

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

October 20, 2021

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 20, 2021 at 9:00 AM via Microsoft Teams. Special Counsel Ms. Yolanda Grinstead, called the roll and confirmed the following members were present: Hon. Mayor LaToya Cantrell, Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis, Director Joseph Peychaud, Director Lynes Sloss, Director Ralph Johnson, Director Alejandra Guzman, Director Robin Barnes, Director Janet Howard, Director Maurice Sholas and Councilmember Jay H. Banks.

The following member(s) were absent:

Staff present were: Mr. Ghassan Korban, Executive Director; Mr. Ron Spooner, Interim 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; , Purchasing; Ms. Irma Plummer, EDBP; Mr. Jason Higginbotham, Emergency Management, SWBNO; Ms. Tanyell Allen, Board Relations.

Prior to beginning the meeting, Mayor Cantrell gave her opening remarks. Mayor Cantrell acknowledge the work of our utility as we experienced being upgraded to a Category 5 hurricane that hit the City of New Orleans. Hurricane Ida left extensive damage throughout our City particularly homeowners. As the city of New Orleans move through recovery, our residents are having difficulties with insurance companies, as it relates to high deductibles on their insurance. The City of New Orleans created a program to help our resident/homeowners deal with the deductibles by providing them some level of funding towards that. Mayor Cantrell stated It is moving very swiftly; They are activating resources from HUD and the Department of Treasury as it relates to that, but it was very well received by residents. Having a premium raise after Hurricane Katrina is why our residents are experiencing for the first-time high deductibles. Mayor Cantrell is aware this is creating a slow pace to our residents being able to repair their homes moving through this process.

The City of New Orleans is also faced with high demand on supply shortage. We are experiencing supply shortage throughout the country and it is being felt here. Mayor Cantrell thanked the members of Sewerage and Water Board crew that worked with multiple city agencies as the city had to deploy our own Operation Mardi Gras clean up to supplement the inadequate capacity of the vendors hybrid by the City of New Orleans both pre-storm and pro-storm. It was our collective efforts that picked up over 240 tons of household solid waste. Mayor Cantrell thanked the people who continue to hold the line and whatever necessary to meet the needs of our community.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the September 20, 2021, Board Meeting. Director Ralph Johnson 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 apologizing for the late submission of the packets being sent out and ensure moving forward to send out packets in time for the Board to review.

Pumping Status/ Drainage:

- **DPS 6:**

1 Pump is out of service for pump bearing issue. Contractor is estimating. It will take several months to repair.

C Pump Emergency rotor repairs underway. Anticipated completion by end of week.

F Pump repairs will begin when C pump is back. F pump was being used in the event of emergencies, which is why we staggered repairs.

- **DPS 12:**

D Pump several issues being addressed including motor and vacuum. Pump will be reinstated and online by November 5.

- **DPS 13:**

#5 Diesel Pump vendor is completing inspection and sourcing parts, which are hard to come by due to supply chain issues. Assessments still being made.

- **DPS 14:**

#4 Pump gear box repairs underway. Projected to be completed by the first week of November.

Power Update:

- LDEQ air quality permit for Turbine 7 issued. First major step in the procurement and construction process.
- Turbine 4 and 6 are available for use. Turbine 1 out due to vacuum issues. Turbine 5 have mechanical issues, which are being diagnosed. Turbine bearing are good, turning gear may be the issue, which is a less costly, less laborious fix.

Customer Service Update:

- Westbank customer service center remains closed due to Ida. Anticipated to resume operations in November.

- New satellite customer service center is open and every Thursday SWBNO customer service representatives are at the East New Orleans Regional Library from 10am to 4 pm. Appointments can be made online or by calling 52- WATER.
- The City Council adopted ordinance waiving Sanitation Fee in November. The Residential Sanitation Charge line item will appear as \$0.00, residents should call 52 – WATER for SWBNO billing issues.
- The City Civil Service Commission approved and ratified updated pay plan for minimum \$15/hour base pay for all civil service classifications. This adjustment affects 57 SWBNO classifications totaling 833 employees. The estimated payroll impact will be 2,785,951 in 2022.
- Mr. Korban informed the Board the 2022 Budget Process is underway and will bring proposed budget to finance committee and Board in December. The Budget is driven by the strategic plan priorities.
- The Strategic Plan is near completion and currently working with Implementation Working Groups to set up schedules, budgets, and accountability for implementation. It will be brought to Board in November.
- Mr. Korban stated they are reading approximately 71% of our meters. The weekly numbers vary based on weather and other factors. They are continuing to work towards giving accurate water bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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 October was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Pension reports as amended. Director Lynes Sloss move to adopt Pension minutes as proposed. Director Ralph Johnson seconded. The motion carried.

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 Alejandra Guzman move to adopt Finance minutes as proposed. Director Joseph Peychaud seconded. The motion carried.

