



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, April 19, 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: 4 - Chairperson Michael Einheuser, Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon,
Commissioner John Henry Davis and Commissioner Jane Garcia

Excused: 3 - Commissioner Linda Forte, Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch and
Commissioner Lane Coleman

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the amended agenda.

New Business Items 10D and 10F were moved to the beginning of the agenda.

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

Commissioner Kinloch arrived at 2:02 p.m.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the minutes of March 15, 2023.

**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 (3 minutes per speaker)

- a. Russ Bellant came before the Board and submitted a list of blocked basin concerns.
- b. Sally Bier came before the Board about the water bill at the Joliet Townhouse Co-op.
- c. Sammy Sater attended about the same concern at the Joliet Townhouse Co-op.
- d. Norrel Hemphill with the Great Lakes Environmental Law Group thanked the Department for the changes made to the Lifeline Plan.
- e. Tiana Starks with We the People of Detroit commended the water advocates to continue to engage with the Department on the Lifeline Plan. She was thankful for the Department consideration and recommendations for the updates to the plan.
- f. James Griffin came before the Board about the water rate increase at the Nicolet Co-op.
- g. Cecily McClellan with We the People of Detroit (WTPOD) thanked DWSD for the opportunity to provide community support by making recommendations to amend the Detroit Lifeline policy.
- h. Beulah Walker with Hydrate Detroit stated that they were still assisting residents with enrollment to the Lifeline Plan.
- i. David Claxton came before the Board about his water bill.
- j. Demeeko Williams, Chief Director of Hydrate Detroit commended DWSD for allowing Hydrate Detroit to assist in providing affordable water to the citizens of Detroit.
- k. Victoria Long with We the People of Detroit appreciated the Department working with We the People.

Commissioner Forte joined in at 2:20 p.m.

6. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Kinloch stated that he had sent the Director's office some fire hydrant concerns.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

A. [2023-95](#) Receipt of Correspondence

Sponsors: Riggs

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

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. [2023-96](#) Receipt of Correspondence

Sponsors: Pospiech

Attachments: [Letter to Mark Fancher re Lifeline Plan Amendments](#)

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.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

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

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

- A. [2023-80](#)** The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Contract 6005152 with Ellsworth Industries, Inc. for the as-needed purchase of backfill sand for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$344,700 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 Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- B. [2023-81](#)** The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Amendment 1 to DWSD Contract 6003462 with Mythics, Inc. to continue providing support and maintenance of Oracle Cloud Licenses by adding \$5,658,960 for a total amended not-to-exceed amount of \$9,903,180 and to extend the term by 5 years (through 11/30/28) per Omnia Partners extension of Cooperative Contract #180233-002.** 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 Jonathan Kinloch that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- C. [2023-82](#)** 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 6004127 with EJ USA, Inc. for fire hydrant conversions and**

breakable parts by adding \$1,403,806 for a total amended contract amount not-to-exceed \$4,211,417.02. 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 Jonathan Kinloch that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

D. [2023-83](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6005182 with Melmac Co., Inc. d/b/a Motor City Pipe & Supply for Fire Hydrant Extensions for a new contract amount not-to-exceed \$123,341.40 and a term of twenty months.** 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 Hydrant Extensions](#)

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

E. [2023-84](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department **authorizes \$3,086,942.86 for payment of outstanding invoices for the watermain replacement work along Highway M-5 Grand River Ave from Berg Road Southeasterly to Fenkell Avenue under Project WS-714.** 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 Jonathan Kinloch that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

F. [2023-85](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Single Source Contract 6005214 with Systems and Software, Inc., to implement Average Winter Consumption based rates, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$250,000 and a term of one year.** 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 Jonathan Kinloch that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

[2023-106](#)**American Water Resources (AWR) Update****Attachments:** [American Water Resources \(AWR\)](#)

Presenters: Kathleen O'Hara, Sharon Daugherty, and Jalysa Nelson

This Communication or Report was received and filed.**B.** [2023-89](#)**Safety Update****Sponsors:** Segars**Attachments:** [Safety Report Final](#)**This Communication or Report was received and filed.****C.** [2023-90](#)**Security Update****Sponsors:** Allen**Attachments:** [Security Update](#)**This Communication or Report was received and filed.****Commissioner Coleman joined at 2:30 p.m.****D.** [2023-97](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners **approves the proposed schedule of Detroit Retail Water and Sewerage Rates and Fees consistent with the FY 2023-2024 revenue requirement and Water and Sewer System budgets approved by the Board of Water Commissioners on March 15, 2023** and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Rahman**Attachments:** [Schedule of Rates and Fees](#)

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

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

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Forte and Commissioner Coleman

E. [2023-100](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department **hereby approves amendments to the Lifeline Plan for Water Affordability;** and authorizes the Director to take all such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Pospiech

Attachments: [2nd Updated Memorandum re Amendments to Lifeline \(003\)](#)
[Amended Lifeline Policy for BOWC and Public Review - with WTPOD additions](#)

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

F. [2023-101](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department **recommends adoption of the “A final project plan for the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department Water System Improvement, Watermain Replacement and Dedicated Full Lead Service Line Replacement and Designating an Authorized Project Representative FY 2024 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)”** and also authorizes the Chief Financial Officer and the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Attachments: [DWSRF Resolution](#)
[DWSRF FY2024 BOWC](#)
[Public Hearing Notice - Water Main Replacement FY24 DWSRF - 4.3.2023](#)

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

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

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Forte and Commissioner Coleman

11. DIRECTOR'S METRICS

A. [2023-103](#) Director's Report

Sponsors: Brown

Attachments: [Board Report-Metrics](#)

12. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Kinloch thanked staff for responding to the concerns of the citizens.

13. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

There were none.

14. OTHER MATTERS

There were none.

15. CLOSED SESSION

- A. [2023-102](#)** Upon the request of Chief General Counsel Debra N. Pospiech, Esq., the Board of Water Commissioners votes to **approve a meeting with General Counsel in closed session pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act to discuss a memorandum subject to attorney-client privilege.**

Sponsors: Pospiech

A motion was made by Commissioner Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Davis to enter at 4:10 p.m. into this Request, Closed Session be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Forte and Commissioner Coleman

OPEN SESSION

The only matter discussed was the attorney-client privilege communication.

A motion was made by Commissioner John Henry Davis, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia to return from Closed Session at 4:34 p.m. be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Forte and Commissioner Coleman

16. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Einheuser requested a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Commissioner John Henry Davis, 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 4:34 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.