

The Commissioners of Ward Two Water District of Livingston Parish met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at their Administration office on Carter Drive in Denham Springs, La.

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman, John Easterly

Present – J. Easterly, J. Martone, S. McDaniel, S. Ball, C. Taylor, W.Avara

Absent - Melissa Bennett

Guests - Barry LeJeune, General Manager

Agnes Killcrease, Administrative Director

Kate Gueavara, of Owen & White

Legal Counsel, Hannah Calandro

Developers- Tommy Veenendaal, Brad Marcotte

Citizen-Jimmie McCoy

Prayer was offered by Administrative Secretary and a pledge of allegiance was led by Shevis Ball.

Chairman noted that any public may comment on any agenda item during this meeting. He welcomed Mr. Walley Avara to the board as per his recent appointment. Mr. Avara shared his work experience and that he was glad to serve.

Motion to accept the minutes from regular meeting held on July 16, 2024, as mailed with no public comment by S. Ball seconded by C. Taylor Vote passed Yeas-6
Nays-none Absent-Melissa Bennett

Under public comments, Tommy Veenendaal, developer, addressed the board regarding the tap fee policy. Chairman shared recent board members comments on the policy and the research of tap fees policy being followed. It was noted that the fees are under what should be charged as per the research. He noted that the full board will be considering new charges for this policy. Manager commented on how plumbing supply pricing is adjusted every six months due to the bid procedures. Mr. Veenendaal expressed his wish to hear how each board member thought about his comments regarding developers tap fee charges and requested a reduction of the \$385 per tap charge per tie in. Mr. Brad Marcotte also shared his view on the developer's tap fee charge. Mr. Scotty Martone asked for a listing detail regarding the District's action steps to perform a tap. Board made discussion on all views that were shared. Chairman stated that a decision by the board will be made upon full research of current tap fee costs and pricing determination. Chairman tabled the developer's request for a reduction at this time.

Chairman appointed Scotty Martone to the Personnel Committee. Scotty Martone shared some ideas on benefits or policies for improving staff compensation and hiring responsibility to be discussed in future personnel committee meetings and encouraged other board members to share their thoughts with him.

Legal Counsel noted that there were no new legal matters to report.

Kate Gueavara of Owen & White summarized various project completion progress. She stated that the AMI project is 25% complete and presented application #8 for \$397,550.93 payable to Baton Rouge Win-Water, contractor.

Motion to approve application #8 on the AMI project 1063039-06 to Baton Rouge Win-Water in the amount of \$397,550.93 as recommended by Engineer with no public comment by J. Martone seconded by S. McDaniel Vote passed Yeas-5 Nays-none Absent-Melissa Bennett Not voting-Shevis Ball

Administrative Director presented pay request #9 on the 2023 Water System Expansion DWRL series loan in the amount of \$401,929.13.

Motion to approve the submission of application #9 of the 2023 DWRL series loan in the amount of \$401,929.13 with no public comment by J. Martone seconded by S. McDaniel Vote passed Yeas-5 Nays-none Absent-Melissa Bennett Not voting-Shevis Ball.

Administrative Director gave an accounts receivable update noting that 144 accounts have a balances over \$50 with 27 on cut off notice. Total Accounts Receivable equals \$11,180.72. She also mentioned for board information that the Diggers Night Out event is planned by La One Call on 10-3-24 6pm in Denham Springs.

General Manager, Barry LeJeune, reported that 65 customers were added as of July with a year to date gain accumulation of 518 and that 25,193 customers were billed in July. He reported on the Burgess Road bridge construction which will require a water line relocation and requested that Owen and White be approved to design for the District.

Motion to direct Owen & White to begin design work on the Burgess Road bridge line relocation as requested by General Manager with no public comment by S. McDaniel seconded by J. Martone Vote passed Yeas-5 Nays-none Absent-Melissa Bennett Not voting-Shevis Ball

A financial report for the July 2024 period of operations was presented by the Administrative Secretary to the Board of Commissioners for their review noting budget line item comparisons to actual spending and revenues.

Under board comments, Chairman, thanked Jimmie McCoy for his service on the board and Mr. McCoy stated he so appreciated the opportunity to serve the District these years and how he enjoyed working with the board and the staff of Ward Two Water. Board thanked Mr. McCoy.

Motion to pay the operational bills as presented for August, 2024, period with no public comment by J. Martone seconded by S. McDaniel Vote passed Yeas-6 Nays-none Absent-Melissa Bennett.

Motion to pay the 2023 Water System Expansion Project bills with no public comment by J. Martone seconded by S. McDaniel Vote passed Yeas-6 Nays-none Absent-Melissa Bennett.

Motion to adjourn the meeting with no public comment by S. McDaniel seconded by J. Martone Vote passed Yeas-6 Nays-none Absent–Melissa Bennett.



Randall Smith Administrative Secretary

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 7 PM