

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

May 20, 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 May 20, 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 stated as of May 19, 2020, there are 6,809 positive COVID-19 cases, 494 deaths and over the last four days, there have been 0 deaths in the city of New Orleans. The city continues to be that focal point in the United States of America as being a hotspot of being very active and consistent in delivering mandates that people follow. As a result, it has shown and demonstrated a sharp flattening of the curve that has allowed our community to begin the reopening process in a very phased approach, slow and steady.

The city re-opened Saturday May 16, 2020 as of 6:00 a.m. Mayor Cantrell mention they have over 2,162 businesses that has signed up as mediated abide the city proclamation. They are responsible to signed up with the Fire Marshall to ensure proper protocol and procedure are not only followed but they have proper guidelines necessary. Mayor Cantrell also stated hurricane season is approaching and the city is prepared. Turbine 5 has put the City of New Orleans in an unstable situation leading into this hurricane season but we continue to work with the state and federal partners to develop a contingency plan.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the April 22, 2020, Board Meeting. Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis moved for approval of the minutes. Director Alejandra Guzman 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 thanking Mayor Cantrell for her strong and decisive leadership throughout this pandemic, not only the leadership provided to the Sewerage and Water Board but to the community. He recognized this week is the national public works week and the week of May 3, 2020 was drinking water week. More than ever communities across the country are recognizing the importance of the essential services utilities like ours are providing to they communities. Mr. Korban recognizes all the men and woman at SWBNO for the phenomenal work they have done despite being hit by the COVID-19. Sewerage and Water Board have selected a very solid interim Chief Financial Officer, Mack Underwood. He will be joining the agency next week starting Monday. Mr. Underwood have 32 years of experience in the utility business. He served as the manager and CFO over Birmingham Water Works. Mr. Korban explains they are excited to have him apart of the team and look forward to him turning the ship around more than they have.

- Executive Director Korban stated SWBNO received six proposals with AMI project and have selected all of them to be interviewed. He informed the Board they are establishing dates and hope to have a decision on who the project manager will be by the end of the month. They are continuing to work on CAFR and the billing process and estimations. the meter reading has been hit hard due to the COVID-19.

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 May was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Finance and Administration reports as amended. Director Joseph Psychaud move to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Ralph Johnson seconded. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were discussed at the May 13, 2020 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:

- Resolution (R-055-2020) Recommendation for Award of Contract 8164 – Furnishing Skilled and Unskilled Labor maintenance
- Resolution (R-056-2020) Ratification of Change Order No. 4 for Contract 30102 – DPS 17/Station D Structural Repairs
- Resolution (R-058-2020) Ratification of Change Order No. 3 for Contract 3799 – Installation of Sludge Dryer at the East Bank Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Resolution (R-067-2020) Ratification of Change Order No. 9 for Contract 1368 – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Oak Street Pumping Station
- Resolution (R-057-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 3 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Arcadis U.S Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-060-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 4 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and ECM Consultants, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-063-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 4 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Rahman and Associates, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-064-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 5 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
- Resolution (R-065-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 4 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Trigon Associates, LLC. for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program

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

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to enter Executive Session. Director Lynes Sloss moved and was seconded by Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to leave Executive Session. Director Lynes Sloss moved and was seconded by Director Alejandra Guzman. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to approve Special Counsel Recommendation. Councilmember Jay H. Banks moved to accept. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Preliminary Financial Results through March 1- 31, 2020
 - Human Resources Report April 1-30, 2020
 - Report of the General Superintendent
 - FEMA April 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

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:06 AM.