

BUSINESS OFFICE, 4725 MOFFETT ROAD, MOBILE, ALABAMA
March 4, 2024

The Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners of the City of Mobile met this Monday in their regular session at 1:30 p.m. at MAWSS' Park Forest Plaza.

PRESENT:

Mr. Raymond L. Bell, Jr., Chair
Mr. Thomas Zoghby, Vice Chair
Mr. John C. Williams, Secretary-Treasurer
Ms. Barbara Drummond, Commissioner
Ms. Linda St. John, Commissioner
Mr. Jay W. Weber, Commissioner

Mr. Bud McCrory, Jr., Director
Mr. Bradley Dean, Attorney
Mr. Douglas L. Cote
Ms. Calressia Clark
Mr. Daryl Russell
Ms. Fatima Washington

ABSENT:

Ms. Maria Gonzalez, Commissioner

Chair Bell called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. **Committee Reports** was next; Commissioner Zoghby provided a brief recap of the Finance / Risk Management Committee Meeting held on February 26, 2024. The committee reviewed *Future Funding* with Raymond James representative Mr. Matt James. Also discussed were (*Master Plan*) *Future Capital Projects* and their funding, the *10-year Financial Trend (actuals)*, *2023 Financials*, *Workers Compensation*, and proposed changes to *MAWSS Purchasing Policy 92-6* which will be presented to the Board for approval today.

There were no **Visitors** requesting an audience with the Board. Mr. McCrory extended warm wishes and congratulations to **MR. DAVID E. TILLMAN**, Chief Treatment Plant Operator, on his retirement after 30 years of service.

Chair Bell presented the **Consent Agenda Items** for approval, and they are as follows:

Item 4 Consent Agenda

Bids and Purchasing

- A. Budget Increase Request for Annual Contract MAWSS 23012 for Lime Slurry
- B. Co-op Purchase of a 2024 Freightliner 114SD Truck with Jet/Vacuum Combination Body
- C. IFB 24-005 Park Forest Water Tank Painting
- D. IFB 24-008 Materials for Eslava and Halls Mill FM Repair
- E. Sole Source Annual Contract for Sensus Water Meters
- F. GMC Project No. CMOB190299 Eslava Creek Trunk Sewer Upgrades with tabulation of February 5, 2024 bids and recommendation to award to Hemphill Construction Company Inc.
- G. Jacobs Project No. D3424000 Nortons Lane SWAT and Lift Station with tabulation of February 5, 2024 bids and recommendation to award to Robert J. Baggett

Commissioner Zoghby moved that *Consent Agenda Items 4E, 4F, and 4G* be removed for discussion. The Board would appreciate further detail in regards to the *AMI program meter changeout progress*, *GMC Project No. CMOB190299 cost detail* and *Jacobs Project No. D3424000 cost detail*. Commissioner Drummond seconded and the motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Chair Bell clarified, there are questions in regards to Items 4E-4G that will be reviewed during the presentations from Ms. Washington and Mr. Cote. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval of **Consent Agenda Items 4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D**. Commissioner St. John seconded and the motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

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Ms. Washington approached the Board with a detailed **presentation** of Administrative Services and Customer Experience. There are several departments within her responsibility and they are shown below:

- **Human Resources**
 - Employee Relations
 - Benefits
 - Training
 - Payroll
- **Public Relations**
 - Press Relations
 - Employee, Customer and Community Relations
 - Publications, Commercials and Prints
 - Event Coverage
 - Social Media Posting/Monitoring
 - Corporate Communication
- **Supplier Diversity**
 - Mentor Protégé Program
 - Classes/Training
- **Customer Operations**
 - Call Center
 - Billing
 - Dispatch 24/7 (Emergencies)
 - AMI
 - Installations/Disconnections
 - Cross Connections
 - Kiosk/Payment Center

In response to Commissioner Drummond's question in regards to the *Advanced Meter Infrastructure Project (AMI)*, Mr. Jackson stated there are 276 meters remaining to complete the meter changeout. There are six residential meters which are located in hard to reach areas such as under concrete, beneath/entwined in trees, roots, etc. The remaining 270 meters are commercial meters. As the project is completed, the dollar amount that was budgeted will decrease.

