

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

October 21, 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 October 21, 2020 at 9:00 AM via Microsoft team. Hon. Latoya Cantrell, Special Counsel, Ms. Yolanda Grinstead, called the roll and confirmed the following members were present: 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. Christy Harowski, Chief of Staff; 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 Latoya Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the September 24, 2020, Board Meeting. Director Lynes Sloss moved for approval of the minutes. Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell recognized Bob Turner and acknowledged he has done a great job going through Hurricane Delta. Mr. Turner has not only been able to communicate issues and challenges but also progress as it relates to the utility.

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 sharing meter reader updates. Increase in meters read will correlate to increase in staffing available to read. The significant increase in percent of overall meter are reached each week. The goal is to reach 25% over the course of the month.
- Sewerage and Water Board are trending close to 80% of meters read.

- Mr. Korban stated SWBNO are still taking aggressive measures to make billing more predictable for customers. The team has engaged with Olameter, bringing in outside expertise to reduce backlog. The additional meter reader will increase actual reads, and this will decrease SWBNO need to estimate customers' meters and provide more accurate bills.

- Mr. Korban stated customer service is meeting our customers where they are. They have partnering with a local advocacy group. A community voice which opened the first satellite Customer Service Office in Sanchez Center in the Lower 9th Ward. This will be the first of many offices in the city.

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 October was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Finance and Administration reports as amended. Director Maurice Sholas move to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were discussed at the October 14, 2020 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:

- Resolution (R-111-2020) Authorization to Renew and Extend Licensing Agreement with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.
- Resolution (R-114-2020) Contract Award for Information Systems Management to Avenu Insights & Analytics, LLC
- Resolution (R-106-2020) Contract 2145 - Water Main Point Repair, Water Service Connection, Water Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement at Various Sites throughout Orleans Parish
- Resolution (R-100-2020) Contract 1403 Award – Construction of Carrollton Water Plant West Substation/Demolition of C7 and C8 Basins
- Resolution (R-107-2020) Authorization of Amendment No. 5 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Neel-Schaffer, Inc., for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program

- Resolution (R-116-2020) Authorization of Amendment No. 6 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Richard C. Lambert Consultants, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-117-2020) Authorization of Amendment No. 6 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-118-2020) Authorization of Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Volkert, Inc., for Design and Engineering Services for the Demolition of the Two Abandoned Carrollton Water Plant Clarifiers

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in globo. Director Janet Howard moved. Director Alejandra Guzman seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to enter in Executive Session. Director Ralph Johnson moved. Direction Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to approve Special Counsel Recommendation regarding settlements agreements on Cila projects. Director Maurice Sholas moved. Direction Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to approve Special Counsel Recommendation regarding Churchill Downs. Director Maurice Sholas moved. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Preliminary Financial Results through August 1- 31, 2020
- Human Resources Report September 1-31, 2020
- Report of the General Superintendent
- FEMA September Project Worksheet Status
- DBE Participation on Contracts

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:14 AM.