



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, May 17, 2023

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 - Commissioner Linda Forte, Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon,
Commissioner John Henry Davis, Commissioner Jane Garcia and
Chairperson Michael Einheuser

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Lane Coleman

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the agenda.

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the minutes of April 19, 2023.

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes per speaker)

a. Dale Williams with Faygo Beverage Company came before the Board about the

substantial increase water rate on commercial property.

b. Tamara Perrin asked are there any programs available for seniors who are above the poverty income level. She also had concern with the wait time on the telephone.

c. Chris Robinson submitted a handout with his concerns.

d. Cecily McClellan with We the People of Detroit (WTPOD) stated that they were appreciative of the relationship established with DWSD. She was thankful for the Department allowing the community input into the Lifeline Plan.

e. Tiana Starks, Director of Communications with WTPOD, thanked Debra Pospiech, Chief General Counsel for her responsiveness to their concerns regarding the door knocking campaign.

f. Monroe Snider, on behalf of faith-based organizations, came about the enormous drainage fees being charged to churches. He was asking that the Board reconsider and revisit the process to base the fee on usage as oppose to acreage.

g. Norrel Hemphill with WTPOD thanked the Board for the opportunity to work diligently with DWSD on the Lifeline Plan. She was grateful for the last revisions. She said a process where customers can go for visual aides is needed.

h. Taylor Pine with WTPOD was thankful to DWSD for welcoming feedback from the community and the advocates. A user-friendly webpage would definitely benefit the residents to help with policy details and clarification.

i. Gwendolyn Howard with WTPOD thanked DWSD for the Lifeline Plan. Her concern was that the key did not match with the maps that were distributed about the 40,000 door knockers. It was unclear as to who responded, how many responded, and if they responded.

j. Monica Lewis-Patrick with WTPOD thanked the Commissioners, DWSD, staff, and a special dose of gratitude to Debra Pospiech, who was very responsive to their request on the Lifeline Plan. She was thankful for allowing public input and for the ongoing focus on making the plan successful for water affordability. The main focus is to continue providing updates to the website on this living document and that it explains, clarifies, and specifies in a way that is digestible to the community.

Commissioner Kinloch arrived at 2:09 p.m.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. [2023-122](#) FOIA Requests

Sponsors: Riggs

Attachments: [FOIA REQUESTS - MONTHLY REPORT April 2023](#)

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

B. [2023-123](#) Damage Claims

Sponsors: Office of the General Counsel

Attachments: [Damage Claims March](#)

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.

7. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

There were none.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

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

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

A, [2023-107](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract No. 6005258 to piggyback City of Detroit Contract 6004973 with Decima, LLC for as-needed plumbing services for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$639,000.00 and a term of 5 years.** 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 Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. [2023-108](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **Amendment 3 to DWSD Contract No. 6001548 with the Detroit Building Authority (DBA) to continue managing the operations, maintenance and repairs of DWSD buildings and facilities by extending the term by three years (through 6/30/26).** 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 Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- C. [2023-109](#) 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. 6002038 with Selectron Technologies Inc. to continue providing for the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) Installation and Maintenance Services by adding \$30,000 for an amended total contract amount not to exceed \$817,928.00 and extending the term by 1 month (through 5/30/23) to pay forthcoming invoices**, and 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 Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**
- D. [2023-115](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6005255 with EJ USA, Inc. (formally known as East Jordan), for Manhole Covers & Catch Basins for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$172,879.22 and a term of 2 years**. The BOWC also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.
- Sponsors:** Welch
- Attachments:** [bid tab for manhole covers](#)
- A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**
- E. [2023-116](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6005257 with Ferguson Waterworks for Coupling Transitions for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$306,308.00 and a term of 2 years**. The BOWC also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.
- Sponsors:** Welch
- Attachments:** [bid tab for transitions couplings](#)
- A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**
- F. [2023-117](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Contract 6005241 with AIS Construction Equipment Corporation to provide (1) John Deere 35P mini excavator with trailer and attachments for a total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$107,820.00**. 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 Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

G. [2023-118](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Contract 6005009, a piggyback of CoD Contract 6004893, for as-needed electrical services for a term of six months with Power Lighting & Technical Services and a total contract amount non-to-exceed \$500,000.** 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 Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. [2023-112](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department **approves the accompanying Water Supply System (WSS) Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2024 through 2028 and the FY 2024 Capital Budget** and authorizes the Director and the Chief Financial Officer to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Rahman

Attachments: [Attachment to the Water and Sewer CIP Resolutions - FY 24-28](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Garcia that this Resolution, BOWC be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Forte, Chairperson Einheuser, Vice Chairperson Blackmon, Commissioner Kinloch and Commissioner Garcia

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Davis

B. [2023-113](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department **approves the accompanying Sewer Disposal System (SDS) Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2024 through 2028 and the FY 2024 Capital Budget** and authorizes the Director and the Chief Financial Officer to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Rahman

Attachments: [Attachment to the Water and Sewer CIP Resolutions - FY 24-28](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Forte, seconded by Vice Chairperson Blackmon that this Resolution, BOWC be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Forte, Chairperson Einheuser, Vice Chairperson Blackmon, Commissioner Kinloch and Commissioner Garcia

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Davis

C. [2023-120](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **enter into an Easement Agreement with Lexington Village Preservation Limited Dividend Housing Association, LLC and Henry Ford Health System**, and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Bahri

Attachments: [Easement](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon that this Contract, Real Estate Easement be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

D. [2023-121](#)

Amendment to the By-Laws of the Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department

Sponsors: Pospiech

Attachments: [Proposed Bylaw amendments-add Legal and Government Affairs Committee](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Resolution, BOWC be adopted. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. [2023-124](#) **Director's Report**

Sponsors: Brown

Attachments: [Board Report - Metrics - 05172023](#)

This Communication or Report was received and filed.

12. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Vice Chair Blackmon gave commendations to staff.

13. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Chairperson Einheuser gave kudos to Director Brown for the Lifeline Plan.

14. OTHER MATTERS

There were none.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Einheuser requested a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, 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 3:10 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.