Ms. Washington concluded her presentation and highlighted all projects that were completed in 2023 by the departments under her supervision.

Mr. Cote addressed the Board to give a brief **presentation** of the projects, costs and funding within Master Plan Phase I. He also reviewed the change to the Master Plan Phase I Supplements that are included in today's Agenda Package. He continued and directed attention to slide one and two which detailed costs, funding and supplement changes.

As Master Plan Phase I was initially started, there were several occurrences leading to delays and cost increases; COVID, supply chain issues, inflation, and a lack of bidders. Projects were also redesigned in an effort to lower costs.

He concluded his presentation and stated the projects on the agenda for approval today are two of the largest projects in Master Plan Phase I.

Chair Bell thanked Ms. Washington and Mr. Cote for the explanations in reference to Consent Agenda Items 4E, 4F and 4G. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval of **Consent Agenda Items 4E, 4F and 4G**; Commissioner Zoghby seconded and the motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

The **Minutes of February 5, 2024** were presented for approval. Commissioner Williams moved for approval and Commissioner St. John seconded. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

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Bid Openings were next, Mr. Cote read the bid tabs as follows:

Item 6A McCrory & Williams Project No. M5712-2769 Leo Street Water and Sewer Replacement

The engineers estimate for this project is \$1,150,000; there were two bidders and the apparent low bidder is Construction Labor Services in the amount of \$1,042,230. Staff will bring this item back to the Board at a later date.

Legal was next and Attorney Dean stated there is one matter of commerce and three legal matters appropriate for discussion in an Executive Session.

There were no items of **Unfinished Business**.

New Business was next and they are as follows:

Item 9A Facilities for Acceptance:

- i. Valor Ridge – Phase II (Sewer Facilities *Only*) \$350,802.80
- ii. Valor Ridge – Phase III (Sewer Facilities *Only*) \$141,833.68

Phase II and III are located on the west side of Schillingers Road and north of Three Notch Road and consists of 118 lots combined. Staff has reviewed all documentation and recommends acceptance of these facilities. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval and Commissioner Zoghby seconded. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Item 9B Proposed Changes to MAWSS Purchasing Policy No. 92-6

Mr. Shepard presented the proposed changes to the referenced policy as reviewed by the Finance / Risk Management Committee on February 26, 2024. Commissioner Zoghby moved for approval of the proposed changes with #12 being amended as follows:

#12. State Bid Law Amount

*All references to “\$30,000 (current AL State Bid Law amount)” will be updated to the current AL State Bid Law amount after Board notification. **The Board will be notified within 60 days of the State Bid Law Amount change.** This change may occur every three (3) years by the Alabama Department of Public Examiners, based on the Consumer Price Index.*

Commissioner Williams seconded and the motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Item 9C Master Plan Phase II SRF Loan Approval Request for Closing in 2025

the motions for items vii. a-j have been listed under their respective headers

- i. Master Plan Phase II CWSRF \$15,300,000

Staff requests approval to designate Mr. Cote the authority to file in behalf of the Applicant an application for a loan to be made by the Alabama Water Pollution Control Authority. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval; Commissioner Zoghby seconded and the motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Staff requests approval for Mr. Cote to be designated as the Authorized Representative of the Applicant for the purpose of furnishing to ADEM such information, data and documents pertaining to the application for a CWSRF loan from the Authority as may be required; and otherwise to act as Authorized Representative of the Applicant in connection with this application. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval; Commissioner Williams seconded and the motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

- ii. Master Plan Phase II DWSRF \$21,000,000

Staff requests approval to designate Mr. Cote the authority to file in behalf of the Applicant an application for a loan to be made by the Alabama Drinking Water Finance Authority. Commissioner Williams moved for approval; Commissioner Zoghby seconded and the motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Staff requests approval for Mr. Cote to be designated as the Authorized Representative of the Applicant for the purpose of furnishing to ADEM such information, data and documents pertaining to the application for a DWSRF loan from the Authority as may be required; and otherwise to act as Authorized Representative of the Applicant in connection with this application. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval; Commissioner St. John seconded and the motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

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iii. Master Plan Phase I CWSRF \$10,100,000

