

**CITY OF EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY
EAST ORANGE WATER COMMISSION
99 South Grove Street
East Orange, NJ 07018
TED R. GREEN, Mayor
REGULAR MEETING
March 15, 2022**

MINUTES

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners held in the Conference Room of the East Orange Water Commission, 99 South Grove Street, East Orange, New Jersey on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

I. CALL TO ORDER – 5:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Commissioners

Alison Rolling
Shantel Harrison
Emmanuel O. Awe
Lauren Shears

Staff

Joseph J. Tomashosky, Finance Consultant
John Liu, Executive Director
Thomas J. Matich, Operations Manager
Eric Steckly
Sheri Lassiter, Customer Service
Kelly Fields, Administrative Analyst

Counsel

Denis Murphy, Esq. (Weiner Law)

Public

Hon. Alicia Holman, Law & Legislation Chair

The meeting was called to order, Commissioner Rolling determined that there was a quorum and convened the Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Rolling read the Rate Statement.

II. STATUS OF RESOLUTIONS

The Mayor has not returned Resolutions #18 through #31. All resolutions are in full force and effect.

III. ADOPTION/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

7A: The Minutes of the February 15, 2022, Regular Meeting was approved as on a motion made by Commissioner Shears, seconded by Commissioner Awe and carried on the call for the Board to vote.

IV. EOBWC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Joe Tomashosky advised the Board that they had collections of \$1.915 million and billings of \$1.674 million. He stated that this was one of the lowest monthly billings for this time frame in the past 3 years. February's collection rate for East Orange was 114.4% compared to January's of 79.6%. They collected more than they billed which gives the Board a positive number. The 52+ days past due account has increased by \$195,000 which shows that 57.1% of customer accounts receivable is greater than 52 days past due.

A lengthy discussion was then had with regards to the length of time the Board could give customers to make payments via a payment plan.

Tom Matich advised that last month Orange's usage was down to about 1/3 of what they would regularly take due to some mechanical issues. He spoke to them and the repairs have been completed so they are back up to pulling their regular normal amount. He stated that hopefully in the near future, they can pull from the pool of applicants to allow for the restaffing of some vacant positions to allow more functions to occur in-house. They received some information from the Fire Department about some fire hydrants those will be addressed prior to the replacement project.

Director Liu advised that they received approximately 15 resumes for the new hire. They will discuss the reviewing and hiring process in Executive Session. He then advised that Woodland Avenue project. The design and estimated construction cost is almost complete. Last month they finished the Lead Service notification to the customer and a lot of customers raised questions as to when the Board would be able to replace their service lines. He indicated that their response was they still had to wait for State guidance. They are working on the meter replacements. He would like to speed up the installation of the smart meters. He then spoke about the GIS and Hydrant installation resolutions that are being presented to the Board today.

Director Liu then advised the Board that they were going to have to go out to bid for the \$1.2 million-dollar Inflow/Infiltration study. The smoke test is going to be done either this week or next. He then spoke briefly about the 72-inch storm sewer at Springdale Avenue.

V. PRESENTATION

NONE

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Lawsuits – update in Executive Session

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Denis Murphy spoke briefly about Resolution 12H rejecting the bids received for the White Oak Ridge Pumping Station Disinfection System Conversion Project

Commissioner Rolling received a correspondence from Jarid Green regarding the abandoned houses owned by the Water Commission that borders the Township of Livingston.

VIII. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions 12A through 12I were presented to the Board for approval.

A motion to omnibus and approve Resolutions 12A through 12I was made by Commissioner Harrison, seconded by Commissioner Awe and carried unanimously on the call for the Board to vote.

12A: Resolution ratifying the February 2022 recurring monthly bills in the amount of \$100,315.00

12B: Resolution authorizing the approval and payment of Operating Bills in the amount of \$817,935.23 to be paid in March

12C: Resolution ratifying the payment of February 2022 payrolls in the total amount of \$294,932.03

12D: Resolution authorizing Revenue Reimbursements in the total amount of \$3,254.59 for the month of February

12E: Resolution authorizing the payment of Capital invoices for the month of February in the amount of \$599,804.49

12F: Resolution authorizing the award and execution of a professional service agreement with Boswell Engineering for the upgrade and expansion of the GIS system plan at a cost not to exceed \$203,000.00

12G: Resolution authorizing the award and execution of a professional service agreement with Boswell Engineering for Hydrant Replacement Program at a cost not to exceed \$104,800.00

12H: Resolution rejecting all bids received for White Oak Ridge Pumping Station Disinfection System Conversion Project

12I: Resolution authorizing the April 2022 Temporary Budget in the amount of \$1,900,362.00

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

14A: Resolution for Closed Session

Resolution 14A was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Harrison, seconded by Commissioner Awe, and carried unanimously on the call for the Board to vote.

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss the following at approximately 5:59 pm:

1. Personnel Committee
2. Contracts and Litigation Matters

The Board came out of Executive Session at approximately 6:45 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:46 pm.

THESE MINUTES ARE OF NECESSITY CONDENSED AND ABRIGED AND DO NOT PURPORT TO CONTAIN THE FULL CONTENTS OF THE MATTERS DISCUSSED.

SONYA BUTLER
TRANSCRIBER