



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, February 15, 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

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

The Chair called for recess at 2:01 p.m.

Due to the lack of a quorum

Commissioner Forte and Kinloch arrived at 2:07 p.m.

The Chair returned from recess at 2:07 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Chairperson Michael Einheuser, Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon,
Commissioner John Henry Davis and Commissioner Jane Garcia

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch and Commissioner Linda Forte

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Lane Coleman

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Blackmon requested approval of the agenda.

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Blackmon requested approval of the minutes January 18, 2023.

A motion was made by Commissioner John Henry Davis, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes per speaker)

Cecily McClellan of We the People of Detroit hopes that DWSD will move toward a permanent affordability program instead of an assistance program. She said that We the People appreciate the status update that has been provided by DWSD. She also said she is concerned about residents who did not pay their previous bill that have exceeded the recommended 6ccf plan. Attorney Popsiech replied that the Department has been working with We the People of Detroit and has made some major revisions to the plan that include greater usage allotments at the base rate depending on the household size. Every person currently enrolled in the Lifeline Plan does not exceed the revised methodology. The Department believes that the revision ensures that the cap rate stays the same for nearly every household. Attorney Pospiech also stated that in regard to the 36.7 gallons per person household, calculation was based on two factors: The National Research by the Water Research Federation that Stantech relied upon to create the two-tier inclining block rate, and the data from DWSD's own records of the normal household usage.

Norrel Hemphill of Great Lakes Environmental Law Group stated that there is a need for data. She thanked DWSD for publishing the Lifeline Program dashboard online. She asked if the 400 applications process per week was still accurate. She also asked whether the Department currently have funding for plumbing repairs. She continued to stress for a permanent water affordability program and a moratorium on water shutoffs.

Gwendolyn Howard with We the People of Detroit encourage residents to enroll in the Lifeline Plan, but has concern for customers who are on a fixed income and if their due date could align with their water bill payment.

6. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Kinloch inquired about an Alert message he received about a water main break. Director Brown reported that the homeowner on East Philadelphia had purchased a Land Bank property and hired a contractor to connect to our sewer system that resulted in a leak. The Department has since made the repair.

Vice Chair Blackmon thanked Samuel Smalley, Chief Operating Officer and his team for the excellent job they provided to a customer who was without water. She also sent condolences to the families of the Michigan State University (MSU) victims.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

A. [2023-42](#) Receipt of Correspondence

Sponsors: Office of the General Counsel

Attachments: [Damage Claims](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner John Henry Davis, seconded by

Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Communication or Report be received and filed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. [2023-43](#)

Receipt of Correspondence

Sponsors: Riggs

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

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

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A. [2023-27](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Contract 6005050 with Five Star Energy Services for Full Lead Service Line Replacements at Various Locations Throughout Detroit (Project WS-735), for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$25,000,000 (reimbursable by ARPA) and a term of three 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. [2023-28](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract No. 6005048 for Various Brass Items, with Melmac Co., Inc. d/b/a Motor City Pipe & Supply Co. for a new contract amount not-to-exceed \$117,357.00 and a term of two 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: [Brass Items Bid Tab 1.6 mlm kf](#)

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.

- C. [2023-29](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Amendment No. 1 to DWSD portion of the City-wide Contract 6003725 with Oracle America, Inc., for Oracle Cloud SaaS Licensing by adding \$51,055.40, for a total amount not-to-exceed \$476,055.40.** 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.**
- D. [2023-30](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Contracts 6005030 with Badger Meter, 6005054 with Metron Farnier, LLC, and 6005056 with Master Meter, Inc.;** for the as-needed purchase of various sized water meters for a combined total contract amount not-to-exceed \$2,000,000 and a term of two (2) 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:** [Water Meters Pricing Summary for BOWC](#)
- 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. [2023-31](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract No. 6005052 for Tires - Various Sizes, with Jefferson Chevrolet Co. dba Trader Ray Tire for a new contract amount not-to-exceed \$134,135.69 and a term of one 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
- Attachments:** [Tire Bid TAB 1.13.23sj](#)
- 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. [2023-32](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract No. 6005059 to piggyback City of Detroit Contract 6002891 with Groundwork 0 LLC for Avaya Network and Phone Maintenance services for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$125,000 and a term of four months.** 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. [2023-44](#) Black History Moment

Sponsors: Jones

Attachments: [BOWC Black History Moment 2023 FINAL](#)

This Communication or Report was received and filed.

11. DIRECTOR'S METRICS

A. [2023-45](#) Director's Report

Sponsors: Brown

Attachments: [Board Report - Metrics - 02152023](#)

12. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Garcia thanked Director Gary Brown, Chief Customer Officer Matthew Phillips for providing Mr. Jermaine Paynes with running water.

13. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

There were none.

14. OTHER MATTERS

There were none.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Blackmon requested a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, 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 3:11 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.