



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

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Wednesday, January 17, 2018

6:00 PM

Historic Little Rock Baptist Church  
9000 Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48202

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## **Location and Time Change: 6:00 p.m. - Regular Meeting and Public Hearing (Budget)**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Einheuser called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **2. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 5 - Commissioner Linda Forte, Commissioner John Henry Davis, Commissioner Michael Einheuser, Commissioner Lane Coleman and Commissioner Mary Blackmon

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Pamela Rodgers and Commissioner Jane Garcia

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Council President Pro-Tem Mary Sheffield, Councilman Roy McAlister, Linda Wesley for Councilwoman Brenda Jones, Christopher LeFlore for Councilwoman Janee' Ayers, and Detroit Police Commissioner William Davis

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

Chairman Einheuser requested approval of the agenda.

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

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

Chairman Einheuser requested approval of the minutes of December 6, 2017 Special Meeting No. 4; December 20, 2017 Regular Meeting.

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

### **5. COMMUNICATIONS**

[18-0013](#)

**Receipt of Correspondence**

**Sponsors:** Pospiech

**Attachments:**     [DEC 2017 FOIA REQUESTS TO BOWCs-REDACTED](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner John Henry Davis that this Communication or Report be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

6.        **ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS**

There were none.

7.        **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There were none.

8.        **PUBLIC HEARING (BUDGET)**

Chairman Einheuser called the public hearing to order at 6:12 p.m.

[18-0012](#)

**DWSD Budget Recommendation FY19**

**Sponsors:**        Naughton

**Attachments:**     [DWSD Budget Recommendation FY 2019 1.17.18 v2](#)

Thomas Naughton, CFO thanked the budget team Michelle Washington-Williams, Isaiah Dunlap, and Leslie King for their collaborative efforts on the budget presentation.

Vice Chair Blackmon stated that the Board received the budget report prior to this meeting and this was an opportunity for the public to hear the department's accomplishments and projections. Commissioner Forte added that the Finance committee also reviewed the budget report and have seen some refinements on the latest copy.

Chairman Einheuser adjourned the public hearing at 6:33 p.m.

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

9.        **NEW BUSINESS**

[17-0184](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **enter into Contract No. WS-702 “Repair and Replacement of Water Main Systems: Various Pipe Sizes at Various Locations throughout the City of Detroit” with Lakeshore Global Corporation (Contractor), at a cost not to exceed \$11,889,100.00 for a duration of 540 calendar days, with an option of 540-Calendar-Day Renewal** and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

**Sponsors:**        Mobley and Field Services

**A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Commissioner**

Mary Blackmon that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[17-0185](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **enter into Contract No. WS-704 "Water System Improvements: Various Streets throughout the City of Detroit" with Lakeshore Global Corporation (Contractor), at a cost not to exceed \$5,948,000.00 for a duration of 730 calendar days**, and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

**Sponsors:** Mobley and Field Services

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

[18-0009](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to enter into **Contract No. CS-1874, "Public Relations and Communication Services" with Mort Crim Communications, Inc. (Consultant), at a cost not-to-exceed \$2,999,280.00 (including \$1,000,000.00 for media buys) for a duration of two (2) calendar years**, and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

**Sponsors:** Office of the General Counsel

**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.**

[18-0010](#)

**Drainage Presentation**

**Sponsors:** Mobley

**Attachments:** [January 2018 BOWC Presentation Drainage Charge Program 01162018](#)

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

**10. DIRECTOR'S METRICS**

There were none.

**11. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Vice Chair Blackmon stated that the department would address all comments that require a response.

**12. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR**

There were none.

**13. OTHER MATTERS**

There were none.

**14. PUBLIC COMMENTS (2 minutes per speaker)**

1. Michelle George came before the Board about the Hepatitis A and lead in schools. She asked if the department could check into a lead issue at a westside high school. She also expressed concern about water and drainage fees in the churches.

2. Ruby Riley of 13711 Fenelon came before the Board about a damage claim. Ms. Riley was referred to the administrative staff.

3. Ken Bunch of 17590 Greenfield came before the Board about an over billing issue. Mr. Bunch was referred to the customer service group.

4. Calesther Arnold of 18985 Fairfield came before the Board regarding the inconsistent water bill charges. The customer service group will follow-up with Ms. Arnold.

5. William M. Davis of 8557 Appoline St., and President of Detroit Chapter National Action Network (NAN) asked the Board if they were aware of the number of homes in the city that require radiator heat. He also asked if all the board members reside in the City of Detroit. Chairman Einheuser replied that all the board members are residents of Detroit.

