



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, June 19, 2019

6:00 PM

Unity Baptist Church
7500 Tireman
Detroit, MI 48204

BOWC Meeting and Public Hearing on State Revolving Fund (SRF) Proposed Sewer Upgrade Projects - Location and Time Change

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Blackmon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Commissioner Linda Forte, Commissioner Lane Coleman, Commissioner Mary Blackmon, Commissioner Jane Garcia, Commissioner John Henry Davis and Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Michael Einheuser

Reverend Marvin Glaze, Interim Pastor, welcomed all and thanked the Detroit Board of Water Commissioners for hosting their meeting at Unity Baptist Church. His hope is that the meeting will provide some insight and understanding. He asked that discussion is held with the upmost respect and conduct of all.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Blackmon 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. PUBLIC HEARING - FY20 State Revolving Fund (SRF) Project Plan

Vice Chair Blackmon opened the public hearing at 6:04 p.m.

A. [19-00187](#) Capital Improvement Public Hearing Notice and SRF Project Plan

Sponsors: Financial Services

Attachments: [SRF Project Plan-Public Hearing 6.19.19md](#)

This Communication or Report was received and filed.

5. PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS (2 minutes per speaker)[19-00235](#)**Public Hearing Transcript**

Attachments: [Public Hearing Meeting Transcript SC full](#)

Vice Chair Blackmon closed the public hearing at 6:27 p.m.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Blackmon requested approval of the minutes of May 15, 2019.

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

7. COMMUNICATIONS**A.** [19-00185](#)**Receipt of Correspondence**

Sponsors: Pospiech

Attachments: [Redacted FOIA Request 5-11-19 to 6-14-19](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner John Henry Davis that this Communication or Report be received and filed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. [19-00186](#)**Receipt of Correspondence**

Sponsors: Customer Service

Attachments: [Artelle Gandy Response](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner John Henry Davis that this Communication or Report be received and filed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

C. [19-00190](#)**Receipt of Correspondence**

Sponsors: Office of the Deputy Director

Attachments: [Cheryl Bennett Claim Letter](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner John Henry Davis that this Communication or Report be received and filed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

8. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Follow-up Items

a. Sharon Sexton of 2405 Helen-Pending

- b. Joshua Ronnebaum of 19410 Lucerne-pending
- c. Sonya Bennett of 1420 Washington-Pending
- d. Demeeko Williams-Hydrate Detroit-Pending

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There were none.

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. [19-00176](#)

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 Sewer Rehabilitation Project and Designating an Authorized Project Representative FY 2020 State Revolving Fund”** 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.

Sponsors: Naughton

Attachments: [Detroit Water and Sewerage Resolution draft SRF June 19 2019 rag](#)
[FY2020 SRF Project Plan Draft Public Comment](#)
[Notice FLIER DOOR Posting of Public Hearing SRF FY20](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner John Henry Davis, seconded by Commissioner Lane Coleman that this Resolution, BOWC be adopted. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A friendly amendment by the maker of the motion and seconder to read the resolution into the record.

B. [19-0066](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department **approves the proposed schedule of Detroit Retail Water and Sewerage charges consistent with the FY 2019-2020 revenue requirement and amended water and sewer system budgets approved by the Board of Water Commissioners on June 5, 2019** and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Attachments: [2020 Rate Card](#)
[2- DWSD Preliminary Rate Structure - FY 2020v4](#)
[BOWC 6.19 FY 20 Rates](#)

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

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Forte, Commissioner Coleman, Commissioner Blackmon, Commissioner Garcia, Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Kinloch

C. [19-00188](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage **authorizes the Director to execute on behalf of the DWSD Contract 18-5527**

(WS-714) between DWSD and MDOT regarding MDOT's performance of watermain replacement on behalf of DWSD during MDOT's construction on Highway M-5 (Grand River Avenue) and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Pospiech

Attachments: [Contract Resolution](#)

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Kathy Green asked when will the department clean the catch basins in the alley and replace the pipes in the areas of Tireman/Livernois/West Warren. She also requested a copy of the map for the project area.
2. James Smith, Chair, Community Focus Group provided a handout about the following: a) moratorium on water interruptions; water affordability program; water amnesty program; water security program; and b) evaluation of the GLWA lease/service agreement.
3. Michelle George with National Action Network asked if the Board is being pressured by the GLWA to raise bills. She also asked if corporations are paying their water bills. She also mentioned that there are plans to file a Michigan Civil Rights lawsuit.
4. Sylvia Bell of 8855 E. Outer Drive addressed the Board about a blocked basin in front of her home that turns into a river every rainfall.
5. Clarence Clavon of 5831 Oakman asked why Detroiters pay higher water rates than suburban customers, and why they are billed quarterly versus monthly like Detroiters.
6. Kenneth Lowman of P.O. Box 27785 asked if other counties pay drainage fees. If not, why? If yes, how is it referenced on their water bills.
7. Tanya Glover asked how the \$50 million GLWA lease funding is being utilized?
8. Belinda Walls of 8541 Bryden asked if the department could adjust the bill payment cycle for customers that receive their funds on the first of the month versus the third of the month. She also stated that the Grand River office does not accommodate for the number of customers who frequent this location.
9. Matilda Taylor of 22323 Pickford asked whether other westside neighborhoods were being considered for Project B. If so, what criteria was used to select the four designated on the list?
10. Robert Bruce of 3039 Montgomery asked what process is being used to guarantee the contractual work in the city is being performed by city residents.
11. William Davis with the National Action Network asked that the department provide more accurate reporting of information to its constituents.

12. Demeeko Williams came to address the concerns about communication he sent the the Board and the Director about water shutoffs, water affordability, and no water increases.

13. Christel Bonner, retired School Board Teacher, came to inquire about the water's high lead and copper levels issue in the Detroit Public Schools, and whether the matter had been resolved. Director Brown replied that it had. Ms. Bonner also asked if the Flint water situation had been resolved. Director Brown replied that Flint is connected to the GLWA water system.

14. James Williams of 2630 Richton came to request an audit of his past water history.

15. Andre Brooks of 440 Burroughs submitted written communication regarding his concerns.

16. Freda George of 12717 Riverdale asked if the repair of her driveway caused an increase in her drainage bill.

17. Doris Carswell of 19420 Gainsborough came about a sinkhole at the entrance of her driveway.

18. Vernetta West of 9590 Ward came to seek water payment assistance for low-income homeowners.

11. DIRECTOR'S METRICS

A. [19-00189](#) Director's Metrics

Sponsors: Office of the Director

Attachments: [07 Board Report - Metrics - 06192019](#)

This Communication or Report was received and filed.

12. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

There were none.

13. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

There were none.

14. OTHER MATTERS

BOWC next committee meeting is July 9, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Vice Chair requested a motion to adjourn.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.