



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

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Wednesday, December 18, 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**

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

### **2. ROLL CALL**

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

### **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the agenda.

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

### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the minutes of November 20, 2024.

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

**The Chair called for recess at 2:05 p.m.**

**The Chair returned from recess at 2:10 p.m.**

### **5. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

**A. [2024-273](#) Edward Dunbar Award**

**Sponsors:** Office of the Director

**Attachments:** [Edward Dunbar Awardees - 2024](#)

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes per speaker)**

- a. Badr Kahil of 13640 W. Chicago came about his water bill.
- b. Daniel Hainer with the Detroit Sewer Co. provided written communication that spoke of his concern about the Department's sewer cleaning methods.
- c. Jermaine Paynes thanked Matthew Phillips for resolving community issues. He thanked Commissioner Garcia for her representation in the Latino community. He stated that the Department needs more minority contractors. He also said there should be more over site when cleaning the sewer system.
- d. Cecily McClellan with We the People of Detroit (WTPOD) stated she noticed the Lifeline customer-base had drastically reduced. She asked if the pending recertification applicants were protected from shutoff. She also asked about the mechanism being used to notify customers that they may not be able to get into the program based on availability of dollars? Ms. McClellan also said that high water bills usually a result of plumbing issues, and if funding could be used to pursue that avenue.
- e. Norrel Hemphill echoed Ms McClellan's comments. She wants to ensure that residents in Detroit have access to a life-sustaining resource. Director Brown added that there are two bills in both the House and the Senate on water affordability, and long-term funding is being debated in Lansing. He encouraged those concerned about Lifeline and low income residents to contact their state representatives and senators.
- f. DeMeeko Williams, Chief Executive Director, thanked the BOWC, Matthew Phillips, Director Brown, customer service staff, and the field technicians for their work and keeping the system afloat.

**7. COMMUNICATIONS****A. [2024-275](#) Receipt of Correspondence**

**Sponsors:** Phillips

**Attachments:** [Melanie Phillips - BOWC Response](#)  
[Tracey Herron - BOWC Response](#)  
[Marc Leitman - BOWC Response](#)

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

**8. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS**

**There were none.**

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Deputy Director Samuel Smalley reported that M&R had rebuilt the catch basin and in the Spring the restoration will be completed.

**10. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (Items 10A-E)**

- A. [2024-249](#)** The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Amendment No. 3 for DWSD Contract No. 6001658 (PC-803B) with LGC Global, Inc. to provide assistance with Automatic Meter Reading Installation and Related Work; by adding \$300,000.00, for an amended total contract amount not-to-exceed \$2,424,998.00. No change to the scope of work, terms and conditions, or contract expiring date of 12/31/24.** 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 John Henry Davis that this Contract Amendment be approved.  
The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

- B. [2024-250](#)** 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 No. 6003270 with Kone Inc., for preventative maintenance, service and repairs for all DWSD elevators, utilizing OMNIA cooperative contract #EV2516; by adding \$500,000.00, for an amended total contract amount not-to-exceed \$1,011,950.00 and extending the term 5 years for a new term ending 11/30/29.** 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 John Henry Davis that this Contract Amendment be approved.  
The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

- C. [2024-251](#)** 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. 6004866 with Major Contracting Group, Inc. to provide (As Needed) Inspection & Repair of Cave-In Sewers In the City of Detroit (Project WS-965); by adding \$1,500,000.00, for an amended total contract amount not-to-exceed \$5,784,261.00 and extending the term by 135 days for a new term ending 6/30/25.** 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 John Henry Davis that this Contract Amendment be approved.**

The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**D.**      [2024-252](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6006867 with EJ USA, Inc (formally known as East Jordan) for Fire Hydrant Extensions of various sizes for a total contract not-to-exceed amount \$194,962.50 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:**      [Bid Tab Fire hydrant extensions](#)

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

**E.**      [2024-253](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6006871 with EJ USA, Inc. (formally known as East Jordan) and Contract 6006872 with ETNA Supply Co., for various hydrant parts; for a total combined not-to-exceed amount of \$1,028,671.65 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:**      [bid tab for ej etna various hydrant parts](#)

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

**11.      NEW BUSINESS**

**A.**      [2024-267](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department **authorizes the Director to approve the accompanying Wayne County Department of Public Services (WCDPS) "Model Community Resolution Authorizing Execution of Wayne County Permits"** and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

**Sponsors:**      Operations

**Attachments:**      [Wayne County Resolution](#)  
[Indemnity and Insurance](#)  
[P-25005](#)  
[P-25029](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Resolution, BOWC be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

- B. [2024-272](#) The Board of Water Commissioners **authorizes the Director to approve the "Performance Resolution for Governmental Agencies" form to facilitate the acquisition of DWSD's 2025 MDOT Annual Permit**, and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

**Sponsors:** Operations

**Attachments:** [MDOT.Resolution.2025](#)

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

12. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Commissioner Forte arrived at 2:30 p.m.

- A. [2024-276](#) Director's Report

**Sponsors:** Office of the Director

**Attachments:** [Board Report - Metrics - 12182024](#)

13. **COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Vice Chair Blackmon wished a Happy Holiday to everyone.

Commissioner Garcia appreciates staff's hard work.

Commissioner Kinloch thanked staff for their work as well.

Commissioner Forte echoed the comments. She appreciates the Department and how they interact with the customer. She said it's an honor to be a part of this Board.

14. **COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR**

Chair Einheuser commended Director Brown for all his work.

15. **OTHER MATTERS**

The BOWC's January committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 11:00a.m.

16. **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 2:48 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.