

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

April 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 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 Psychaud, 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**

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Prior to beginning the meeting, Mayor Latoya Cantrell gave her opening remarks. Mayor Cantrell thanked not only the Board but the awesome Sewerage and Water Board team collectively as the city has been moving through the COVID-19 pandemic in our community. The SWBNO is a critical key and essential component to the operations of the city. As of April 21, 2020, there were 6100 cases, 69 positive cases and 344 deaths. The city is working with the state to ensure New Orleans get accurate and timely data as they are starting to trend down reopening the city. The opening of the city will be the data and not the date that drives the Mayor to open the city from the pandemic. Mayor Cantrell also stated hurricane season is approaching and the city is prepared.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the February 19, 2020, Board Meeting. Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis moved for approval of the minutes. Director Alejandra Guzman 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 thanking Mayor Cantrell for her strong and decisive leadership throughout this pandemic. It has made a huge difference for us knowing exactly what we need to do to keep our lights on and services provided to our customers. He also thanked Mayor Cantrell for acknowledging SWBNO are essential to the city.
  
- Executive Director Korban gave update of COVID-19 Financial outlook. Residential delinquencies increase to 45% through May. The Commercial use decreased by 60% through May and the operating expenses flat through June.
  
- Mr. Korban expressed there are no new positive COVID-19 tests since April 13.
  
- Drainage Pumping Status
  - 99 of 99 stormwater pumps (mitigate rain and flooding) are available for service.
  - 18 of 21 constant-duty pumps available
  - 2 small pumps at DPS 5 in Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward under repair
  - 1 small pump at DPS 7 in City Park under repair
  - PUMPING CAPACITY = 99.8%

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## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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### Finance and Administration Committee Report (March) (April)

Director Lynes Sloss reported on the summary and actions taken by the Finance and Administration Committee. The Finance and Administration Committee Reports for the month of March and April was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Finance and Administration reports as amended. Director Alejandra Guzman moved to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Maurice Sholas seconded. The motion carried.

**R-046-2020 - Update to the Sewerage and Water Board Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept R-046-2020. Director Lynes Sloss moved to accept. Director Ralph Johnson seconded. The motion carried.

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**CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS**

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**The following resolutions were discussed at the March 10, 2020 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:**

- Resolution (R-002-2020) Recommendation for Award of Contract 30213 – South Shore Basin Sewer Rehabilitation No. 1 (Consent Decree)
- Resolution (R-027-2020) Recommendation for Award of Contract 30222 – South Shore Basin Sewer Rehabilitation No. 3 (Consent Decree)
- Resolution (R-028-2020) Recommendation for Award of Contract 30224 – South Shore Basin Sewer Rehabilitation No. 5 (Consent Decree)
- Resolution (R-029-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 2 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Digital Engineering & Imaging, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-030-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 4 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Meyer Engineers, LTD for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-037-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 3 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Neel Schaffer, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-041-2020) Ratification of Final Acceptance and Reconciliation for Requisition No. 140033, Leak Detection Services
  - Resolution (R-048-2020) Proposed Fourth Supplemental Sewer Bond

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in globo. Director Maurice Sholas moved to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in Globo. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

**The following resolutions were discussed at the April 16, 2020 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:**

- Resolution (R-043-2020) Ratification of Change Order No. 8 for Contract 1368 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Oak Street Pumping Station
- Resolution (R-044-2020) Ratification of Change Order No. 2 for Contract 2130 Water Main Point Repair, Water Service Connection, Water Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement at Various Sites Throughout Orleans Parish
- Resolution (R-047-2020) Contract Extension for Information Systems Facilities Management with Avenu Insights & Analytics, LLC

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in globo. Director Lynes Sloss moved to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in Globo. Director Janet Howard 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. David Kenney, representing himself, talked about concerns of a leak in front of his business.

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**INFORMATION ITEMS**

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The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Preliminary Financial Results through February 1- 29, 2020
- Human Resources Report March 1-31, 2020
- Report of the General Superintendent
- FEMA March Project Worksheet Status
- Executive Director's Approval of Contracts of \$1,000,000.00 or Less
- 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 10:06 AM.