



Detroit Water and Sewerage Department Meeting Minutes - Final Board of Water Commissioners

735 Randolph
Detroit, Michigan 48226
(313) 224-4704 Office
dwsd.legistar.com

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

2:00 PM

To attend by phone call one of these numbers:
+1 301 715 8592, +1 312 626 6799, +1 267 831 0333
Use Meeting ID: 815 7263 5118
Use Passcode: 482262021

To attend online: <https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/81572635118>
Use Passcode: 482262021

BOWC Meeting

To attend In Person:
735 Randolph, Detroit, MI 48226, 5th Floor Boardroom

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Einheuser called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Chairperson Michael Einheuser, Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, Commissioner Lane Coleman, Commissioner John Henry Davis and Commissioner Linda Forte

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch and Commissioner Jane Garcia

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the amended agenda.

"New Business" Item 10B-American Water Resources was moved up before Item 10A.

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner John Henry Davis that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the minutes of August 17, 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes per speaker)

a, Denise Boudreaux came before the Board to talk about how the Lifeline Plan only helps those who qualify and how the mechanisms offered to provide drainage relief for

residents is not cost-efficient.

b. Jermaine Paynes thanked the department for the Lifeline Plan, but he also came seeking help for a waterline connection for property he purchased from the Land Bank Authority.

c. Cookie Moore came to ask if a customer needed to enroll in both the Lifeline Plan and the American Water Resources Program. She said the Department should hold a community outreach meeting to explain the differences in the programs. She also wanted to thank the field service technicians for fixing her stop box.

d. Demeeke Williams, Chief Director of Hydrate Detroit is concerned about customers with waterline issues and asked for the Land Bank to address those concerns. He also said that Hydrate Detroit is scheduling a water summit in October. Director Brown added that the Land Bank appeared before the Board several months ago. There is a contract in place to address those homes identified by the Land Bank for reconnection.

e. Beulah Walker with Hydrate Detroit encourages residents to enroll in the Lifeline Plan.

f. Deborah Taylor with We the People of Detroit stated that it continues to strive for the best possible water affordability and sustainable plan. She said she was grateful for the path it's on. Director Brown added that he appreciated We the People of Detroit for its efforts and looks forward to continued discussion.

6. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

There were none.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

A. [22-0925](#) Receipt of Correspondence

Attachments: [FOIA REQUESTS - MONTHLY REPORT August 2022](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Communication or Report be received and filed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Kinloch arrived at 2:20 p.m.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

9. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (Items 9A-D)

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A. [22-0914](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage

Department authorizes the Director to **approve Amendment No. 1 for DWSD Contract 6003895 for Patch Material, Bituminous: CP-5, delivered in minimum of 40 Ton Truckloads with Ajax Paving Industries Inc. requesting to add \$48,000, for a new total amended contract amount not-to-exceed \$194,900, expiration date remains 10/31/22.** The BOWC also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. [22-0916](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Amendment No. 1 for DWSD Contract 6002156 for Backfill Sand, delivered in minimum of 40 Ton Truckloads with Ellsworth Industries Inc. requesting to add \$85,564, for a new total amended contract amount not-to-exceed \$371,644, expiration date remains 6/9/23.** The BOWC also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

C. [22-0917](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **Amendment No. 3 to DWSD Contract No. 6001202 (LS-1798) with The Allen Law Group, P.C. to add \$150,000 in funding, for a total amended contract not-to-exceed the amount of \$720,000 to continue providing Legal Services related to Collections, Bankruptcy, and other General Labor Matters for DWSD.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

D. [22-0919](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water Sewerage Department
1) Approves the Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2022-2025 between the DWSD and the Utility Workers Union of America; 2) Authorizes the Director to execute the Agreement, and 3) also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Thornhill

Attachments: [DWSD UWUA Agreement 8.31.22 for BOWC Ratification](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Garcia joined in at 2:25 p.m.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- A. [22-0924](#)** The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department **authorizes the Director to approve the Storm Water Connection Agreement for the Gordie Howe International Bridge Project AND 2) also authorize the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.**

Sponsors: Smalley and Bahri

Attachments: [GHIB Sewer Connections Agreement](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Lane Coleman that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- B. [22-0928](#)** **American Water Resources (AWR) Presentation**

Sponsors: Brown

Attachments: [DWSD 2022 3 QBR Presentation](#)

Presenters: Benjamin J. Brockschmidt
 Louis Doner

This Communication or Report was received and filed.

11. DIRECTOR'S METRICS

- A. [22-0929](#)** **Director's Metrics**

Sponsors: Brown

Attachments: [Board Report - Metrics - 09212022](#)

This Communication or Report was received and filed.

12. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Garcia asked how many people have been approved for the Lifeline Plan and what was the turnaround? Director Brown replied that 10,200 customers applied. Wayne Metro received 500 calls per day; approximately 4,000 customers had been accepted in the program. He also stated that Wayne Metro had 150 staff personnel working six days a week, and they continue to knock on doors to enroll customers in

the program.

13. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

There were none.

14. OTHER MATTERS

Patricia Thornhill, Human Resources Director asked whether the Board had any amendments to the Utility Workers of America Collective Bargaining Agreement before it goes into effect in thirty days.

15. CLOSED SESSION

A. [22-0926](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners vote to **approve a meeting to consider a period personnel evaluation in closed session pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and upon request of the public officer/employee.**

Sponsors: Pospiech

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte to enter into this Request, Closed Session at 3:30 p.m. be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE

A motion was made that this be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairperson Einheuser, Vice Chairperson Blackmon, Commissioner Kinloch, Commissioner Coleman, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Forte and Commissioner Garcia

B. [22-0927](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners vote to **approve a meeting in closed session pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and Section 13(y) of the Freedom of Information Act.**

Sponsors: Pospiech

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte to enter into this Request, Closed Session at 3:30 p.m. be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE

A motion was made that this be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairperson Einheuser, Vice Chairperson Blackmon, Commissioner Kinloch, Commissioner Coleman, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Forte and Commissioner Garcia

OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon to return from Closed Session at 4:15 p.m. approved. The motion carried unanimously.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Einheuser requested a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

How to Make a Request for Public Comment

You may provide your public comment via Zoom link:

<http://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/81572635118>

During the public comment section for each committee meeting, raise your hand using the Zoom hand icon on your desktop or mobile device, or if calling into the meeting by phone, press *9 to raise your hand (press *6 to unmute when called upon)

We respectfully request that you maximize your three minutes by sharing all your comments/questions at one time. You will only be called upon once for public comment during the same committee meeting, full board meeting, or hearing.

Once the Chair closes public comment, there will be no other public comments accepted and all the attendees will remain muted for the duration of the meeting.