6. Fredia M. Butler of 8286 Normile came before the Board to read her statement. See Item No. 18-0032.

7. Cindy Darrah of 492 Petersboro stated that the drainage charge is unfair and illegal.

8. Diane Bukowski of 9000 E. Jefferson and reporter with Voice of Detroit came before the Board to speak about "American Utility Management comes to Detroit Area." See Item No. 18-0033.

9. Lila Cabbil with Peoples Water Board came before the Board with the following concerns: a) how does the department plan to protect families that are shutoff who rely on water for heat; and b) where is the documentation on water sustainability;

10. Gwendolyn Primous of 20011 Renfrew came before the Board regarding street flooding. Ms. Primous was referred to Administration.

11. Andre Brooks of 440 Burroughs St. came before the Board to asked about information on the 50/50 match on drainage credits and if the funds can be used for design and construction of the green infrastructure system. Deputy Director Palencia Mobley replied that the information will be available via the website on how to secure funding. Director Brown added that there is a \$5 million pool to offset the green infrastructure projects.

12. Donna Davis of 2439 Gladstone and the Virginia Park Community Coalition came before the Board to ask how the drainage fee is determined on vacant lots. She believe some lots should be grandfathered in. Ms. Davis was referred to Ms. Lisa Wallick, Stormwater Drainage Manager.

13. Diane Hanks of 16875 Chatham came before the Board about the downspout disconnection and why so many residents remain connected. Ms. Mobley replied that there were misinterpretations over many years between the building department on the plumbing code. All downspouts should be disconnected and going to a proper place of disposal with validation. Ms Mobley stated that permit obligations must ensure downspouts are disconnected throughout the city with development of community service credits.

14. Demeeco Williams came before the Board to oppose the drainage fee charge. He said the city should look into cost-effective measures. The water affordability plan and the WRAP program are not addressing the matter. Mr. Williams asked why the department was spending \$2 million on a media services contract when the department has a public affairs team that suppose to solicit for more economical services. Mr. Williams also suggested the department update its social media (facebook, YouTube, and maybe a radio segment for community connection).

15. Matt Cripps of 4801 Oakman Boulevard on behalf of the Good News Gang and Metro Life Church came before the Board regarding the drainage fee charge. He stated that the church cannot afford the drainage and sewer charges.

16. Nick Caverly of 120 Seward # 407 on behalf of the Board of Condominium Association came to ask if this type of residential property was eligible for the 50/50 match drainage credits. Ms. Mobley replied that condos are billed according to their master deed, but there will be future discussion on this matter. He encourages the Board to think about what is fair. He said shutoffs are occurring to people who cannot afford to pay. The assistance programs in-place are not sustainable.

17. Patricia Bosch with Nortown CDC came before the Board about the drainage tax on citizens. She urges the department to not allow the U.S. Ecology to expand its discharge permits.

18. Renla Session came before the Board to ask how often catch basins are cleaned and if customers are charged for it. She also inquired about the body parts being found in the system. She also said the reason why our water bills are so high is because we are still paying interest on the illegal swap loans initiated under the Kilpatrick administration. Director Brown replied to the body parts issue stating that based on the pathologist findings, it was reported to be deer parts and not human remains. Ms. Mobley added that the department launched a catch basin program in the latter part of 2017. To date, the department has cleaned over 7800 catch basins throughout the City. It will continue to identify which of the 90,000 catch basins are within the city's jurisdiction.

19. Lory Parks of 10126 Curtis came before the Board to ask how the deer parts got into the water system and why the public was not informed.

20. Brenda Butler of 5983 Manistique came before the Board about the MDOT project at I-94 and if the installation of the biowales will be feasible when the project begins. Ms Mobley replied that she could not speak on any feasibility but MDEQ is concerned with what MDOT discharges into the regional water system. There has been conversation with MDOT, GLWA and DWSD about the rebuilding of freeways with minimal discharge. Ms. Butler also requested review of her water bill usage from 2010 through 2017 concentrating on the month of June.

21. Andre Brooks of 19700 Canterbury came before the Board to dispute a sanitary bill. Mr. Brooks was referred to the customer service group.

22. Lila Cabbil of 18435 Wildemere came before the Board regarding several concerns: a) what/when will the data regarding the Homrich contract costs compared to revenue from collection; b) what has been done to monitor developers using fire hydrants for free; c) what plan is in place to monitor contracts in hiring Detroiters (in the past they paid fines).

[18-0032](#)

**Public Comment Communication Fredia Butler**

**Attachments:**     [Communication-Fredia Butler](#)

[18-0033](#)

**Public Comment Communication Diane Bukowski**

**Attachments:**     [Communication Diane Bukowski](#)

**15.     ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Einheuser requested a motion to adjourn.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner John Henry Davis that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**