

# SEWERAGE & WATER BOARD OF NEW ORLEANS

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020 10:00 AM

[December 2020 Board of Trustees Attendee Link](#)  
[+1 504-224-8698](#) United States, New Orleans (Toll)  
Conference ID: 432 706 648#

PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA EMAIL TO  
[BOARDRELATIONS@SWBNO.ORG](mailto:BOARDRELATIONS@SWBNO.ORG). ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO 10:30 AM  
ON DECEMBER 21, 2020. COMMENTS WILL BE READ VERBATIM INTO THE RECORD.

LaToya Cantrell, President • Tamika Duplessis, President Pro Tem • Jay H. Banks, Councilmember  
Joseph Peychaud • Robin Barnes • Ralph Johnson • Alejandra Guzman • Maurice Sholas  
• Janet Howard • Lynes Sloss • Adam Kay  
Latressia Matthews • Christopher Bergeron • Harold Heller

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### FINAL AGENDA

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#### 1. ROLL CALL

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES dated November 18, 2020

#### 3. CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

- Approval of Resolution (R-142-2020) Acceptance of the 2020 Experience Study of Rudd & Wisdom presented to the Pension Committee on September 10, 2020, effective after December 31, 2020.
- Approval of Resolution (R-140-2020) The Board of Trustees of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans in Reference to the Employees' Retirement System of the Sewerage and Water Board will commit to a Recommended Closed Amortization Period and the Member contribution shall be counted at its full contribution of 6%.

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

#### 5. ADJOURNMENT

*This teleconference meeting is being held pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of Proclamation Number JBE 2020-30, extended by Proclamation 174 JBE 2020, pursuant to Section 3 of Act 302 of 2020.*



**“RE-BUILDING THE CITY’S WATER SYSTEMS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY”**

# **EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS**

*LaToya Cantrell, President*

625 ST. JOSEPH STREET  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70165 • 504-529-2837 OR 52W-ATER  
[www.swbno.org](http://www.swbno.org)

November 18, 2020

The Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 via Microsoft Teams. The meeting convened at approximately 10:30 A.M.

**Present:**

Mayor Latoya Cantrell  
Councilmember Jay Banks  
Director Janet Howard  
Director Lynes Sloss  
Director Robin Barnes  
Director Ralph Johnson  
Director Alejandra Guzman  
Director Joseph Peychaud  
Director Maurice Sholas  
Ms. Latressia Matthews  
Mr. Harold Heller

**Absent:**

Dr. Tamika Duplessis, President Pro Tempore  
Mr. Adam Kay

Also, in attendance: Mr. Ghassan Korban, Executive Director; Ms. Yolanda Grinstead, Special Counsel; Mr. Ed Morris, Deputy Special Counsel; Mrs. Christy Harowski, Chief of Staff

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve the minutes dated October 27, 2020. Director Peychaud made a motion. Director Johnson seconded. The motion carried.

## **CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS**

- Approval of Resolution (R-113-2020) January 1, 2020 Cost of Living Adjustment for Board Pensioners of 1.533% on the first ten-thousand dollars (\$10,000) of eligible pensioners' original Retirement Allowance.
  - **Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to approve R-113-2020. Director Howard moved. Director Psychaud seconded. The motion carried.**
- Approval of Resolution (R-141-2020) 2020 Sewerage and Water Board's Contribution to the Employees' Retirement System of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans totaling \$12,694,504 comprised of: Normal Cost - \$4,947,747 plus Unfunded Actuarial Liability - \$7,746,757.
  - **Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to approve R-141-2020. Councilman Banks moved. Director Sholas seconded. The motion carried.**
- Approval of Resolution (R-142-2020) Acceptance of the 2020 Experience Study of Rudd & Wisdom presented to the Pension Committee on September 10, 2020, effective after December 31, 2020.
- Approval of Resolution (R-140-2020) The Board of Trustees of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans in Reference to the Employees' Retirement System of the Sewerage and Water Board will commit to a Recommended Closed Amortization Period and the Member contribution shall be counted at its full contribution of 6%.
  - **Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to defer R-142-2020 and R-140-2020 in globo until the December 2020 meeting. Director Sloss moved. Director Howard seconded. There was one opposition by Director Sholas. The motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Former Pension Committee and Board of Trustees member Mrs. Chante Bivens offered thanks to Director Peychaud, the Pension Committee and Executive Director Korban for their continued efforts and support of a sound pension fund. She stated that their hard work and dedication is deserving of applause.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Trustees, Mayor Cantrell made a motion to adjourn. Director Howard moved. Director Guzman seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:17 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mayor Latoya Cantrell - President

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2020 EXPERIENCE STUDY OF RUDD & WISDOM**

**WHEREAS**, on January 23, 2019 the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (“Board”) issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to obtain actuarial consulting services to support the Employees’ Retirement System and activities of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 27, 2019, the Board’s Selection Evaluation Committee held an open public meeting and evaluated and ranked the submitted proposals; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the review and evaluation conducted, Rudd & Wisdom, Inc. received the highest scores and the Selection Evaluation Committee recommended the firm be awarded the contract to perform actuarial consulting services for the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2019, the Board approved a contract with Rudd & Wisdom, and a contract between the parties was executed on April 9, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, Rudd & Wisdom performed an Experience Study at the request of and no behalf of the Board; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**,, the Employees’ Retirement System of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans accepts the 2020 Experience Study as recommended by Rudd & Wisdom, as the Retirement System’s actuary, in the presentation to the Pension Committee on September 10, 2020: and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the updated data and metrics of the 2020 Experience Study will become effective after December 31, 2020

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I, Ghassan Korban, Executive Director,  
Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, do hereby  
certify that the above and foregoing is a true and  
correct copy of a resolution adopted at the Regular  
Monthly Meeting of said Board of Trustees duly called and held,  
according to law, on December 21, 2020.

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**GHASSAN KORBAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD OF NEW ORLEANS**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD OF NEW ORLEANS IN REFERENCE TO THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees desires an amendment to the Funding Policy of the Employees' Retirement System of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans ("Retirement System") that would commit to a Recommended Closed Amortization Period in Layers between 15 and 30 years ("Closed Amortization") as Recommended by Rudd and Wisdom, Inc. in the presentation to the Pension Committee on September 10, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans ("Board"), under the proposed Closed Amortization, will increase its annual contribution to the Retirement System for the year ended 2020 and possibly beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, as long as the Board is committed to the Closed Amortization for the Retirement System, the Member contribution shall be counted at its full contribution (currently, 6% of Earnable Compensation) and no less than 6 %; and

**WHEREAS**, the intent of recognizing the full amount of the Members' Contribution is to reduce and shall be continued to reduce the Unfunded Accrued Liability of the Retirement System and to follow accepted actuarial practices.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Pension Committee recommends approval and the Board of Trustees approves that effective after December 31, 2020, the Retirement System's actuary will produce various calculations of the Annual Contribution to the Retirement System based on a full Member Contribution of (currently, 6% of Earnable Compensation).

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I, Ghassan Korban, Executive Director,  
Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, do hereby  
certify that the above and foregoing is a true and  
correct copy of a Resolution adopted at the  
Meeting of said Board of Trustees duly called and held,  
according to law, on December 21, 2020.

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**GHASSAN KORBAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD OF NEW ORLEANS**