

**Minutes Of  
Engineering And Maintenance Committee Meeting  
Of The Water Works Board  
Of The City Of Birmingham  
September 17, 2019**

An Engineering and Maintenance Committee Meeting of The Water Works Board of the City of Birmingham was held Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at 11:30 a.m., at the Birmingham Water Works Board, 3600 First Avenue North, to discuss engineering and maintenance issues.

The following Committee members were present: Brett A. King, Brenda J. Dickerson and Sherry W. Lewis. Committee member Ronald A. Mims arrived late. Other Board Members present who do not serve on the Committee were: Tommy Joe Alexander, William "Butch" Burbage, Jr., Deborah Clark and William R. Muhammad. The following Director was absent: George Munchus.

The meeting was also attended by: Michael Johnson, General Manager; T. M. "Sonny" Jones, Interim Assistant General Manager of Operations and Technical Services; Derrick Murphy, Assistant General Manager of Engineering and Maintenance; Grace Amison, Executive Assistant to the Board of Directors; Tammy Wilson, Executive Assistant to T. M. "Sonny" Jones and Derrick Murphy; Rick Jackson, Public Relations Specialist; George Anderson, Information Technology Manager; Geoff Goodwin, Revenue Water Manager; Terrell Jones, Security Superintendent; Mark Parnell, Parnell Thompson, LLC; Kelvin Howard, Kelvin Howard, LLC; Brian Ruggs, ARCADIS; Andy Mitchell , Agency 54; Chandra Abesingha, CE Associates; Kim Bivins, Birmingham Construction Industry Authority(BCIA); Theo Johnson, Volkert; City of Birmingham Police Officer; Matt Adams, Raymond James; Jammie Cowden, U.S. Steel; Angela Hoskins, Studio 2H Design, LLC; Zack Wilson, Attorney General Office; Mauricka McKenzie, Nehemiah Engineering; David Russell, citizen.

Chair of the Committee, Brett King called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m. Inasmuch as three Committee members were present when the meeting was called to order, a quorum was in attendance. Director King asked George Anderson, IT Manager to open the meeting with prayer. Director Mims entered the meeting just prior to the prayer.

Following, GM Johnson addressed item 1, which was a request to take bids to replenish warehouse stock of FM Static 2" Flow Meters at an estimated out-of-pocket cost to the Board of \$1,400,400.00, which was spent last year. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously agreed to move the item to the Board. Director Lewis stated she was concerned about getting the best meters possible. Geoff Goodwin, Revenue Water Manager provided examples of the two types of meters Birmingham Water Works (BWW) uses, the direct read model and the remote read model. Director Lewis asked if we are moving more toward the remote read model. Mr. Goodwin responded, yes. Some discussion occurred regarding how the meters are read. The life span is about 10 years for meters Mr. Goodwin stated. Director Clark questioned who is allowed to bid on

the meters. There are no limits placed on the meter bid, but usually only 3 companies meet the bid specifications according to Mr. Goodwin.

Next, GM Johnson addressed item 2, which was a request to approve expenditures with HAAS Automation, Inc., a Sole Source provider, for a VF-6/40 Vertical Machining Center (VMC) to replace the current machine in the E & M Shop, at an estimated out-of-pocket cost of \$169,210.00. Assistant General Manager Derrick Murphy introduced two employees in the Electrical & Machine shop who fabricate machine parts for the Board. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously agreed to move the item to the Board.

Following, GM Johnson addressed item 3, which was a request to award a bid to Electrical Repair Service Company, Inc., the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, for a 500HP Siemen AC Squirrel-Cage Induction Motor to be installed at Western Filter Plant; and to authorize the General Manager and/or the Assistant General Manager to execute a contract per Bid Specifications and Conditions at an estimated out-of-pocket cost of \$60,506.66. Some discussion occurred regarding BWB disposing of old equipment. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously agreed to move the item to the Board.

Next, GM Johnson addressed item 4, which was a request to award a bid to Sirius Computer Solutions, the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, for providing specific model Lenovo laptops/docking stations (24) and desktops (89) for the IT Department; and to authorize the General Manager and/or the Assistant General Manager to execute a contract per Bid Specifications and Conditions at an estimated out-of-pocket cost of \$134,147.31. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously agreed to move the item to the Board. Director Mims asked how many units overall there are in the company. George Anderson, IT Manager responded there are 274 desktops and 133 laptops/docking stations. These new laptops and desktops will be distributed by the IT department George Anderson explained. Director Clark asked how many will need to be replaced next year. George Anderson explained that the IT has a replacement schedule and there is a window of no replacements during certain years. Director Clark stated she would like to see that schedule.