Audit Committee Report

Director Tamika Duplessis reported on the summary and actions taken by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee Report for the month of October was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Audit reports as amended. Director Janet Howard move to adopt Audit minutes as proposed. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

Operations Committee Report

Director Janet Howard reported on the summary and actions taken by the Operations Committee. The Operations Committee Report for the month of October was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to defer the Operations reports as amended. Director Janet Howard move to defer Operations minutes as proposed. Director Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

- Resolution (R-120-2021) Approval of the Updated Sewerage and Water Board Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - o **Director Janet Howard moved to Defer R-120-2021. Director Ralph Johnson seconded. The motion carried.**
- Resolution (R-121-2021) Seventh Supplemental Sewerage Service Revenue Bond Resolution
 - o **Director Janet Howard moved to accept R-121-2021. Councilmember Jay H. Banks seconded. The motion carried.**
- Resolution (R-104-2021) Request to Set Sewerage and Water Board Drainage Millage Rates for 2022
 - o **Director Lynes Sloss moved to accept R-104-2021. Director Alejandra Guzman seconded. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were discussed at the October 13, 2021 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:

- Resolution (R-103-2021) Authorizing Agreement Between the City of New Orleans, Department of Public Works and the Sewerage and Water of New Orleans for WIFIA Funded Projects
- Resolution (R-122-2021) Resolution to Approve List of Law Firms to Provide Professional Legal Services
- Resolution (R-118-2021) Adoption of Revised Audit Committee Charter
- Resolution (R-119-2021) Adoption of Revised Internal Audit Department Charter
- Resolution (R-080-2021) Award of Contract 2150 – Leonidas Street (S. Claiborne Ave – Fig St) and Fig Street (Leonidas St – College Ct) 43” Watermain Replacement – TM006 – FEMA Project Worksheet 21031 to Wallace C. Drennan, LLC
- Resolution (R-081-2021) Authorization for Professional Services Agreement with Pure Technologies U.S. Inc dba Wachs Water Services for On-Call Water Valve Operation Services – Solicitation # SWB-2021-07
- Resolution (R-095-2021) Award of Contract for Professional Engineering, Construction Administration, and Inspection Services with POWER Engineers, Inc. for West Power Complex Group 3 Projects
- Resolution (R-102-2021) First Renewal of Contract YG20-0049 with Lard Oil for Furnishing and Delivering Gasoline and Diesel Fuel
- Resolution (R-094-2021) Ratification of Change Order No. 3 and Final Acceptance Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Max Foote Construction Company, Inc. for Contract 1404 – Algiers Water Purification Plant Improvements
- Resolution (R-088-2021) Ratification of Change Order No. 4 Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and M. R. Pittman Group, LLC. for Contract 1377 – Water Hammer Hazard Mitigation Program Claiborne Ave Pumping Station and Off -Site Improvements
- Resolution (R-089-2021) Ratification of Change Order No. 5 Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Cycle Construction Company, LLC. for Contract 30109 – Sewer Pumping Station A Structural Rehabilitation

- Resolution (R-084-2021) Ratification of Change Order No. 4 Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Cycle Construction Company, LLC. For Contract 1403 – Demolition of Abandoned C7 and C8 Basins and Other site Improvements at the Carrollton Water Plant
- Resolution (R-096-2021) Change Order No. 2 Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Wallace C. Drennan, Inc. For Contract 30218 – Restoration of Gravity Flow Sanitary Sewer Mains by Point Repair at Various Sites Throughout Orleans Parish
- Resolution (R-105-2021) Change Order No. 1 Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Wallace C. Drennan, Inc. For Contract 30217 – Cleaning and CCTV Inspection of Sanitary Sewer Mains at Scattered Sites within Orleans Parish
- Resolution (R-106-2021) Change Order No. 1 Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Wallace C. Drennan, Inc. For Contract 30219 – Restoration of Gravity Flow Sanitary Sewer Mains by Excavation and Replacement from Manhole to Manhole, CIPP Lining from Manhole to Manhole, CIPP Lining of Service Laterals and Point Repairs at Various Sites Throughout the City of New Orleans
- Resolution (R-082-2021) Authorization of Amendment No. 10 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and CH2M Hill Engineers, Inc for Program Management, Design and Engineering Services for the Retrofit Power Plant Hazard Mitigation Grant Project
- Resolution (R-090-2021) Authorization of Contract Amendment No. 6 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and G.E.C., Inc for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program
- Resolution (R-093-2021) Authorization of Contract Amendment No. 6 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Mott MacDonald, LLC for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program
 - Resolution (R-101-2021) Authorization of Contract Amendment No. 3 to the Agreement Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Integrated Logistical Support, Inc. for Design and Engineering Services for the Waterline Replacement Program

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:
Preliminary Financial Results through September 1- 30, 2021
Human Resources Report July, August and September 2021
Report of the General Superintendent
FEMA July, August and September Project Worksheet Status
DBE Participation on Contracts July, August and September 2021

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 AM.