



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, July 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: 6 - Commissioner Linda Forte, Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon,
Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, Commissioner John Henry Davis,
Commissioner Jane Garcia and Chairperson Michael Einheuser

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Lane Coleman

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 June 21, 2023.

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes per speaker)

a. Cecily McClellan with We the People of Detroit came before the Board about a customer who had a leak in her home. She requested the leak policy, but was denied due to delinquency on her current bill. Ms. McClellan said there should be

consideration or waiver to those applying for the leak adjustment if they can prove that the plumbing issue was repaired, and that was the source of the large bill. Ms. McClellan asked whether DWSD provides any oversight of Wayne Metro's records to ensure that eligible clients/residents of Detroit are receiving the services being provided.

b. Demeeko Williams, Chief Executive Director of Hydrate Detroit thanked the BOWC, customer service, and the executive staff for the continued partnership with Hydrate Detroit in serving the citizens of Detroit. He also mentioned that the Shared Water Drive was scheduled for Saturday, July 22, 2023 at the Avalon Village Center in Highland Park.

c. Norrel Hemphill with Great Lakes Environmental Law Center stated that the Lifeline Plan is a great step in the right direction. She looks forward to a sustainable funding source. She also paid homage to the late Honorable JoAnn Watson, former Detroit City Council Member.

d. Gwendolyn Howard with We the People of Detroit said that the Lifeline Plan is a great start but it is not a permanent source.

e. Derrick Spears came before the Board about a damage claim due to a water main break.

f. Akil Clark came before the Board regarding on-going basement flooding.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. [2023-162](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department approval to **adopt the Legal and Government Affairs Committee Charter**, and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Pospiech

Attachments: [Charter](#)

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

7. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Vice Chairperson Blackmon commended Matthew Phillips, Chief Customer Service Officer for assisting an elderly citizen with his water bill. She also acknowledged JoAnn Watson, former Detroit City Council Member, for her lifetime of community advocacy and social justice work.

Commissioner Kinloch requested a copy of the work group material being drafted to legislation regarding permanent funding for water affordability.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

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

- A. [2023-151](#)** The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Contract 6005362 (DWS-964) with Pipetek Infrastructure Services for Sewer Condition Assessment Services in Hubbard Farms, along Michigan Avenue, Midtown, and North Corktown, for a term of 2 years and a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$5,579,680.14.** 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 Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- B. [2023-152](#)** The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contracts 6005462, 6005463 and 6005464 for Various Gate Box Parts, for a total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$616,288.85 and a term of 1 year.** 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 gate box parts](#)

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

- C. [2023-153](#)** The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Amendment 1 for DWSD Contract No. 6004872 with Etna Supply Company LLC for repair clamps of various sizes, by adding \$75,000.00 in funding for a total amended contract not-to-exceed amount of \$291,441.75. No change in time, scope of work or contract terms and conditions.** 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 Linda Forte that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- D. [2023-154](#)** The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Contract 6005483 with WCI Contractors, Inc. for As-Needed Lawn Repairs and Restoration Services throughout various locations within the City of Detroit, for a total**

contract amount not-to-exceed \$4,289,200 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 Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

E. [2023-167](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Contract 6005502 (WS-732) with Murphy Pipeline Contractors, LLC. for Water Main Replacement and Water Service Replacement including Lead Service Line replacement, for various locations, west of Livernois Avenue within the City of Detroit, for a total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$12,791,611.00 (reimbursable by ARPA funding) and a term of two 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 Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

F. [2023-169](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Contract 6005503 (WS-733) with Murphy Pipeline Contractors, Inc. for Water System Improvements, including Lead Service Line replacement, in Various Streets, east of Livernois in the City of Detroit, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$14,446,864.00 (100% reimbursable by ARPA funding) and a term of 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 Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. [2023-166](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **terminate and release a DWSD Easement over Parcel Number 01004106-9,** and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Bahri

Attachments: [Release of Easement](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch that this Contract, Real Estate Easement be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. [2023-171](#) **Approval to sell 90, 102, and 114 Stimson Street and 78 Peterboro Street, Detroit, Michigan 48201**

Sponsors: Pospiech

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

C. [2023-172](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **enter into an Easement Agreement with Farnsworth Development Company, LLC**, and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Bahri

Attachments: [2023-172 Easement](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch that this Contract, Real Estate Easement be . The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. [2023-173](#) **Director's Report**

Sponsors: Brown

Attachments: [Board Report - Metrics - 07192023](#)

Director Brown reported that he attended the National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition Conference on June 11-15, 2023 in San Diego. He was there to speak about water affordability. Director Brown was accompanied by Mary E. Blackmon, DWSD Board of Water Commissioner and Mathew Phillips, DWSD Chief Customer Service Officer.

12. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Garcia asked if any of the contracts solicited for bid were minority-based (African American, Hispanic, etc.). She also asked for a moment of silence to honor the former Detroit City Council Member, JoAnn Watson, who made her transition on Monday, July 10, 2023.

Vice Chair Blackmon asked if there was someone in the Department that could assist with the need for minority talent. Director Brown replied that Tiffany Jones, Diversity and Inclusion Director, spearheads the DWSD initiative to ensure that minority representation is included in future contracting on water related projects.

Commissioner Kinloch requested that the minority Detroit Based Business (DBB) is a workshop agenda item at the retreat.

13. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Chairperson Einheuser asked that the Department look at mid to late September for the BOWC retreat. He also said that the Department should consider resuming its community meetings.

14. OTHER MATTERS

There were none.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Einheuser requested a motion to adjourn.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 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.