

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

August 19, 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 Wednesday August 19, 2020 at 9:00 AM via Microsoft team. Special Counsel, Ms. Yolanda Grinstead, called the roll and confirmed the following members were present: Hon. Latoya Cantrell, Director Dr. Tamika Duplessis, Director Joseph Psychaud, Director Lynes Sloss, Director Ralph Johnson, Director Robin Barnes, Director Maurice Sholas, Director Janet Howard and Councilmember Jay H. Banks.

The following member(s) were absent: Director Alejandra Guzman

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.

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## **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the minutes of the July 22, 2020, Board Meeting. Councilmember Jay H. Banks moved for approval of the minutes. Director Robin Barnes seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to approve proposed amendments. Director Maurice Sholas move to adopt minutes as proposed. President Pro Tem Director Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to approve minutes as amended by the Board. Board of Directors' move to adopt minutes as proposed. Board of Directors' seconded. The motion carried

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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 good news on the CAFR. SWBNO has been working hard in finishing the CAFR and turned it over to they auditors to complete. The auditors intend to submit the CAFR to the state Friday. Mr. Korban stated this is a great milestone and accomplishment. He gives thanks to the SWBNO team, consultants, and auditors involved.
- Once the CAFR goes to the public, Sewerage and Water Board will recognize Ms. Rosita Thomas for her service of 39 years and thank her for her efforts in pushing SWBNO to the finish line this year.
- Mr. Korban stated SWBNO will be 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 but their 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 an provide more accurate bills.

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## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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### 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 August was presented and recommended for approval.

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to adopt the Operations report as amended. Director Lynes Sloss move to adopt Operations minutes as proposed. Director Robin Barnes 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 August was presented and recommended for approval.

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

### **Action Items**

- Resolution (R-090-2020) Contract Extension for Information Systems Facilities Management with Avenu Insights & Analytics, LLC

Mayor Cantrell asked for a motion to approve R-090-2020. Director Maurice Sholas moved. Director President Pro Tem Dr. Tamika Duplessis seconded. The motion carried.

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### **CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS**

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**The following resolutions were discussed at the August 12, 2020 Finance and Administration Committee Meeting:**

- Resolution (R-077-2020) Second Renewal for Contract 30218 – Restoration of Gravity Flow Sanitary Sewer Mains by Point Repair at Various Sites Throughout Orleans Parish
- Resolution (R-082-2020) Second Renewal for Contract 30219 – Restoration of Existing Gravity Flow Sanitary Sewer 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-099-2020) Contract 2142 Award – Water Main Line Replacements and Extensions at Scattered Locations throughout Orleans Parish
  - o **Director Lynes Sloss moved to accept Bid/Renewals. Director Ralph Johnson seconded. The motion carried.**
  - o **Director Maurice Sholas moved to defer R-100-2020. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.**
- Resolution (R-092-2020) A Ratification of Change Order No. 5 for Contract 30102 – DPS 17/Station D Structural Repairs
  - o **Director Janet Howard moved to accept R-092-2020. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.**
- Resolution (R-071-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 3 for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and HNTB. for Design and Engineering Services for AWP Purification Improvements
- Resolution (R-093-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 4 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-094-2020) Ratification of Contract Amendment No. 5 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-095-2020) Authorization for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Leonard C. Quick & Associates, Inc., (Claiborne Avenue Phase II)
- Resolution (R-096-2020) Authorization for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Leonard C. Quick & Associates, Inc., (Jefferson Avenue Phases I & II)
- Resolution (R-097-2020) Authorization for Professional Services Between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and Leonard C. Quick & Associates, Inc., (Florida Avenue Phases II, III & IV)

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept the Contract Amendments in globo. Director Ralph Johnson moved. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

#### **Other Recommendations**

- Resolution (R-091-2020) Resolution Authorizing the Submission of an Application to the Louisiana Office Of Community Development - Disaster Recovery Unit (OCD-DRU) To Secure Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Funding To Complete The Purchase and Installation of Turbine- Generator No. 7 Project;” Committing Matching Funding in the Amount of \$7,700,000.00 To Complete the Project; and Addressing Other Matters Relative Thereto.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to amend the resolution extracting whereas from #3 from R-091-2020. Director Maurice Sholas moved. Director Janet Howard seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to approve resolution as amended. Directors Lynes Sloss moved. Director Maurice Sholas seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to enter in executive session. Director Maurice Sholas moved. Councilmember Jay H. Banks seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to exist executive session. Director Maurice Sholas moved. Director Lynes Sloss seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Cantrell presented a motion to accept Recommendation of Special Counsel. Director Maurice Sholas moved. Director Ralph Johnson seconded. The motion carried.

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### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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The following person(s) appeared before the Board of Directors to make comments:

- Mr. Matt McBride, representing himself raised concerns about actual readings in water bills.

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### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

Preliminary Financial Results through June 1- 30, 2020  
Human Resources Report July 1-31, 2020  
Report of the General Superintendent  
FEMA July 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 10:36 AM.