



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

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Wednesday, November 20, 2024

2:00 PM

To attend by phone call one of these numbers:
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Use Meeting ID: 815 7263 5118
Use Passcode: 482262021

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BOWC Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Commissioner Linda Forte, Commissioner Lane Coleman, Commissioner John Henry Davis, Commissioner Jane Garcia, Chairperson Michael Einheuser and Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch
Absent: 1 - Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon

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

The Chair returned from recess at 2:14 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Einheuser advised the BOWC of the following amendments to the agenda:

Item 4A: "Director's Remarks" - This item will be added for Director Gary Brown the opportunity to address the EPA letter that was sent regarding lead and non-lead service lines.

Item 4B: Introduction of Mayor Mike Duggan's new Chief Operating Officer Marcus Von Kapff

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the agenda as amended.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lane Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia 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 October 16, 2024.

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

4A. DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

Director's Remarks - Director Gary Brown addressed the concerns about the EPA letter that was sent on lead and non lead service lines. The letter was to explain what type of service customers have and to educate the public of the harms of lead and how to reduce if you have a lead service. Director Brown admitted and apologized for the error on sending letter to the community without proper context included. DWSD is currently correcting this error by performing press conferences, attending City Council meetings and BOWC meetings and explaining what happened and how DWSD will be correcting this going forward. Director Brown expressed to the community to not be concerned/alarmed and that the water quality is safe. Director Brown gave helpful tips on how to operate in a house with a lead service line such as of using cold water for cooking and drinking, using a water filter, specifically, one that takes out lead in water. If you are concerned about children getting lead poisoning, get them tested and let the City know to test water to make sure lead is not found in the water. Check your internal plumbing to make sure lead is not present. Flush the aerator on your faucets as it is designed to catch particles. Director Brown reiterated that DWSD is doing its part in eliminating lead in systems (replacing pipes, applying for grants (SRF), etc.) Director Brown directed DWSD team members to give health department pitchers and filters for those concerned. Also, DWSD's Public Affairs team is monitoring social media and developing literature to explain and assure the public that the water is safe to cook and drink.

4B. INTRODUCTION OF MAYOR DUGGAN'S NEW COO

Mayor Duggan's new COO Marcus Von Kapff gave a summary of his work experience and let DWSD, the BOWC and the public that he is available to help in any way.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (2 minutes per speaker)

Jeff and Tracy Herron - commented on having a water bill issue. Bought a home under a land contract and currently receiving a drainage bill although the roof is flat. The water bill is being transferred over to taxes and is currently being sent bills for \$538.00. The customers want no arrearages to be sent to taxes. (Director Gary Brown explained that they will try to fix the billing issue by the end of the day or the following day)

Dale Haener - commented that he believes that DWSD crews have root cutting skills that are below industry standard. States that DWSD crews lack of skills could result in a lawsuit and need to be vastly improved.

Sheila Cherry Lockett - commented on a sinkhole in the backyard and just had a child who fell in it. Requesting that the sinkhole needs to be fixed or at least temporarily fixed with metal plate (Director Gary Brown stated he will have crew go out to fix.)

Melanie Phillips - commented that she manages multiple properties and want to gain access to her water bills and to not have the water shutoff on her tenants residing at the properties. (Director Gary Brown - will have customer service have this resolved).

Number ending in 299 - comments on looking at parking lot for drainage fee issue.

Currently being charged \$35 per month and wants to know how they are being billed.

Cicely McClellan - commented on concerns of potential shutoffs pertaining to Lifeline. She is very concerned about those that have not recertified and wants to know the status of whether they will be shutoff or not. (Director Gary Brown - no customer that is in lifeline awaiting recertification will be shutoff. Also, Director Brown gave an update on the water affordability act. Lastly, Director Brown stated that DWSD is still going after money in order to continue funding the Lifeline program).

Sonia Brown - comments about the EPA letter that was recently sent to the public. Posed the question is what does the public health look like if it will take 10 years to accomplish the replacement of lead service lines citywide? (Director Gary Brown states that GLWA protects water with additives for protection while DWSD gets lead service lines replaced which will take about 10 years to complete citywide).

Norrell Hemphill - comments on the time of public comment going from 3 to 2 minutes and wants to know why the change occurred. Says that the shorter time does not assist in getting comments across to the BOWC and request to have the time for public comment back at 3 minutes. Also want to know about Lifeline and why the recertification process is going so slow. (Director Gary Brown - DWSD needs to obtain more money before the recertifications can be completed. He reassures everyone that no one will be shutoff during the recertification process).

DeMeeko Williams - congratulates the water advisory council and Beulah Walker for her participation. Comments on why is it hard to say we are not the city of Flint. Also comments on Lifeline and how many still owe under the program.

Bobbie Johnson - says letter had no concern of how the community will feel and how 100 pitchers and filters will help 80,000 people. Wants to know how we have the safest water with this letter going out. Also, how do we make sure we will not have lead in the future and to assure the community of this? Comment also regarding the conditions of the sewers in the Franklin Neighborhood and how there is constant flooding.

Gwendolyn Howard - Comment about the lifeline program and the issues of not recertifying because we just have 10M. Also has concerns of water shutoffs, water affordability and the EPA letter.

Ms. Anderson - Current lifeline recipient and says that many do not know about this meeting and the recertification status not being known. She states that she has not receiving water bill since April 2024. Says that a lot have to be fixed. (Director Gary Brown says that when spending 100M, that a lot of work will be done and apologize for inconvenience of some customers with the current construction. Concerning recertifications, DWSD will work with Wayne Metro for recertifying the most that are in need and figure out what to do with the remaining who need to be recertified).

6. COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

7. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Kinloch comments on the comments from the public saying that DWSD is not compassionate and says that with DWSD policies and programs that are developed to assist the community that DWSD does care about the current issues.

Also expressed that Detroit is not anywhere near the Flint Water Crisis. DWSD is about really resolving issues.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

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

- A. [2024-237](#)** The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **outright vacate a DWSD asset and easement at 601 Piquette Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48202** and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Bahri

Attachments: [601 Piquette - Easement Vacation Petition](#)

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

- B. [2024-238](#)** The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **grant an Easement to DTE Gas Company**, and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Bahri

Attachments: [DTE Easement Waterworks Park Agreement](#)

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

10. NEW BUSINESS

- A. [2024-217](#)** The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Purchase Order 3079434 with AIS Construction Equipment Corporation to provide six John Deere 35G mini excavators with trailers and attachments, for a total purchase amount not-to-exceed \$900,000.00.** 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 Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner Lane Coleman that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- B.** [2024-218](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Purchase Order 3078749 with Interstate Trucksource, Inc., for the purchase of (4) Five-Yard Dump Trucks with custom debris body, for a total purchase amount not-to-exceed \$653,700.84** and 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 Lane Coleman, seconded by Commissioner John Henry Davis that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**
- C.** [2024-219](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Amendment No. 2 for DWSD Contract 6004286, with Detroit Grounds Crew LLC, for Tree Trimming/Shrub Removal Services; by adding \$25,000.00, for an amended total contract amount not-to-exceed \$245,000.00. No change to the contract term, scope of work or terms and conditions.** 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 John Henry Davis, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**
- D.** [2024-220](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Contract 6006725 with AIS Construction Equipment Corporation, for as-needed John Deere Equipment repair services, parts and preventative maintenance, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$750,000.00 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 Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Lane Coleman that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**
- E.** [2024-221](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6006738 (Project DWS-969), with LGC Global, Inc., for Inspection, Rehabilitation & Replacement of Sewers Within the West Jefferson Avenue Neighborhood, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$17,865,948.00 and a term of 546 calendar days.** 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 Lane Coleman that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- F. [2024-222](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6006750 (WS-743), with LGC Global, Inc. for as-needed Water Main Replacements throughout various locations within the City of Detroit, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$14,225,378.55 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

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.

- G. [2024-223](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6006752 with Santoro, Inc., to provide as-needed Collision and Repair Services for Heavy-Duty Trucks, Tractors and Trailers, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$500,000.00 and a term of (5) five 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 Lane Coleman that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- H. [2024-224](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6006767 with Inner-Tite Corp., to provide curb stop box locks, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$200,000.00 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

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

- I. [2024-225](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6006769 with Johnson Controls Inc., for As Needed HVAC Replacement and Repair Services, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$1,000,000.00 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

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

- J. [2024-226](#)** The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6006772 with MacAllister Machinery Co. dba Michigan CAT; utilizing the MiDeal Contract # 24000000165, for the rental of as-needed Michigan Caterpillar Construction Equipment, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$500,000.00 and a term of (4) four years (1) one month and (27) twenty-seven days.** 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 Jane Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- K. [2024-227](#)** The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6006782 with Secure Door LLC; to provide Pedestrian Door Maintenance and Repair Services, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed amount of \$625,000.00 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 Commissioner John Henry Davis, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- L. [2024-228](#)** The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Amendment No. 1 to DWSD Contract 6003967, with LGC Global, Inc., for Water Main Repairs (WS-719); by adding funding in the amount of \$750,000.00, for a new amended contract amount not-to-exceed \$29,688,000.00 and extending the term by 60 days for a new term expiring 1/29/2025. No changes to scope of work, or contract terms and conditions.** 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 Linda Forte that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- M. [2024-229](#)** 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 No. 6005722 with Decima, LLC, for Project Design and Building Renovation Services; by adding \$825,000.00 in funding, for a total amended**

contract amount not-to-exceed \$1,675,000.00. No change to scope of work, or the terms and conditions of this contract. 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 John Henry Davis that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

N. [2024-230](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6006536 with Major Contracting Group, Inc. and Gayanga Co. (Joint Venture), for As Needed Water Main Repairs (Project WS-744A), for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$34,962,900.00 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

Commissioner Coleman is removing himself from the vote due to knowing the owner.

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

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

Abstain: 1 - Commissioner Coleman

O. [2024-231](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6006808 with Major Contracting Group, Inc./Gayanga Company Inc. (JV); for Hydrant and Repair of Water Mains (WS-745), for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$8,248,100.00 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

Commissioner Coleman is removing himself from the vote due to knowing the owner.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Abstain: 1 - Commissioner Coleman

P. [2024-246](#)

Approval of City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's Lead Service Line Replacement Policy.

Sponsors: Pospiech

Attachments: [Detroit's Lead Service Line Replacement Policy - November 2024 \(4\)](#)

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

11. DIRECTOR'S METRICS

A. [2024-247](#) Director's Report

Sponsors: Brown

Attachments: [Board Report - Metrics - 11202024](#)

Director Gary Brown commented on DWSD winning the Halloween in the D contest that was a competition across all City of Detroit departments.

This matter was received and filed

12. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

There were none.

13. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

There were none.

14. OTHER MATTERS

There were none.

15. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner John Henry Davis, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:58 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.