T5 explosion. He explained there was an article with misunderstandings about SWBNO role in the explosion. The explosion happened inside energy volt. Sewerage and Water Board did an investigation and there was no connection between the main sewer and the volt. The explosion happened because there was an ark in the volt that sparked with something else inside the volt which caused the explosion. Executive Director Korban explained SWBNO is not responsible.
- Executive Director Korban gave a brief update on the T5 explosion. Energy (60Hz) and Turbine 4 (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.
- Executive Director Korban formed the Executive Director Advisory Committee which allows employees to have a direct line to share their concerns. He stated 100% of our drainage pumps are working and Sewerage and Water Board have two new water towers at Carrollton to cut down on boil water advisories.
- 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 9th ward station.
 - Pump 2 at the Panola Pump Station is out of service.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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 February was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Finance and Administration report as amended. Director Ralph Johnson move to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis 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 February was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Pension report as amended. Councilmember Jay H. Banks move to adopt Pension minutes as proposed. Director Ralph Johnson seconded. The motion carried.

R-031-2020 – Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept R-031-2020. Director Maurice Sholas moved to accept. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

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

- Resolution (R-017-2020) Recommendation for Award of Contract 1370A – 60Hz Transformer/Switchgear Project
- Resolution (R-026-2020) Recommendation for Award of Contract 30223 – South Shore basin Sewer Rehabilitation No. 4
- Resolution (R-020-2020) Ratification of Change Order No. 3 for Contract 30102 – DPS 17/Station D Structural Repairs
- Resolution (R-021-2020) Ratification of Change Order No. 2 for Contract 30109 – Sewer Pumping Station A Structural Rehabilitation
- Resolution (R-023-2020) Amendment of Change Order No. 5 for Emergency Professional Services Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Jacobs Engineering Group
- Resolution (R-024-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 3 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and ECM Consultants, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-025-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 3 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Richard C.

Lambert, LLC for Water Line Replacement Program

- Resolution (R-022-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 2 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and HNTB

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- Mr. Lloyd Lazard, representing himself, talked about concerns of the Executive Report.
- Mr. Lloyd Lazard, representing himself, talked about finance and administration.
- Mr. Alan Drake, representing himself, talked about overlooked option for the Sewerage and Water Board generators.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Preliminary Financial Results through December 30, 2019
- Human Resources Report January 1-31, 2019
- Report of the General Superintendent
- Report of Special Counsel
- FEMA January 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.