



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

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Detroit, Michigan 48226
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Wednesday, March 17, 2021

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Commissioner Jane Garcia, Commissioner John Henry Davis, Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, Commissioner Lane Coleman, Commissioner Mary Blackmon, Commissioner Linda Forte and Commissioner Michael Einheuser

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Einheuser requested approval of the agenda.

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Einheuser requested approval of the minutes of February 17, 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Mary Blackmon that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes per speaker)

1. Hydrate Detroit submitted written communication regarding a water amnesty program. This communication was received and filed by the BOWC. It was referred to the customer service division for response.

2. Rosalyn Walker came before the board to report a water main break on Whittier Street between Somerset and Nottingham.

3. Valerie Jean asked whether the \$25 restart program would be extended. She also

mentioned constituents are unable to have water restored because they cannot afford the updates to the plumbing infrastructure. She sees the need for a water affordability plan.

4. Michelle George hopes that the board will address the constituents that are without water and emphasizes that water shut offs are a health hazard.

5. Sylvia Orduno asked for the board to address a sustainable water affordability program at a state and local level, and if the \$25 restart program will continue. She also asked how the lead service line replacement program affects renters. She inquired if the Department could provide more transparency.

6. Nicole Hill reported on how her water shutoff impacted her personally and the Department's plan to ensure future mishaps for customers. She rallies for a water affordable plan. She also reported she read documentation that the slip lining used for the lead service line replacement may cause water toxicity, and what steps are being taken to ensure Detroit does not become another Flint.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. [21-0431](#) Receipt of Correspondence

Sponsors: Pospiech

Attachments: [FOIA REQUESTS - MONTHLY REPORT FEB 2021.pdf](#)

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

B. [21-0432](#) Receipt of Correspondence

Sponsors: Smalley

Attachments: [20462 Veach Fix It Letters.pdf](#)

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

C. [21-0434](#) Receipt of Correspondence

Sponsors: Pospiech

Attachments: [Damage Claims.pdf](#)

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

7. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

There were none.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**A. [21-0438](#) DWSD Insurance Overview**

Sponsors: Naughton

Attachments: [DWSD Insurance Overview - BOWC 2021.03.21.pdf](#)

This Communication or Report was received and filed.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner John Henry Davis that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A. [21-0420](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Contract 6003395 for public relations and communication services for DWSD with Mort Crim Communications, Inc. (Project No. CS-1946) for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$1,199,616 and a term of two years. This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.**

Sponsors: Burgi

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner John Henry Davis that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. [21-0421](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD's portion of the City of Detroit's Contract 6003182 with Power Lighting & Technical Services for as-needed electrical services for Facility Operations with a total amount not-to-exceed \$200,000 over a term of 2 years. This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.**

Sponsors: Burgi

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner John Henry Davis that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

C. [21-0422](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Contract 6003373, a piggyback of CoD Contract 6003182, for as-needed electrical services for a term of 21 months, with Power Lighting & Technical Services with a total contract amount non-to-exceed \$1,340,000. This also authorizes the Director to**

take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner John Henry Davis that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

D. [21-0423](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Contract 6003102 for the purchase of DWSD specific hydrant locks, wrenches and keys from McGard LLC with a total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$450,000 and a term of five years.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner John Henry Davis that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

11. DIRECTOR'S METRICS

A. [21-0433](#)

Director's Report

Sponsors: Brown

Attachments: [Board Report - Metrics - 03172021.pdf](#)

Director Brown stated that the Department had experienced several water main breaks in February due to the severe cold period and are working diligently to make those repairs. He also reported that the Department has lost several of its field service technicians due to other up and coming industries in the city. As the Department continues to promote for field technicians, contractual workers are being hired to help with the workforce. He commends the field services team for returning the Department to a somewhat normal state.

This Communication or Report was received and filed.

12. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Vice Chair Blackmon stated that there should be more outreach for customers to explain how the \$25 water restart program was a state-allocated program funded for the COVID-19 crisis. She commended Samuel Smalley, Chief Operations Officer for his media coverage on how customers could assist in cleaning the storm drains as a preventive measure to help eliminate street flooding. Vice Chair Blackmon reported

that some Board's are eliminating virtual meetings after March and how would this impact the Detroit Board of Water Commissioners? Commissioner Kinloch replied that the Wayne County Commission are reviewing the matter. Chairman Einheuser stated that the Department should give it some thought. Director Brown stated that the first step is to get all vaccinated as soon as possible. Deputy Director Mobley said that the Department has done some assessments of the buildings. Erika Meah-Williams, Facilities Manager, stated that the Department has started filter replacements throughout the buildings and are working on elevator repairs. Deputy Director Mobley also said that the buildings will open and all can return once it is safe and in the most-effective way possible.

13. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

There were none.

14. OTHER MATTERS

There were none.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Einheuser requested a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.