Staff requests approval to designate Mr. Cote the authority to file in behalf of the Applicant an application for a loan to be made by the Alabama Water Pollution Control Authority. Commissioner Williams moved for approval; Commissioner Drummond seconded and the motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Staff requests approval for Mr. Cote to be designated as the Authorized Representative of the Applicant for the purpose of furnishing to ADEM such information, data and documents pertaining to the application for a CWSRF loan from the Authority as may be required; and otherwise to act as Authorized Representative of the Applicant in connection with this application. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval; Commissioner St. John seconded and the motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

iv. Master Plan Phase I DWSRF \$8,935,000

Staff requests approval to designate Mr. Cote the authority to file in behalf of the Applicant an application for a loan to be made by the Alabama Drinking Water Finance Authority. Commissioner Williams moved for approval; Commissioner Drummond seconded and the motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Staff requests approval for Mr. Cote to be designated as the Authorized Representative of the Applicant for the purpose of furnishing to ADEM such information, data and documents pertaining to the application for a DWSRF loan from the Authority as may be required; and otherwise to act as Authorized Representative of the Applicant in connection with this application. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval; Commissioner Williams seconded and the motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

v. Mobile Bay Causeway Crossing \$1,700,000

Staff requests approval to designate Mr. Cote the authority to file in behalf of the Applicant an application for a loan to be made by the Alabama Drinking Water Finance Authority. Commissioner Williams moved for approval; Commissioner Drummond seconded and the motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Staff requests approval for Mr. Cote to be designated as the Authorized Representative of the Applicant for the purpose of furnishing to ADEM such information, data and documents pertaining to the application for a DWSRF loan from the Authority as may be required; and otherwise to act as Authorized Representative of the Applicant in connection with this application. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval; Commissioner Zoghby seconded and the motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

vi. Approve replacing the previous 5-Year Master Plan Phase II Schedule with the proposed SRF schedule as shown in Attachment B (*with the changes as presented today*)

Commissioner Drummond moved for approval; Commissioner Williams seconded and the motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Item 10 Information Only Items:

- A. IFB 24-006 Replacement of Two (2) HVAC Units for Wright Smith WWTP
- B. Annual Service Agreement for Flow Monitoring Devices
- C. Change Order for Purchase of Eleven (11) Ford F-150 Fleet Vehicles
- D. Co-op Purchase of Fortinet Equipment for Lift Station VT SCADA Conversion
- E. Ext 2 Annual Contract MAWSS 22015 – Corrosion Control Chemicals (Y3)
- F. Ext 1 Annual Contract MAWSS 23007 – Laboratory Testing Services (Y2)
- G. Ext 1 Annual Contract MAWSS 23009 – Backflow Preventers (Y2)
- H. Ext 1 Annual Contract MAWSS 23010 – Easement Tree Maintenance (Y2)
- I. Ext 1 Annual Contract MAWSS 23014 – Septic Tank Cleaning (Y2)
- J. Professional Service Agreement – Financial Consulting
- K. Sole Source Repair Parts for an Influent Pump at Wright Smith WWTP
- L. Sole Source Repair of Seven (7) ADS Flow Monitors
- M. State Contract T191 – Purchase of Two (2) Ford F-150 Supercrew 4x4
- N. Volkert Project No. 1025613 Magnolia Grove LS / FM Owner's Allowance Allocation No. 2

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- O. Volkert Project No. 1025627 CC W P1 Digester Dome Repairs FINAL SUMMARY CO# 2
- P. Forest Management Services Agreement CO #1 MAWSS Contract #2024-101
- Q. Disclosure of Property Purchase: Key No. 943652
- R. Consultant Project Status Reports – *January 2024*

There being no further business to come before the Board at 2:10 p.m., Commissioner Zoghby moved to adjourn the meeting and enter into Executive Session; Commissioner Drummond seconded and the motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Regular Session reconvened at 4:07 p.m. As discussed during Executive Session, Commissioner Williams moved to approve funding in the amount of \$100,000 in relation to the permanent and temporary easements needed during the replacement of the **Austal USA Water Line** which runs underneath the Mobile River. Commissioner Zoghby seconded and the motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.



John C. Williams, Secretary-Treasurer