Following, GM Johnson addressed item 5, which was a request to award a bid to Advanced Asphalt for Asphalt Cold Mix Delivered and Dunn Construction for Asphalt Cold Mix Picked-up for temporary patching requirements to be used throughout the BWB service area for a one-year period; and to authorize the General Manager and/or the Assistant General Manager to execute a contract per Bid Specifications and Conditions at an estimated out-of-pocket cost of \$185,000.00 for delivery of Asphalt Cold Mix and \$174,875.00 for pick-up of Asphalt Cold Mix. AGM Murphy provided a handout (a copy of which is included in the Committee book) containing photographs of Hot Mix (permanent) vs. Cold Mix (temporary). Director Lewis asked if there was any effort to include any minority vendors in this process. Kim Bivens of Birmingham Construction Industry Authority responded that effort was made to encourage minority vendors and the bid was advertised for about three weeks. AGM Murphy stated Staff is looking into

opportunities to increase minority participation. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee agreed to move the item to the Board.

Next, under new business, Director King asked Assistant General Manager Sonny Jones about the U. S. Steel opportunity. AGM Sonny Jones recognized Jammie Cowden, Director of Real Estate for U. S. Steel. Mr. Cowden stated a tech park around Barber Motorsports is underway. The new Southern Museum of Flight is part of this development. A water main is requested to support the tech park Mr. Cowden stated. AGM Sonny Jones stated USX has asked us to put in the first 1,000 feet of 12” pipe at about \$120.00 per foot. Director Lewis asked if USX had just approached the Board about this. Mr. Cowden responded that USX first communicated with BWW about a year ago. AGM Sonny Jones stated it was only a concept at that time. There was a discussion about Barber Motorsports and when the pipeline was installed for that facility. Director Clark asked when it occurred and if there was paperwork to support the decision. AGM Sonny Jones stated the original line came in from the North to Barbers before he came to work for BWW, adding it was a dead-end feed. During the drought two years go a line was added from the main street to Barbers because there was not enough fire flow. Director Alexander stated he thought it would be an asset for BWW to invest in this project, otherwise Leeds could get involved. GM Johnson stated Staff would like to put together a formal agreement for Committee. Director Alexander stated he would like to speak with Mr. Cowden following the meeting. Director Muhammad asked how the tech development came about. Mr. Cowden responded that USX collaborated with the city of Birmingham to have a site prepared and ready for tech industries considering a move to Birmingham. Director Muhammad stated that USX owns property at the old TCI site and asked if anything is going on in that area? Mr. Cowden responded that he would get with Director Muhammad following the meeting to share what he knew about the site.

Following, a speaker, David Russell was recognized to speak. Mr. Russell stated his water was turned off and he was upset about it. Mr. Russell stated he wanted his water turned back on today. GM Johnson responded that he returned a call to Mr. Russell yesterday. Mr. Russell stated he did not appreciate the Board hiring police officers either. Director Muhammad stated he told Mr. Russell he would be responsible for him and all of this was not necessary. GM Johnson said Board members call him about customers with billing issues and they are all handled the same way for all customers. Mr. Johnson stated he had the paperwork on Mr. Russell’s account today, adding that payment arrangements could be made.

Next, Director Alexander asked for an update on what is going on in Center Point and how the issue has gone on long enough for them to be delinquent \$136,000.00. GM Johnson stated Director Alexander was referring to Woodside Condominiums. Their water was shut-off due to them being delinquent. GM Johnson stated letters were sent and all other steps were followed before getting to this point. Since June of 2018 the customer has not made any significant payments. GM Johnson stated BWW tried to make payment arrangements, but the condominium association does not have the money to pay the bill. Staff is meeting with them today in an effort to try and collect money to resolve the bill. The condominium treasurer and their attorney will meet with BWW Staff later today. GM

Johnson stated its easy to turn water off, but tougher to work with the customers, but we try to work with them as best we can.

As there was no further business to be brought before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Johnson  
General Manager

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda J. Dickerson, Ph.D.  
Second-Vice Chairwoman/Second Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Brett A. King, Esq.  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald A. Mims  
Secretary-Treasurer