

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

September 24, 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 Thursday September 24, 2020 at 9:00 AM via Microsoft team. 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: Hon. Latoya Cantrell

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

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President Pro Tem Dr. Tamika Duplessis presented a motion to add a heading Corresponding Resolutions to the agenda. Director Robin Barnes moved to accept. Director Alejandra Guzman seconded. The motion carried.

President Pro Tem Dr. Tamika Duplessis presented a motion to defer R-100-2020 for award of contract 1403. Director Joseph Peychaud move to accept. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

President Pro Tem Dr. Tamika Duplessis presented a motion to accept the minutes of the August 19, 2020, Board Meeting. Director Lynes Sloss moved for approval of the minutes. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

President Pro Tem Dr. Tamika Duplessis stated about the media coverage on the Sewerage and Water Board Executive Director receiving emergency pay. The issue has been discovered and corrections were underway prior to the news report. Correction actions stamped are in place includes creating a policy which will be brought to the Board for approval. SWBNO will be taking a closer look around pay, as it relates to emergency declaration and overall increase oversight of the payroll process as they continue to undergo organizational structural changes. Dr. Tamika Duplessis acknowledge Mr. Korban and his team for being proactive.

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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 sharing a small presentation showing the public outreach in educating SWBNO customers and residents on how the utility prepares for a storm. The flyer shows the pumps in action and staff members working in preparation for the storms.
- Mr. Korban stated SWBNO are taking aggressive measures to make billing more predictable for customers. The team has engaged with Olameter, bringing in outside expertise to reduce backlog.
- SWBNO read approximately 42% of all meters in July and they are on track to read 50% of their meters this month, despite a number of closures and bad weather due to multiple tropical storms. The goal is to read 80,000 more meters each month. The additional meter reader will increase actual reads, and this will decrease SWBNO need to estimate customers' meters and provide more accurate bills.

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## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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### 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 September was presented and recommended for approval.

President Pro Tem Dr. Tamika Duplessis asked for a motion to adopt the Finance and Administration reports as amended. Director Joseph Peychaud move to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Ralph Johnson seconded. The motion carried.

### 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 September was presented and recommended for approval.

President Pro Tem Dr. Tamika Duplessis asked for a motion to adopt the Strategy report as amended. Director Lynes Sloss move to adopt Strategy minutes as proposed. Director Joseph Peychaud 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 September was presented and recommended for approval.

President Pro Tem Dr. Tamika Duplessis asked for a motion to adopt the Pension report as amended. Director Lynes Sloss move to adopt Pension minutes as proposed. Director Ralph Johnson seconded. The motion carried.

### Action Items

- Resolution (R-112-2020) Fifth Supplemental Sewerage Service Revenue Bond
  - o **Director Lynes Sloss moved to accept R-112-2020. Director Ralph Johnson seconded. The motion carried.**
  
- Resolution (R-110-2020) To Adopt the Sewerage and Water Board Millage for the Fiscal Year 2021
  - o **Director Ralph Johnson moved to accept R-110-2020. Director Joseph Peychaud seconded. The motion carried.**

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## CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

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**The following resolutions were discussed at the September 9, 2020 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:**

- Resolution (R-102-2020) Ratification of Change Order No. 3 for Contract 30109 – SPS A Structural Rehabilitation
- Resolution (R-004-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 2 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Design Engineering, Inc., for 404 Sewer HMGP
- Resolution (R-103-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 6 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-104-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 5 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Linfield, Hunter & Junius, Inc., for Design and Engineering Services for the Water Line Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-105-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 10 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-101-2020) Final Acceptance for Contract 30102 – DPS 17/Station D Structural Repairs

President Pro Tem Dr. Tamika Duplessis presented a motion to accept the Corresponding Resolutions in globo. Director Janet Howard moved. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

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### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- Preliminary Financial Results through July 1- 31, 2020
- Human Resources Report August 1-31, 2020
- Report of the General Superintendent
- FEMA August 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 10:06 AM.