



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

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Wednesday, October 16, 2024

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

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## BOWC Meeting

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

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

### 2. ROLL CALL

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

### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the agenda.

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

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the minutes of September 18, 2024.

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

### 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (2 minutes per speaker)

a. Adrienne Bennett, Master Plummer with Benkari Plumbing and Water Conservation, came before the Board to introduce herself. She stated that she had an opportunity to work with the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) on water conservation through Wayne Metro. She is looking for ways to conserve water with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) commercial clients. Ms. Bennett said her company is a fully unionized bond-issued company and has been in the industry for 15 years. She looks forward to expanding her services, and assisting entities within Wayne County.

- b. Daniel Haider provided written communication regarding concern with the Department's sewer cleaning process.
- c. Jermaine Paynes came before the board regarding the practices of DWSD and sewer lines. He stated that his property at 14908 Mendota has sewer backup and believes that two trees have caused an obstruction of the water flow, which impacted his property.
- d. Jacob Graham has come on several occasions regarding a restoration issue that has been ongoing for several months and he is seeking a resolution.
- e. Mark Leitzman of Residential Rental Properties came about concern for the lack of notifications for past due bills.
- f. Cecily McClellan with WTPD came to thank the Department for providing a mechanism for Lifeline Plan residents to be protected from shutoff as they go through the recertification process. She was seeking clarification of the Lifeline Plan policy under sections 6.11.2 and 6.11.4.
- g. Rosalyn Ogburn, Warrendale homeowner and block club president echoed Ms. McClellan's comments. She said that there should be more education, awareness, and an extension in the process as residents transition from the Lifeline Plan to the EasyPay Program.
- h. Gwendolyn Howard questioned section 6.8.1 of the Lifeline Plan and how it would benefit the customer and how will it be applied.
- i. DeMeeko Williams, Chief Executive Director, Hydrate Detroit, thanked the Department for all the work that it does. He believes that outreach is the key. He said Wayne Metro should be present at the Board meetings to provide an update on the recertification process.
- j. Norrel Hemphill, Attorney with Environmental Law, stated that there were concerns within the Lifeline Plan that need attention. She said service interruptions are not solutions and that this policy is a plan for low-income residents that are not able to pay their water bills. There should be a grace period and assistance from outside sources. She hopes this new EasyPay plan policy changes is in the best interest of the customers and that it ensures that everyone keeps and maintains access to water.
- k. Toyia spoke about the \$95 million Federal funding. She asked what happens to those who are above the poverty level. She also spoke on the article in the Detroit News about the Jefferson/Chalmers area and that there were eleven neighborhoods still crying about their flooded homes. She wanted to know how residents can get assistance with their basements without taking out a loan. Director Brown replied that the Department is mandated to follow the rules and guidelines of the Federal government. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) does not allow funding for flood zone areas.

## 6. COMMUNICATIONS

### A. [2024-211](#) Receipt of Correspondence

Sponsors: Field Services

**Attachments:**     [Jackson, McIntyre, Sims and Farr - BOWC Responses](#)

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

**B.**     [2024-212](#)     Receipt of Correspondence

**Sponsors:**     Customer Service

**Attachments:**     [Joyce Moore](#)

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

**C.**     [2024-213](#)     Receipt of Correspondence

**Sponsors:**     Field Services

**Attachments:**     [Jacob Graham - BOWC Response](#)

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

**D.**     [2024-214](#)     Receipt of Correspondence

**Sponsors:**     Office of the General Counsel

**Attachments:**     [Donyale Hughes](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner John Henry Davis 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**

- Cindy Darrah - Drainage fee
- Haider M. Al-Jebori - Water bill
- Mac Farr - Residents clogged storm drain
- Diandra Gourlay - Cadillac Blvd-Basement backup
- Mark Reynolds - Charlevoix/McClullen-Intersection flooding
- Jacob Graham - Restoration

**9.     APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (Items 9A-C)**

**A.**     [2024-192](#)     The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6006664 with**

LGC Global, Inc., for Assistance with the Maintenance, Exchange and Repairs of Water Meter Services, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$2,500,000.00 and a term of five (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 Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Lane Coleman that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**B. [2024-193](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract No. 6006670 with Major League Blasting LLC for Fire Hydrant Blasting Services, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed amount of \$2,250,000.00 and a term of three (3) years.** This 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 6006670 fire hydrant blasting](#)

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

**C. [2024-194](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract No. 6006686 with Ajax Paving Industries, Inc., for Cold Patch Material, for a new contract amount not-to-exceed \$256,500.00 and a term of one (1) year.** 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 Lane Coleman that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. [2024-203](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department **approves the amendment to the Water Supply System (WSS) 5-Year Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029 and the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget** and further authorize the Director and Chief Financial Officer to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

**Sponsors:** Financial Services

**Attachments:** [DWSD Water CIP Projects FY 25-29 Amended](#)

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

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

**B.** [2024-204](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department **approves the amendment to the Sewer Disposal System (SDS) 5-Year Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029 and the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget** and further authorize the Director and Chief Financial Officer to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

**Sponsors:** Financial Services

**Attachments:** [DWSD Sewer CIP Projects FY 25-29 Amended](#)

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

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

**C.** [2024-205](#)

**Approval of Amendments to City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's Lifeline Plan for Water Affordability.**

**Sponsors:** Financial Services

**Attachments:** [500-CS-Lifeline Policy - v.4 - 10-2024 - to BOWC](#)  
[BOWC Presentation on Lifeline Amendments 10-16-2024 V2](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lane Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Policy be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**D.** [2024-209](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department **rescinds Resolution No. 2024-126**, and also authorizes the Director to take such other action that may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

**Sponsors:** Branch and Welch

**Attachments:** [Correction to Item No. 2024-126 Itron 2856616](#)  
[2024-126 \(Amendment to Itron\)](#)

**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.**

**11. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

**A. [2024-210](#) Director's Report**

Sponsors: Brown

Attachments: [Board Report - Metrics - 10162024](#)

**This Communication or Report was received and filed.**

**12. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Vice Chair Blackmon commended Matthew Phillips, Chief Customer Service Officer for his prompt response to an issue at a home to a well-known prominent community figure.

**13. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR**

Chairman Einheuser noted that the City's Chief Operation Officer, Brad Dick, will be leaving his post after 18 years. He commended him for his new role at Wayne State University.

Director Brown noted that Chief of Police, James White is expected to be voted in by the Wayne County Executive and the Mayor of Detroit to the Wayne Integrated Health Network. Commissioner Kinloch added that after a local search, the committee chose Chief White, who showed a great level of care for mental health. He looks forward to working with him.

**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 3:29 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.**